

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALCHA COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMILTON STREET, WALCHA ON
WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2009 COMMENCING AT 2.04PM**

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

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

APOLOGIES:

NIL.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES OF THE
WALCHA COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2008:**

125 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Cross that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council held on Wednesday, 17 December 2008, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record as Amended below:

In the Employee Assistance Policy – add the words “and Councillors” under Policy heading “.....its Employees and Councillors and their immediate family....”

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE POLICY



Objectives

The Employee Support Services Program is intended to provide Council Employees and Councillors and their immediate family living at home, eg, partners and children, with on-site support to help them deal with any work related or personal issues which may affect their job performance and overall well being. The service should be easily accessible, independent, professional and confidential.

Policy

Walcha Council provides its Employees and Councillors and their immediate family living at home, e.g., partners and children, with on-site support to help them deal with any work related or personal issues which may affect their job performance and overall well being.

Issues may involve:

- ❖ Personal Matters
- ❖ Work Related Issues
- ❖ Marriage/Relationship/Family
- ❖ Financial, Emotional Concerns eg. Stress, Anxiety, Depression
- ❖ Alcohol and Drug Dependence
- ❖ Grief, Loss, Bereavement,
- ❖ Trauma.

The cost of Counselling program with Council's appointed independent counsellor is borne by Council after approval of the General Manager.

Referrals by Council's appointed Counsellor to other specialists for consultations are at the employee's cost.

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*Approved Council Ordinary Meeting 24 April 2007 – Minute No.:189/2006-2007
Amended Council Meeting 17 December 2008 – Minute No.:109/2008-09*

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ferrier declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Senior Officers Report number 4 – Request for Donation of printed water bottles to mark the Sesqui-Centenary of Public Education in Walcha, as he is on the Committee.

Councillor Archdale declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Senior Officers' Report Late Report number 2 – MoU to joint maintenance and management of Carrai and Cochrane Roads, as Clr Archdale's sister has a property on the Carrai Plateau.

MAYORAL MINUTE

The Mayor offered condolences to Shirley Davison on the loss of her daughter on behalf of Council.

SENIOR OFFICERS' REPORTS

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

127 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Cross that the order of business be amended and bring forward Late Report number 3 – Strategic Alliance.

Late Report

3. STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

WINT/09/214

128 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Thomson that Council formally remove itself from the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils but continue to purchase shared services from other member Councils where appropriate **FURTHER THAT** Council continue to work in cooperation with the Councils on mutually beneficial projects.

**1. INQUIRY INTO SECURE ANDSUSTAINABLE URBAN WATER
SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SERVICES FOR NON-METROPOLITAN
NSW**

WINT/09/180

129 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council:

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1. Make a submission to the NSW State Government on the Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services for Non-Metropolitan NSW including the following points:
 - a. Walcha Council does not want to enter into a mandatory binding alliance with Armidale Dumaresq Council, Guyra Shire Council and Uralla Shire Council but purchase professional expertise from suitably qualified providers.
 - b. Walcha Council does not agree to the need to belong to Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON) scheme given the existing level of accountability and access that already exists between Walcha Council and its ratepayers.
2. Provide an amount of \$20,000 in the 2008/09 Budget to commence work on complying with the Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines.

