



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 28 June 2017

at

4:05pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors PR Blomfield, KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, SJ Kermode, CM Lyon and RL Wellings.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager, Mr DJM Reeves, Director – Engineering Services, and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

205 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Blomfield that the apology received from Councillor Kealey, due to a family medical appointment, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 31 MAY 2017:**

206 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Heazlett that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 31 May 2017, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

**6.2 Request to form an Aboriginal Advisory Committee under Section 355 of the Local Government Act, 1993 WO/2017/00817**

The General Manager clarified that no members of the Aboriginal Advisory 355 Committee were appointed at the May 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting.

207 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Wellings that the two representatives be the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

208 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes that the following Mayoral Minute be **ADOPTED** by Council.

On the 18 – 21 June the General Manager, Jack Ohara, and myself attended the Australian Local Government Association annual meeting in Canberra. The meeting was officially opened by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC the 26<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Australia. His ability to connect with the audience was a credit to his pragmatic and unpretentious attitude to a very important position. This association is the peak body that represents and advocates for local government at a federal level and has a membership of over 500 councils. These range from city councils with budgets of over \$500 million to large area remote and Aboriginal Councils. Membership at a state level entitles councils to membership and voting rights.

Over one hundred motions were tabled, debated and voted on and from there will be sent to the relative government authority. It should be remembered that Walcha Council has the right to formulate a motion to be delivered at either State or Federal level at these meetings if we feel we have a relevant issue.

Even though these councils vary greatly in location and population the point that struck me the most while speaking to other Mayors and GMs was that there were many issues that effect us all. The poor state of communications and the disappointment in the NBN were at the fore. The lack of, and declining condition of infrastructure was also addressed. For



Rural Councils roads were the obvious main point. At times Government policy on grants etc does little to solve the long term problems that could be rectified at a regional level with local knowledge and grant monies. Currently Local Government receives 0.55% of total tax whereas it once received 1%. This coupled with cost shifting toward Local Government from State and Federal Governments has seen a decrease in our ability to meet the needs of the community. Rate pegging, while being a contentious issue exacerbates this funding gap, especially when it is pegged below inflation rates.

An array of guest speakers, including Politicians, media personalities, industry and technology experts spoke and discussed many subjects.

The drift of people to cities was highlighted by the fact that in 1880 2% of the population lived in cities, through to 30% in 1950 and by 2050 70% will reside there. From a media perspective Laura Tingle and Leigh Sales spoke, they gave an unbiased insight into how news is delivered and how social media is making traditional media forms redundant. The 24 hour news cycle requires more information and leads to the churning out of poor quality, construed and irrelevant information. This constant scrutiny of politicians leads to the rise of populism and therefore reactionary change so often witnessed in modern politics. The constant change of our leaders is a prime example. Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten addressed the meeting, and the main point to come from this was the push for local government to be recognised in the constitution. Even though this should be easy it does not have bipartisan support and it is therefore felt that a referendum on this issue would fail. As is standard most politicians of both persuasions delivered a political message rather than a policy direction to take Local Government forward.

Cyber security, terrorism and moving into the digital age were discussed and debated, with the result that the baddies seem to constantly keeping the goodies on their toes. This is obviously a never ending battle.

The overriding message that I took from the meeting was that we have a very functional and cohesion Council. Others suffer from fragmentation of Councillors and division between Councillors and Staff. In some cases this has lead to investigation by Government authorities. When hearing some of these issues it felt good that currently we do not suffer from these problems and this must lead to a an effective council.

I thank Council for the opportunity to participate in this event.  
Clr Eric Noakes  
Mayor of Walcha

## **6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

209 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.



**6.1 Adoption of Delivery Program 2017/2018 – 2020/2021 and Operational Plan 2017/2018 including Budget 2017/2018, Fees & Charges 2017/2018 AND Rates & Charges 2017/2018 WO/2017/00788**

210 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kermode that in accordance with the provisions of Section 404 and 406 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council **ADOPT** the Draft Delivery Program 2017/2018 – 2020/2021.

211 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kermode that in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 and 406 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council **ADOPT** the Draft Operational Plan for 2017/2018 which includes the Revenue Policy 2017/2018 and the Fees & Charges 2017/2018.

212 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kermode that in accordance with Section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council make and levy the Rates and Charges for 2017/2018 for the General, Water and Sewerage Funds and Waste Management Charges as detailed in the Report **FURTHER THAT** the General Manager be authorised to arrange for the preparation and the service of the 2017/2018 rate notices.

**6.2 Review and Update Delegated Authorities WO/2017/00912**

It was **MOVED** Councillor Heazlett **Seconded** Councillor Ferrier that Council, update the General Manager’s delegated authorities, in accordance with Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993 by delegating the acceptance of tenders up to the value of \$500,000 where all other tender requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, are met **FURTHER THAT** Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 380 of the Local Government Act, 1993, reaffirm its updated delegations.

The Motion was **LOST**.

