



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 26 November 2014

at

2.30pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

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

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

1. APOLOGIES:

81 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the apology received from Councillor Schmutter being late due to work commitments, Councillor Thomson due to receiving medical treatment and Councillor Heazlett being on leave be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2014:

82 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Friday, 31 October 2014, 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

Item: 7.1 – Sale of Land at Beaver Place WINT/2014/02209

Clr Archdale declared an interest in this matter due to her husband having an interest in a real estate business in Walcha that may be potentially marketing the sale of the land in the future.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

83 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillor Archdale that the Mayoral Minute, below, be **ADOPTED** by Council.

Since the announcement of Fit for the Future The General Manager and I have attended no less than 5 meetings and workshops providing information and the opportunity to participate in discussions relating to the structural reform that will take place and how this will affect the future direction of Walcha Council.

Meetings have included both Namoi Councils and the reformation of the New England Councils. Both groups made application to become a Pilot Joint Organisation with Namoi Councils being successful. New England Councils plan to commence regular meetings in preparation for the formation of the Northern Tablelands JO in 2016. At the meeting of NE Councils held in Guyra, the GM and I indicated to the meeting that Walcha Council had already made the decision to be a member of the Namoi JO and would be an associate member of the Northern Tablelands JO. Uralla Council has indicated they will be an associate member of Namoi and a member of the NT JO.

At the Fit for the Future Regional Visit held in Tamworth on Friday 21 November and conducted by the Office of Local Government, the following points are important to note:

- ❖ The Rural Council Model is being developed from the 2 workshops held in Sydney and Dubbo. The template for Rural Councils will be released by the end of December and then further workshops scheduled.
- ❖ Ipart will conduct a Rating Review early in 2015 and the FAGS distribution will also be reviewed, it is not known when the findings from these reviews will be released.



- ❖ It is not expected that all councils will be Fit for the Future by June 2015, but submissions must contain a plan that shows how this will be achieved within 10 years.
- ❖ It was stated by OLG speaker that there is “no magical number for Scale and Capacity”
- ❖ Intent to apply for a Rate Variation can be included in submissions and the process to achieve this will be made easier as will the ability to borrow from the Funding Authority. “Less red tape”
- ❖ TCorp report focused on financial sustainability, the focus for Fit for the Future is Financial Efficiency and councils must be able to show this.
- ❖ 20 – 30 councils have gone back to TCorp for a reassessment.
- ❖ Boundary Changes can be considered within the process if councils involved are agreeable.
- ❖ If councils agree to a merger, this will not have to go through the Boundaries Commission.

Walcha Council must now wait for the template for Rural Councils and I suggest we will have to workshop this, and all of the options before us late in January before consulting with our community.

It is important to acknowledge the success of Walcha Councils submission to the Arts NSW, Regional NSW Arts Acquisition program which will deliver 2 sculptures to the value of \$20,000 from the 2014 Sculpture by the Sea Exhibition to become welcome additions to our Open Air Gallery. Congratulation must go to Walcha Council staff for their hard work and input into this submission.

The Director - Environmental Services, Gerry Moran and I attended the Community Partnerships Forum for HNELHD last week in Scone. The day was informative and well attended with suggestions for the focus of these days from attendees at the forum held earlier in the year being noted and presented. Important information for Council and our community is that the Terms of Reference for Local Health Committees is currently being rewritten and it is pleasing that the functions and input from LHC’s is being increased, giving the committee a far greater operational role. Of concern is the announcement that Medicare Locals will cease from June 2015. Primary Health Networks will commence on 1 July 2015. Medicare Locals activities will transfer over to PHNW however, PHNW will become a purchaser of services, not a provider of services. I believe this change is one of real concern to our community, especially the remoter areas where service providers will not be prepared to go. I believe Council needs to consider these changes.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

84 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that the Senior Officers’ Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.



**6.1 Quarterly Review of Operational Plan & Budget as at September 2014
WO/2014/02217**

85 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Lyon that Council **ADOPT** the September 2014 Quarterly Budget Review Statements **FURTHER THAT** Council approve the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed.

6.2 Annual National Roads & Transport Congress WO/2014/02242

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.3 Arrangements for Staff over Christmas 2014 WO/2014/02238

86 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston that Council allow the Outdoor Staff Christmas Party to be held during working hours on Thursday, 18 December 2014 at 12:30pm **FURTHER THAT** a donation of \$700 be made towards the cost of the function **STILL FURTHER THAT** a donation of \$500 be made towards the Indoor Staff Christmas Function.

**6.4 Change of Meeting Date for December 2014 & January 2015
WO/2014/02239**

87 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Woods that the December 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting be held on Wednesday, 17 December 2014 **FURTHER THAT** the January 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting be cancelled and the February 2015 be held on Wednesday, 11 February 2015.

6.5 Agricultural Competiveness Green Paper WO/2014/02244

88 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that the Director – Environmental Services prepare a submission and circulate it to Councillors for input.

6.6 Senior Staff Conditions of Contract Annual Report WO/2014/02249

89 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the Report be **NOTED** by Council.

Change of Order

90 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that the order of business be altered so that the Committee of the Whole be moved to the last item on the Business Paper.



MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

8. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS **WO/2014/02235**

Water Matters

91 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Lyon that Council implement during the drought the policy for water deliveries for domestic purposes with no profit margin added.

92 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 10 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

Afternoon Tea:

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:15pm and resumed at 4:05pm.

Councillor Schmutter arrived at the Meeting at 4:05pm.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil.

10. DELEGATE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Meeting held at Quirindi on Thursday, 9 October 2014. WI/2014/05883

Resume Order of Business:

Senior Officers' Reports:

6.7 Referral to Committee of the Whole – Sale of Land at Beaver Place

WO/2014/02259

93 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matters of "Sale of Land at Beaver Place" 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.



7. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

94 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston 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.

Councillor Archdale left the Meeting and took no part in the debate. Councillor Schmutter assumed the Chair.

95 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston.

The Deputy 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.

1. Sale of Land at Beaver Place WINT/2014/02209

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Council offer for sale sections of Lot 8 DP 116723 being approximately half the identified area comprising 5,620 square metres for \$46,702 and the whole are identified of approximately 11,250 square metres for \$67,500 together with the cost of subdivision and legal fees.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

96 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on Wednesday, 26 November 2014 be **ADOPTED** by Council.

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

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:10PM.