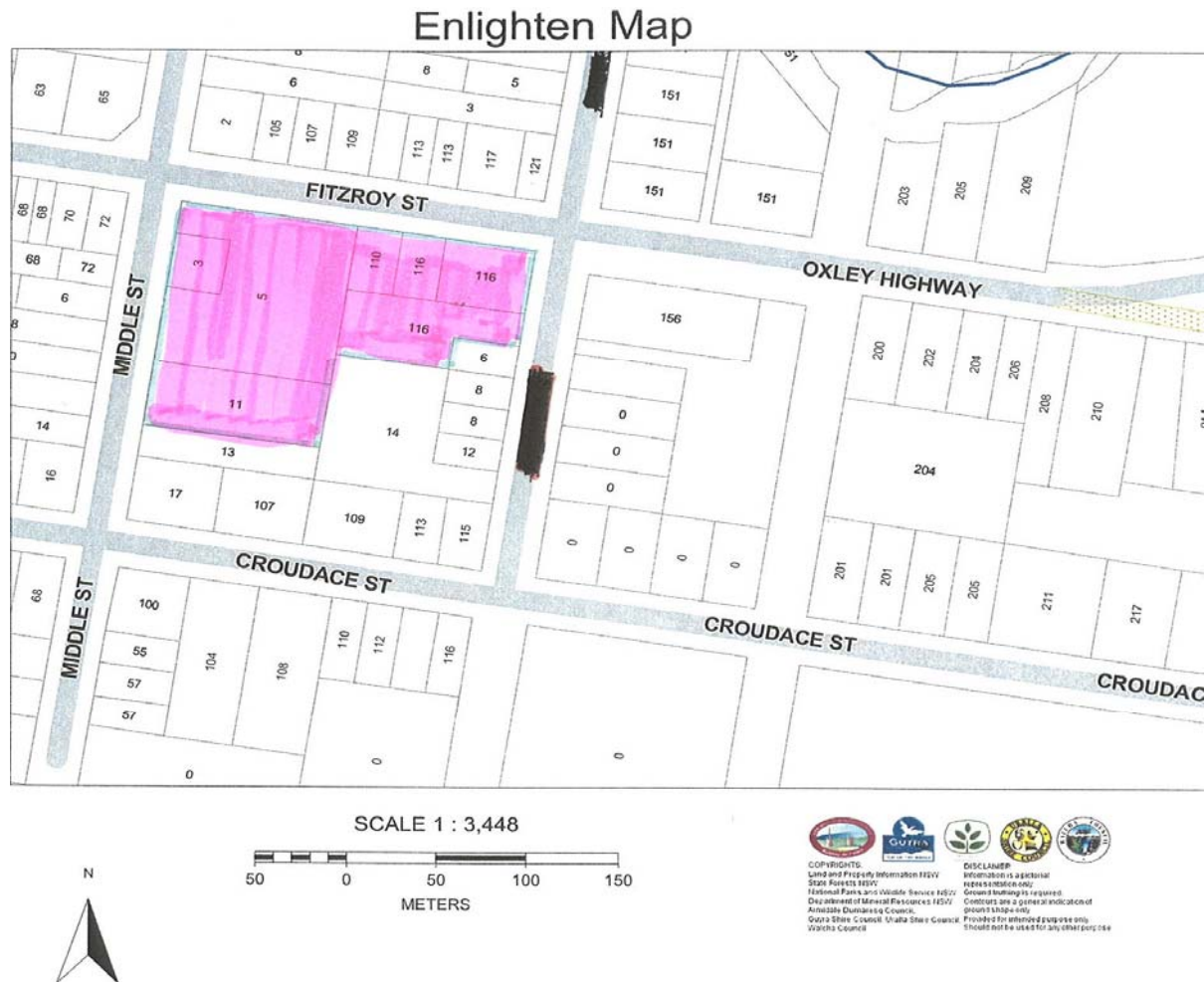
AFTERNOON TEA

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.25pm and resumed at 4.35pm.

**2. DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROPOSED ZONING
CHANGES** **WINT/09/212**

130 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Ferrier that Council amend the Draft New England Development Strategy to indicate the land facing Fitzroy Street Walcha between Middle Street and Lagoon Street Walcha and as indicated on the attached map be included in the adjacent Mixed Use Zone **FURTHER** all land owners including adjacent owners be notified of the proposed changes and be allowed to lodge a submission with Council on the proposal.

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**3. REPAIR PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THUNDERBOLTS WAY –
“YERRAWUN” CORNER** **WINT/09/197**

131 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Woods that Council agree to accept the offer from the Roads and Traffic Authority to fund the third REPAIR Program Project to realign and widen Thunderbolts Way 9.5km south of Walcha at “Yerrawun” in 2008/09 **AND FURTHER THAT** Council provide matching funding of \$90,000 from the Road Improvement Reserve in 2009/10.

**4. REQUEST FOR DONATION OF PRINTED WATER BOTTLES TO
MARK THE SESQUI-CENTENARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN
WALCHA** **WINT/09/199**

Councillor Ferrier declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in this matter as he is on the Committee and remained in the Chambers.

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It was **Moved** Councillor Archdale Seconded Councillor Schmutter that Council donate 500 water bottles to the Sesqui-Centenary Committee at a cost of \$1,210.

Councillor Thomson Foreshadowed a Motion that Council consider placing one of the recently commissioned basalt plinths at the School with an appropriate plaque.

The Motion on being put to the Vote was Lost.

Councillor Woods raised a Point of Order in relation to the vote in this matter indicated that Councillor Ferrier was unaware that he could actually vote in the debate.

132 The Chairperson ruled in favour of the Point of Order and put the Motion to the Vote again and it was subsequently **CARRIED**.

**5. FUNDING TO UPGRADE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS IN HAMILTON &
SOUTH STREETS** **WINT/09/169**

133 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Archdale and Thomson that Council:

1. Accept the Roads & Traffic Grant for \$15,000.
2. Extend the scope of the work on the corner of Hamilton and South Streets to provide additional paving east along Hamilton Street to join the existing paving and south along South Street to a point opposite the Anglican Church.
3. Match the \$15,000 grant using \$5,000 already budgeted for works in this area and providing an additional \$10,000 from net current assets.
4. Apply the provisions of Section 217 of the Roads Act 1993, No 33 to recover 50% of the paving cost from adjoining landowners.