213 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that Council reaffirm the general manager’s previous delegations.

**6.3 Senior Staff Conditions of Contract Annual Report WO/2017/00895**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

**6.4 Road Naming WO/2017/00884**

214 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Blomfield that Council propose the following road name and proceed with the naming of the road in



accordance with the normal statutory and consultative requirements set down for the naming of the roads.

Coxs Swamp Road	The road that intersects Thunderbolts Way 17.33 kilometres (intersection GPS Latitude 31.47881 Longitude 151.676488) and travels west for a distance of 0.65 kilometres to the property boundary at Coxs Swamp (-31.481511, 151.670610)
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**6.5 Australian Aged Care Quality Agency – Final Quality Review**

**WO/2017/01001**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

215 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Heazlett that Council formally congratulate all the staff involved of the Walcha Council Community Care and the result of the quality review.

**6.7 Committee of the Whole Referral – Tenders for the Supply and Delivery of Stationery – REGPRO021718, Traffic Safety Signage – REGPRO041718, Concrete Pipes – T051718NEC, Water Meters T11718NEC, Hardware – REGPRO031718 and Chlorine – Sodium Hypochlorite – T0392017**

**WO/2017/00992**

216 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matters of tenders for tenders for the supply and delivery of:

- ◆ Stationery – REGPRO021718
- ◆ Traffic Safety Signage – REGPRO041718
- ◆ Concrete Pipes – T051718NEC
- ◆ Water Meters – T11718NEC
- ◆ Hardware – REGPRO031718
- ◆ Sodium Hypochlorite – T0392017

be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the reason that they relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

217 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett 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.



218 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier.

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 the press and the public.

**12.1 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Hardware REGPRO031718  
WINT/2017/01408**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Heazlett and Lyon that Council **ACCEPT** the Tender submitted by J Blackwood & Son Pty Ltd as the supplier of Hardware to participating New England Councils, specifically Walcha Council, for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2019 (30 months) with NO 12 month extension.

**12.2 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Water Meters T111718NEC  
WINT/2017/01407**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Heazlett and Lyon that Council **ACCEPT** the Tender submitted by Elster Metering Pty Ltd as the single source supplier of Water Meters to participating member councils, Walcha Council, for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2019 (21 months) with NO 12 month extension.

**12.3 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Concrete Pipes T051718NEC  
WINT/2017/01406**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Heazlett and Lyon that Council **ACCEPT** the Tender submitted by Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd t/a Humes as the single source by Council supplier of Concrete Pipes to participating Councils, specifically Walcha Council, for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2019 with NO 12 month extension.

**12.4 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Traffic and Safety Signage  
REGPRO041718 WINT/2017/01405**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Heazlett and Lyon that Council **AWARD** Barrier Signs Pty Ltd the contract for the supply and delivery of Traffic and Safety Signage to participating New England Councils, specifically Walcha Council, for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019 **FURTHER THAT** provision be allowed for a 12 month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance, which may take this contract through to 30 June 2020.



**12.5 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Stationery REGPRO021718**

**WINT/2017/01415**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Heazlett and Lyon that Council **ACCEPT** the Tender submitted by Staples Australia Pty Ltd as the supplier of Stationery to participating Councils in the New England Council Region, specifically Walcha Council, for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019 **FURTHER THAT** a provision be allowed for a 12 month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance which may take this contract through to 30 June 2020.

**12.6 Tender for the Supply of Chlorine (Sodium Hypochlorite) T0392017**

**WINT/2017/01416**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Heazlett and Lyon that Council in relation to Tender No.:T039/2017 Supply and Delivery of Chemicals to Namoi Water Alliance Member Council's Water and Wastewater Sites that Council **ACCEPT** the Tender and awards the contract to Colonial Chemicals for the supply and delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl).

**ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

219 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on Wednesday, 28 June 2017 be **ADOPTED** by Council.

**7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**No.: 1 Heritage Near Me – Expression of Interest WO/2017/00898**

220 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Wellings that Council proceed with an Expression of Interest under the Local Heritage Strategic Planning stream to develop a community wide strategic plan for the preservation, enhancement and value adding of all forms of our Walcha heritage.

**8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS WO/2017/00955**

221 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council provide a budget allocation of \$1,000 for a Christmas in July function to thank all the staff for their efforts over the previous six months.



222 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 9.1 to 9.16 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 June 2017 at the Walcha Council Chambers.**

**WO/2017/00986**

223 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Blomfield that Council seek approval for signage on the Oxley Highway, on the lead up to both Apsley Falls and Tia Falls access points, from Roads & Maritime Services.

224 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Blomfield that Council pay the costs associated with installation of the signage.

**11. DELEGATE REPORTS**

**11.1 Minutes of the Walcha Community Centre Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 May 2017.**

**WI/2017/05752**

**11.2 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association Meeting held in Sydney on Friday, 16 June 2017.**

**WI/2017/06551**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:05PM.**