



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 25 March 2015

at

2:08pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

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

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

1. APOLOGIES:

142 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the apologies received from Clr Lyon, being absent due to holidays, AND Clr Thomson, being absent due to personal reasons, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2015:

143 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 February 2015, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Sale of Land at Beaver Place

The Council was advised that the sale is not going ahead.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

The significance of the March 2015 meeting of Walcha Council cannot be underestimated as it signals change and decisions made here today will form the foundation for the future of this Council and therefore our community.

The State election being held this Saturday sees Walcha move from the Northern Tablelands to the Tamworth electorate. This has happened a number of times over many years and geographically Walcha can sit comfortably in either the Northern Tablelands or the Tamworth electorate. I take this opportunity to thank the Member for the Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall, for his professional commitment and his friendship to this Council since his election in 2013. Mr Marshall brought with him a wealth of Local Government experience and this, along with his understanding of the needs of rural communities, has proven invaluable to his position. Through Walcha Councils involvement as an Associate member of the New England ROC we will continue to have a professional relationship with Mr Marshall however, I take this opportunity to Move from the chair that Walcha Council write to Mr Marshall and thank him for his dedication to Walcha over the last 2 years as our representative and wish him continued success.

The meeting today will consider a report from the General Manager regarding our future direction and submission for Fit for the Future. The recommendations for Walcha in the State Governments FFTF program to merge with Uralla, or consider a Rural Council model must be the starting point for this Council. The General Manager and I attended a Rural Council Model boot camp conducted by LGNSW in Sydney earlier this month. President of LGNSW, Keith Rhodes addressed the workshop and could not stress strongly enough how important community engagement and consultation is throughout this process.



I have previously voiced my concerns with the number of people reached through our annual Regional Meetings and today's meeting will give Council the opportunity to explore and initiate options for productive and robust community engagement.

Today also sees significant change for Walcha Council as the Director of Environmental Services, Mr Gerry Moran attends his last Council meeting prior to his retirement. Mr Moran commenced his career in Local Government in Broken Hill in 1978 and began with Walcha Council on 24 November 1998. Over the last 17 years Gerry has been instrumental in so many truly significant milestones for this community. His involvement with the Walcha Community through his job and at a personal level is to be admired and Gerry's compassion and social welfare mindfulness has meant the retention of services to this community which may otherwise have been lost. Walcha boasts a state of the art MPS, Early Intervention Centre, Preschool, Medical Centre, the development of the Apsley River, wildlife corridors and the upgrade of the Aboriginal Section of the Cemetery and the Reflection building. These are just some of projects that Gerry has put 100% of his time to and all have enabled Walcha to offer services and facilities to our community which are first class and the envy of other communities large and small. I take this opportunity to thank Gerry for his commitment to Council and indeed to the whole Walcha community and wish him and his wife Mary the very best for the future.

I ask Council to be upstanding and show their appreciation to the Director of Environmental Services.

144 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Archdale that Council write to Mr Adam Marshall MP to thank him for his dedication to Walcha over the last two years as our representative and wish him continued success.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

145 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Levingston that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 FINAL Walcha Council Promoting Better Practice Review Report

WO/2015/00519

146 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Schmutter that Council **NOTE** the Report and **ENDORSE** the Proposed Action Plan.

6.2 Community Engagement Strategy

WO/2015/00564

147 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Heazlett that Council adopt the Community Engagement Strategy as amended.



6.3 Fit for the Future (FFTF) Program – Council’s Position

WO/2015/00559

148 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that:

1. Council address the Fit for the Future program as a stand alone entity and not pursue a voluntary merger as its preferred option.
2. Council undertake a Community Engagement Program including an initial survey to ascertain community views on Councils position to stand alone and options under the Rural Council Model.

6.4 Sewer Treatment Plant Tertiary Pond

WO/2015/00567

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.5 Request for Sponsorship of a Local Sportsperson representing Australia

WO/2015/00573

149 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Woods that Council wish to formally congratulate Mr Brian Lockyer on his achievement **FURTHER THAT** Council give Public Notice that it proposes to provide \$1,500 financial sponsorship to Brian Lockyer to assist with his costs to represent Australia at the International Deaf Lawn Bowls Championships **STILL FURTHER THAT** Council approach the Local Members on Mr Lockyer’s behalf seeking special funding.

6.6 Delegation of Authority for Mayor – Namoi Councils

WO/2015/00515

It was **MOVED** Heazlett **SECONDED** Schmutter that Council approve the draft authorisation for the Mayor as written by Namoi Councils which reads as follows:

Authority for Mayor to act as Council’s Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Representative

THAT, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Regulations made under the Act, and with any express policy of the Council, or regulations of any public authority, the Mayor is authorised to record a vote for or against motions submitted to duly convened meetings of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation.

ANY Vote recorded by the Mayor will be binding on Walcha Council.

An Amendment was **MOVED** Councillor Woods that Council approve the draft authorisation for the Mayor as follows:

Authority for Mayor to act as Council’s Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Representative

THAT, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Regulations made under the Act, and with any express policy of the Council, or regulations of any



public authority, the Mayor is authorised to record a vote for or against motions submitted to duly convened meetings of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation.

The Amendment **FAILED** to get a **SECONDER** and **LAPSED**.
150 The Original Motion was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

Afternoon Tea:

Afternoon tea commenced at 3:40pm. During the afternoon tea break Council conducted a Workshop to prepare a Survey for Fit for the Future. Council resumed at 5:02pm.

