

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALCHA COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMILTON STREET, WALCHA ON
WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2008 COMMENCING AT 1.08PM**

PRESENT: Councillor WJ Heazlett (Chairman) Mayor, together with Councillors JM Archdale, DJ Cross, KW Ferrier, L Levingston, RS Thomson and MJ Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara (General Manager), Mr GA Moran (Director – Environmental Services) and Mr SC McCoy (Director – Engineering Services).

APOLOGIES:

389 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Archdale that the apology received from Councillor Blomfield due to being on leave be **ACCEPTED**.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES OF THE
WALCHA COUNCIL HELD ON 28 MAY 2008:**

390 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council held on Wednesday, 28 May 2008, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

MAYORAL MINUTE

The Mayor presented the following Mayoral Minute.

The General Manager and I went to Shepparton last week to attend the National Roads Congress. The decision to attend was made on the basis that there was a new Federal Government so it provided the opportunity to hear a new Minister policies and directions and for us to show support by being in attendance in numbers. Unfortunately the Federal Parliament was sitting so the Minister, Anthony Albanese did not attend. One of the main reasons for going proved to be a non event. The first evening the Local Federal Member gave the “instead of” address which basically went through the Federal budget and its implications for Local Government.

Paul Bell's (president ALGA) address probably summarized the deliberations of the conference. The Primary focus of LG is local roads, the beginning and end of every journey. The first and last kilometre.

The new Federal Government is going to do things their way. Big changes are signalled. Auslink will be supported to 2014. This includes R2R which is a critical part of local road improvements. Infrastructure Australia Legislation is before

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Parliament. Proposed is a building Australia fund of \$20b. This includes everything. (Communications, education, transportation) so roads may not get a huge amount of money. One interesting statistic – local roads are 80% of the road length but are only 25% of the journeys overall. This can be interpreted that transporters and people want separated traffic freeways between big centres and this is where the road dollars will go?? He suggested that our message to the Federal Government should be a commitment to a National Road Plan.

Tim Fisher: Titled his talk Tango in Transport – Trains and Trucks. The best speaker by far with a Powerpoint presentation with humour. Main Point: Ultimately all transport is local but rail needed more than ever. Best Quote: Darwin's contention – it is not the strongest that survive or the most intelligent, but those adapting to change. What do we need??

- ❖ A nation wide massive swing back to rail.
- ❖ Need double stacked container (in USA a major mover).
- ❖ Balance between good rail and road operations.
- ❖ Need investment with priorities.
- ❖ Need hubbing with ports, rail and road.

The Northern Rail Corridor (Adelaide – Darwin) is now making money. The rail corridor Melbourne/Brisbane should be built. Prefers the Western Moree route as it could take double stacked trains. Interesting statistics:

- ❖ A steel wheel on a steel rail has one seventh of the friction of a rubber tyre on bitumen.
- ❖ Rail moves freight at 3 grams/tonne/kilometre. Trucks??
- ❖ One train can carry the load of 150 B Double trucks.

IAP Some bloke gave a talk on IAP without saying what it was?? I think it is Internet Access Program. A satellite GPS Program that indicates where trucks are every 3 minutes which indicate things like is the truck allowed to be on a particular road. It is a voluntary program which is a compliance tool NOT an enforcement tool.

Stuart St Clair as chairman of the Australian Trucking Association gave a talk which was a defence of more trucks. He stated that trains are not the answer.

MEDIA WORKSHOP

An interesting session. Media do not present “information” they present “news”. “Information” is useful while “news” is selected to gain and retain an audience. News selection criteria: Impact (consequence), conflict, timeliness, prominence, proximity, currency, human interest, novelty, the unusual and Hip pocket nerve (some of these overlap with information provision). Send information to journalists via email. They may use it directly. Provide them with your contact details so they can meet deadlines.

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MAYORS TALK

Council Population 59,000; 175kms from Melbourne; centre of Goulburn valley; SPC – built new \$15m shed – grows 95% of Australia’s pears; formally a large dairy area but not now; other fruit orchards and vineyards; flat land with large irrigation canals (being redone with gates); adjoins National Park (Council slowly rebuilding a lake); town centre not showing the effects of large complexes (Big W, Bunnings); Town Mall a failure; houses observed seem to be quality; little heritage as everything is being rebuilt; nice Police (see Jack).

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Woods on being reappointed to the NSW Weeds Advisory Committee.

SENIOR OFFICERS’ REPORTS

391 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the Senior Officers’ Reports be received for further consideration.

1. 2008/2009 – 2010/2011 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT WINT/08/1363

392 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that in accordance with the provisions of Section 406 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council **ADOPT** the Plan of Management for the Year 2008/2009 – 2010/2011 **FURTHER THAT** the Rates and Charges for 2008-2009 for the General, Water and Sewerage Funds, as detailed in the Report be made by Council **STILL FURTHER THAT** the General Manager be authorised to arrange for the preparation and the service of the 2008/2009 Rate notices.

2. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 175-2008
PROPOSED GAME MEAT CHILLER / COOL ROOM WINT/08/1393

It was **Moved** Councillor Archdale **Seconded** Councillor Thomson that development application No. 175-2008 lodged by Clinton Lyon to utilise a shipping container as a Game Meat Chiller located at 34N Derby Street be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The chiller is to be operated in accordance with the requirements of:
 - a. The NSW Food Authority and,
 - b. The Department of Environment and Climate Change, (National Parks and Wildlife Act).
2. This approval is only valid if a current lease/agreement exists between the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council and the owners of 34N Derby Street Walcha.
3. The development is to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act.

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4. The owner must not cause, permit or allow the chiller motor to operate above 58dBA at any time.

Amendment

It was **Moved** Councillor Woods that development application No. 175-2008 lodged by Clinton Lyon to utilise a shipping container as a Game Meat Chiller located at 34N Derby Street be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The chiller is to be operated in accordance with the requirements of:
 - a. The NSW Food Authority and,
 - b. The Department of Environment and Climate Change, (National Parks and Wildlife Act).
2. This approval is only valid if a current lease/agreement exists between the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council and the owners of 34N Derby Street Walcha.
3. The development is to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act.
4. The owner must not cause, permit or allow the chiller motor to operate above 58dBA at any time.
5. All deliveries be between the hours of 10pm and 5am.

The Amendment failed to get a Secunder and subsequently **Lapsed**.

393 The Original Motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

WINT/08/1364

It was **Moved** Councillor Ferrier Seconded Councillor Woods that the Councillor and Mayoral Fee for the 2008-2009 year be:

Councillor Fee: \$ 8,500
Mayoral Fee: \$16,000

An Amendment was Moved by Councillor Thomson Seconded Councillor Cross that the Councillor Fee be \$7,500 and the Mayoral Fee be \$15,000.

The Amendment on being put to the vote was **lost**.

394 The Original Motion became the Substantive Motion and on being put to the vote was **CARRIED**.

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4. PLANNING REFORM

WINT/08/1397

395 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Archdale and Woods that Council prepare a submission on the issues raised in the report, items 1 to 8, **FURTHER THAT** the matter be raised with the New England Local Government group.

396 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council make representations to the Minister through the local Member protesting the loss of local autonomy in the planning process with an emphasis on the abolition of concessional lots **FURTHER THAT** Council object to the establishment of the Regional Planning Panels **AND STILL FURTHER** the matter be raised with New England Local Government group.

5. REGIONAL TASKFORCE

WINT/08/1365

397 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Levingston that the Council write to the Premier expressing its disappointment at the failure of the Government to fund any of the Regional Taskforces recommendations in the 2008/2009 State Budget and protest against the Government linking the funding to the future Privatisation of the Electricity Industry and **FURTHER THAT** the matter be referred to the New England Local Government group for consideration.

6. LIQUOR LAW REFORM

WINT/08/1394

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

**7. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH GRANT APPLICATION –
WALCHA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

WINT/08/1384

398 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Thomson and Levingston that after careful consideration that Council decline the request.

8. STORES STOCKTAKE AS AT 22 MAY 2008

WINT/08/1381

399 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Ferrier that Stock value adjustments totalling \$8.04 write on be made to inventory items detailed in the table.

LATE ITEMS

**1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REFERRAL – TENDERS FOR
COUNCIL AUDITORS**

WINT/08/1407

400 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Ferrier that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the

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matter of tenders for the provision of external auditor services, be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

AFTERNOON TEA

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.55pm and resumed at 3.35pm.

2. RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARD SYSTEM REVIEW

WINT/08/1405

401 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Levingston that Council make representations to the Minister for Primary Industries through the local Member requesting that the recommendations of the NSW Rural Lands Protection Board not be implemented until all stakeholders including Local Government have been fully consulted.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

WINT/08/1362

402 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Thomson that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 8 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

Committee Reports:

- a) Minutes of the Walcha Council Plant Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12 June 2008. **WINT/08/1387**

403 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Thomson that Council purchase a second-hand loader with forks up to a value of \$35,000 with the funds to be provided from the Plant Reserve in 2008/2009.

Delegate Reports:

- a) Minutes of the NESAC Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Meeting held at Walcha Council Chambers on Thursday, 5 June 2008. **WI/08/3871**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

404 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Cross that Council resolve into Committee of the Whole and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

405 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier.

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The Mayor reported whilst in Committee of the Whole the following matters were discussed.

PRESENT: Present and In Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of Councillor Cross and the press and the public.

**1. TENDERS FOR THE PROVISION OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR
SERVICES** **WINT/08/1408**

It is Recommended by Councillors Cross and Levingston that the tender of Forsyths Chartered Accountants for the provision of External Audit Services be **ACCEPTED** by Council.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

406 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on Wednesday, 2 July 2008 be **ADOPTED** by Council.

The Chairman publicly conveyed the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Committee of the Whole.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.05PM.