6. BLOOD COLLECTION SERVICES – WALCHA **WINT/09/204**

134 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council approach all Councils in the North and North West seeking their support for the establishment of a mobile blood bank unit in the North – North West.

7. NAMING OF GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES ON LOCAL ROADS **WINT/09/13**

134 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Thomson and Levingston that Council adopt the following policy:

Naming of Geographical Features on Local Roads Policy



Objective

To ensure the provision of an efficient, safe and effective road system for the community.

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Policy

Council shall not erect signs on local roads to name a "place" as defined by the Geographical Names Act 1966 No 13 except for towns and villages.

**8. STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (REPEAL OF
CONCURRENCE AND REFERRAL PROVISIONS)** WINT/09/206

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

9. WASTE OIL COLLECTION TENDERS WINT/09/198

135 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Levingston that in relation to the report Tender T024/2009 – Northern Inland Regional Waste and NetWaste Regional Tender for Collection and Disposal of Used Motor Oil, Council:

1. reject all tenders as non-conforming; and
2. authorise the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Transpacific Industries Group based on their Non-conforming tender.

10. KOALA RECOVERY PLAN WINT/09/205

136 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Levingston that Council note the information contained within the report about the Department of Environment & Climate Change document titled Recovery plan for the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

**11. NSW HOUSING CODE AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
POLICY (EXEMPT AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT**

WINT/09/207

137 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Schmutter that Council note the information contained within the report regarding the implementation of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

**12. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT COUNCILLOR INFORMATION SEMINARS AS PER
CIRCULAR 08/22** WINT/09/200

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

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**13 ADOPTION OF WALCHA COUNCIL CODE OF MEETING
PRACTICE** WINT/08/2154

138 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council as per Section 361 of the Local Government Act, 1993 adopt the Walcha Council Code of Meeting Practice.

**14. AFFIX COMMON SEAL – SCAN ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING TERM
1 2009 & TRANSFER OF LANDS FOR PUBLIC ROAD & YOUNG
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES 2009 FUNDING ACCEPTANCE**

WINT/09/171

139 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Levingston that Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the following legal documents:

- ❖ Acceptance of Funding for Walcha Preschool – New England SCAN – Supporting Children with Additional Needs Term 1 2009.
- ❖ Transfer of Lands to DA Kermode in compensation for lands resumed for Public Road.
- ❖ Acceptance of Funding 2009 for Young Children with Disabilities – Department of Education and Training – Community Grants Program.

FURTHER THAT the affixing of the Common Seal be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.

15. WALCHA STORES STOCKTAKE AS AT DECEMBER 2008

WINT/08/167

140 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Archdale that stock value adjustments totalling \$18.16 write off be made to inventory items detailed in the schedule.

LATE REPORTS

1. LOANS & INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2009 WINT/09/210

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

**2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO JOINT
MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF CARRAI & COCHRANE
ROADS** WINT/09/213

Councillor Archdale declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in this matter, her sister having a property on the Carrai Plateau and remained in the Chambers.

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141 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Council the Memorandum of Understanding with respect to joint maintenance and management of Carrai and Cochrane Roads between Armidale Dumaresq Council, Walcha Council, Kempsey Council, Department of Environment & Climate Change – NPWS – Northern Tablelands & Mid North Coast Regions and Department of Primary Industries – Forests NSW.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORT

WO/09/130

142 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Woods 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 in Walcha Council Chambers on Monday, 9 February 2009. WINT/09/182
- b) Minutes of the Walcha District Sports Council Meeting held in Walcha Council Chambers on Monday, 9 February 2009. WINT/09/178

143 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Schmutter that:

- 1. The Walcha District Sports Council be wound up.
- 2. The assets and funds of the Sports Council vest in Walcha Council as per Clause 12 of the Constitution.
- 3. Walcha Council take over the management of the Walcha Oval lights.
- 4. Walcha Council is asked to organise and chair an annual forum in March each year for all sporting and recreational users of Walcha Council facilities.

- c) Minutes of the Walcha Council Plant Committee Meeting held in Walcha Council Chambers on Friday, 13 February 2009. WINT/09/196

144 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Levingston that Council accept the tender of JT Fossey, Tamworth for the supply of two 2009 Mack Granite 500HP 6x4 trucks fitted with Obieco bodies for the cost of \$369,500 less \$134,545 trade in on Council's existing trucks Plant Nos 5038 and 5039, net cost to Council of \$234,955 (GST excl).

Delegate Reports:

- a) Minutes of the New England Strategic Alliance of Council Equal Employment Opportunity Committee Meeting held at Uralla Shire Council on Thursday, 4 December 2008. WI/09/197

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- b) Minutes of the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils Advisory Committee Meeting held at Guyra Shire Council on Monday, 8 December 2008. WI/09/780
- c) Minutes of the New England Area Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 4 February 2009. WINT/09/165

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.40PM.