Clr Woods left the Meeting at 5:02pm due to illness.

6.7 Nivison Lookout Walcha WO/2015/00563

151 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Levingston that Council:

- i) welcome the approach by the Walcha Rotary Club in providing assistance toward the maintenance of the Nivison Lookout, and
- ii) request the Club to be a member of a Focus Group with both the Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service for the development of a Nivison Lookout Management Plan incorporating a future concept plan.

6.8 Town Water Supply WO/2015/00565

LATE REPORT

1.0 Level 3 Water Restrictions Bucket Watering Hours WO/2015/00587

The Reports were **NOTED** by Council.

6.9 Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Members WO/2015/00484

152 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Levingston that Council appoint Lisa Patterson-Kane and Anna Mulligan to the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee **FURTHER THAT** Council write to Sophie Thomson and Paula Jenkins expressing Council's appreciation for their dedication and commitment whilst serving on the Committee.

6.10 Tree Destruction Application 53.2014.2 WO/2015/00571

153 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Heazlett that Council:

- 1. Take no further action against the owners of Lots 16, 17 & 18 Section 15 DP 979733 Hamilton Street Walcha for the breach of Council's Consent in the removal of two trees from their South Street frontage.



2. Council not release the credentials of the members of the Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee to the complainant.
3. That a new Policy and Procedure be developed for the processing and determining of Tree Destruction Applications.
4. Council respond to the complainant in accordance with the information provided in the Report.

6.11 Walcha Cemetery Project – Landscaping **WO/2015/00575**

154 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Schmutter that Council support the request from Jobs Australia Enterprises to undertake Stage 2 of the upgrade of the Aboriginal section of the Walcha General Cemetery **FURTHER THAT** Council assist the project by providing advice on plant selection and provide some top soil, plants and mulch.

6.12 Economic Development Strategy for Regional NSW & Economic Profile New England – North West **WO/2015/00570**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.13 Community Recycling Centre Construction **WO/2015/00566**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.14 Draft On-site Sewage Management Strategy 2015-2018 for Adoption **WO/2015/00548**

It was **MOVED** Councillor Schmutter **SECONDED** Councillor Levingston that Council place the Draft On-site Sewage Management Strategy on public exhibition inviting public submissions for a period of twenty eight (28) days.

An **Amendment** was **MOVED** Councillor Heazlett that the Strategy be amended so that the frequency of inspections on Page 18 be ten (10) years for each category.

The Amendment **FAILED** to get a **SECONDER** and **LAPSED**.

155 The Original **MOTION** was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

6.15 Namoi Water Alliance – Novation to Agreement **WO/2015/00464**

156 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Levingston that Council note the sale of Hunter Water Australia to Hunter H20 Holdings Pty Ltd and Council authorise the affixing of the Common Seal to the Novation Approval.



**6.16 Proposed Amendments to the Protection of the Environment Operation
(Clean Air) Regulations 2010 WO/2015/00578**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.17 Removal of Deodar Trees – Jamieson Street WO/2015/00562

This Report was considered with the Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Minutes.

LATE REPORT:

**2.0 Funding Agreement for Commonwealth Department of Social Services
WO/2015/00591**

157 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Ferrier that Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the following legal document:

- ◆ Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

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

7. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

8. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS WO/2015/00447

158 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Schmutter that Council write to the Staff of Walcha Council Community Care and the Early Intervention congratulating them on their recent third party verification accreditation.

159 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Heazlett that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 9 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.



9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Minutes of the Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 March 2015 WO/2015/00574

3.2 Memorial Park – Planting of Gallipoli Tree
Council **NOTED** the resolution of the Committee

3.5 Tree Removal Applications
Council **NOTED** the resolution of the Committee

4.1 Daffodils

160 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Schmutter that the Big Daffodil be forwarded to the Arts Advisory Committee for a proposal of say 3 daffodil flowers and potential for branding of such to go to Council for budget considerations.

4.3 Hamilton Street

161 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Ferrier that Council place additional street trees in Hamilton Street these being ironwoods similar to those fronting the Council offices.

4.6 Removal of Deodars Jamieson Street

It was **MOVED** Councillor Schmutter **SECONDED** Councillor Levingston that Council remove the Deodar Trees in Jamieson Street and relocate them to form an avenue on the western side of Thunderbolts Way on the ridge approximately 800 metres from the Bergen Bridge.

An **Amendment** was **MOVED** Councillor Heazlett that Council remove the Deodar Trees in Jamieson and not relocate them.

The Amendment **FAILED** to get a **SECONDER** and **LAPSED**.

162 The Original **MOTION** was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

Councillor Ferrier recorded his **VOTE AGAINST** this **Motion**.

9.2 Minutes of the Staff Consultative Committee Meeting held on Monday, 16 March 2015 WINT/2015/00719

163 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Ferrier that Council approve the proposed changes to the Council's Organisation Structure.



10. DELEGATE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council Meeting held in Armidale on Wednesday, 28 October 2014.

10.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Meeting held at Moree Plains Shire Council on Thursday, 5 March 2015. WI/2015/01784

10.3 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association of NSW General Meeting held at Country Embassy, Sydney on Friday, 13 March 2015. WI/2015/01845

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:30PM.