



## EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 11 November 2015

at

5:33pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

70 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Schmutter that the apology received from Clr Lyon, absent due to work commitments, be **ADOPTED** by Council.

MINUTES



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## **2. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

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

### **2.1 IPART Assessment Submission WO/2015/02093**

72 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council submit to the Office of Local Government the response, copy below, as submitted in the Report.

### **SUBMISSION**

#### **Comment on IPART Assessment**

*Walcha Council was dismayed at IPART's assessment of its Fit for the Future submission as "Not being Fit" Walcha Council has over the last three years made structural and operational changes which has resulted in a dramatic improvement in its efficiency and financial position which was reflected in Councils 1.2 million operating surplus for the 2014/15 financial year.*

*Council met all the financial benchmarks and only failed the Scale and Capacity criteria. Council has been a member of the Namoi Joint Organisation Pilot and any perceived lack of scale and capacity is being gained through this organisation.*

*Walcha Council now requests the State Government to permit it to continue as an independent stand alone Council into the future as a member of Namoi Councils. This will allow Council to continue its improvement and implement its proposed Governance changes of eliminating Wards and reducing Councillor numbers.*

#### **Merger Preferences:**

- 1. Uralla Shire Council*
- 2. Tamworth Regional Council*

#### **Comment on Preferences:**

*Walcha Council and Uralla Shire Council are like minded and share a mutual respect. The two Councils have a long history of cooperation and also share a number of common systems.*

*Walcha and Tamworth have numerous sporting, cultural and service delivery ties. Walcha is also in the Tamworth State electorate.*

*The Walcha community resolved at a recent public meeting to strongly appose any possible merger with Armidale Dumaresq Council*

Clr Thomson recorded his **VOTE AGAINST** this Motion.



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73 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Levingston that Council write a letter to Local Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson MP, expanding on Council’s submission with a copy sent to Local Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall MP.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:50PM.**