



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 28 March 2018

at

2:01pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors PR Blomfield, KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, JM Kealey, SJ Kermode 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:**

116 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Kealey that the apology received from Clr Lyon, being on annual leave, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2018:**

117 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kealey that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 February 2018, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

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

Recently General Manager Jack O'Hara and myself participated in a six day Namoi Unlimited (NU) international engagement mission to China. The mission members included NU executive officer Rebel Thomson, six mayors and five council executives. The purpose of the mission was to sign a memorandum of understanding with Ningbo Agricultural Bureau, investigate the possibility of reciprocal trade and pitch investment opportunities that exist within NU. Gwydir Council had to withdraw due to illness. Each Council presented at three seminars in Guangzhou, Ningbo and Shanghai, to a total audience of around 270 delegates. These ranged from Government Officials, investors, financiers and business owners.

In conjunction with the seminars there were visits to factories, the bond area of Ningbo Airport, meetings with interested parties and discussions on the framework surrounding trade.

During training for this mission we were made aware of many of the pitfalls and issues surrounding international trade, focusing mainly on China. Much of what we learnt became apparent; mainly that trade is based on building a high level of trust and a reciprocal relationship. Chinese culture and business is based on thousands of years of structure and respect.

Presentations and engagements were made in Guangzhou with South China investors and market leaders in this area. Representatives of Deloitte's and Aus Trade also presented on how to invest in Australia and this was followed by a Q and A session. The next day we flew to Ningbo where we visited the Agricultural Bureaus' that covered this area. The Ningbo area has a population of 7.5 million people and the largest sea port in China. An abattoir has just been completed there that has the capacity to process 100,000 cattle per year. This will rely on the importing of live cattle to satisfy this demand. This day concluded with an official dinner hosted by the Ningbo Agricultural Bureau. The following day we once again presented to delegates and the MOU was signed. A lot of work and



discussion had gone into the wording of this document to end with a mutually acceptable outcome.

Friday saw us travel by train to China's third largest city, Shanghai. This city has 24 million residents, the same as Australia's population. Here we met NSW Trade and Investment representative Tony Zhang again following his visit to Walcha last month. He hosted us for the last of our presentations and Q and A sessions. There was a lot of inquiry around wool, timber, tourism and grain.

Namoi Unlimited and individual councils now have a lot of follow up work and collaboration to undertake to formulate information into a way forward. As we understood before participating in this mission this type of engagement is not simple and easy. Outcomes are only achieved by developing trust, persistence and aiming for mutually beneficial outcomes. The Chinese view us as having high, and restrictive wages and to a certain extent worry about International policy. They possess an extremely respectful, progressive and friendly culture, along with being astute business people. Most of their citizens under thirty have a good understanding of the English language and many of the younger people attending were women.

Two Councils who have had a long association in dealing with China felt that the outcome of the trip was extremely positive. Both these councils had strong investment proposals that if successful will have major benefits for many councils including Walcha. This includes Tamworth and its international airport and Gunnedah with a multi species abattoir.

As Walcha progresses with the information gained we will have the chance to assess and reassess the direction we wish to follow. As disposable income increases in many countries, and people wish to change their diet, lifestyle and standard of living opportunities will arise to fill these voids. We are in a position, with more information, to decide where we wish to fit into this opportunity.

Namoi Unlimited will provide a full report to the Mayor and General Manager in April 2018.

Clr Eric Noakes  
Mayor of Walcha

## **6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

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

### **6.1 Water Security Feasibility Study – Stage 4 – Walcha Water Security Options Assessment Report** **WO/2018/00465**

120 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Blomfield that Council **ADOPT** the Walcha Water Security Options Assessment Report.



121 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kealey that Council send copies of the Walcha Water Security Options Assessment Report to NSW Department of Industry – Water and to the Federal Minister for Agriculture & Water Resources **FURTHER THAT** deliver copies to our Local Federal & State Members thanking them for support.

122 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kealey that Council submit an Expression of Interest for Stage 1 of the Safe and Secure Water Program.

## 6.2 Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Membership Nominations

WO/2018/00424

123 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that Council appoint Meggie Davey to the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee **FURTHER THAT** Council write to Lucie Street and Amber Poflotski expressing Council’s appreciation for their dedication and commitment whilst serving on the Committee.

At this stage, at 2:45pm, Council **SUSPENDED** Standing Orders and **RECOMMENCED** Standing Orders at 4:50pm.

Went into a Workshop for the Community Engagement & Asset Management Strategy.

## 6.3 Community Engagement and Asset Management Strategy

WO/2018/00477

124 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Kealey that Council authorise the General Manager to implement the Community Engagement and Asset Management Strategy & Program.

## 6.4 Rural Women’s Gathering Committee – Appointment of Membership

WO/2018/00480

125 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that Council appoint the following eight (8) community members to the Rural Women’s Gathering 355 Committee:

-  Dale Webber
-  Anna Barwick
-  Karen Brown
-  Cecilia Casey
-  Chloe Hoy
-  Jane Morrison
-  Don Murchie
-  Aurora Reilly



**6.5 Unauthorized Waste**

**WO/2018/00470**

The report was **NOTED** by Council.

**6.6 Place Naming Proposals**

**WO/2018/00438**

126 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Heazlett that Council **SUPPORT** Tony Dawson's Place Naming Proposals for "Basaltic Rock" situated at Ngulin Nature Reserve Longitude 151° 36' 15" Eastings and Latitude 31° 20' 19" Southings Height ~1440 AMSL and "Grundy" situated at a Hill on the Great Dividing Range Longitude 151° 39' 20" Eastings Latitude 31° 19' 36" Southings Height 1463 metres AMSL as depicted in the Naming Proposal Forms **PROVIDED THAT** if either feature has an Indigenous Name then it would take precedence.

**6.7 Committee of the Whole Referral – Tenders for Supply and Delivery of Guard Rail End Terminals**

**WO/2018/00484**

127 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kealey that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matter of Tender for Supply and Delivery of Guard Rail End Terminals 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**

128 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier 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.

129 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings.

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 Guard End Terminals**

**WINT/2018/00995**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Kermode and Wellings that Council **ACCEPT** the tender submitted by Australian Construction Products (Rocla Pty Ltd) **FURTHER THAT** authorise the General Manager to commence negotiations with Australian Construction Products (Rocla Pty Ltd) for the supply



and delivery of the terminals, enabling the commencement of the Oxley Highway End Terminal Replacement Program.

**ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

130 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on Wednesday, 28 March 2018 be **ADOPTED** by Council.

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

**7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil.

**8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS**

**WO/2018/00440**

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

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**10.1 Notes of the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 February 2018. WO/2018/00483**

**10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 February 2018. WO/2018/00321**

**10.3 Minutes of the Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 February 2018. WO/2018/00482**

**10.4 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday, 19 March 2018. WO/2018/00476**

**11. DELEGATE REPORTS**

**11.1 Confirmed Minutes of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 24 October 2017.**

**WI/2018/02386**



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**11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting held on Thursday,  
1 March 2018. WI/2018/02387**

**11.3 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association of NSW General Meeting held  
on Friday, 2 March 2018. WI/2018/02438**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED  
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:10PM.**