



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 30 October 2013

at

2.00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Clr JM Archdale (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors WJ Heazlett, L Levingston, CM Lyon, SJ Schmutter and RS Thomson.

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

1. APOLOGIES:

66 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Lyon that the apology received from Councillor Ferrier, attending a funeral of a family member, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2013:**

67 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 September 2013, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2013:**

68 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 September 2013, 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

6.2 Review of Private Works for Organisations / Individuals – Water Deliveries

Clr Archdale and Thomson declared an interest in this matter due to both purchasing water from Council.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

Mayor Archdale submitted the following report:

At the beginning of October the General Manager, Councillors Schmutter, Lyon, Woods and I attending the inaugural LGNSW Annual Conference. The conference had the opportunity to flag its future in good light, however there was, and continues to be, much criticism directed toward the event. There was brilliant and interesting speakers however the Business sessions were far from productive and were generally poorly run and attended. On the final afternoon there was not enough for a quorum so motions could not be continued. It also questioned whether the motions that had already been put could be challenged as a quorum probably was not present when they were passed. Sadly with differing political persuasions and influences in the room, debate was often interrupted, stifled and tedious. Due to the tardiness of debate the Business session was not completed. I can only hope this is not an indication of the future of this



conference and the working partnerships with individual councils and organizations LGNSW hopes to build.

The **Hon Don Page MP, Minister for Local Government** spoke on Day 1 and included the following points –

- We are entering a new era in Local Government.
- The Government will honour its pledge of no forced amalgamations.
- There will be a move away from compliance reporting and a move toward a performance measurement system.
- TCorp reports highlight alarming figures with an estimated 50% of councils being flagged as distressed in 2 years if something does not change.

Graham Sansom, Independent LG Review Panel member had much to say but still kept his cards close to his chest when questioned. Some of his comments included –

- The Future Directions paper contained options, not recommendations.
- The Review is evidence based; how we interpret it is up to us.
- What the Panel recommend must be consistent to the findings of “others”.
- This process is not about quick fixes or silver bullets, the Panel cannot cherry pick and hope for satisfactory outcomes.
- There is no intention of robbing communities of their identity.
- Amalgamations – What does “forced amalgamation” mean? The Panel want this determined. (*I find this statement quite troubling on many levels*).
- County Councils – has not been a popular term, a revised concept is being prepared. Mandatory participation in regional organizations by councils will make the concept work.
- Local Boards – concept also being revised.
- Rate Pegging – total abolition will not occur. Final paper will not suggest a total stripping of framework around rate pegging.
- Enhancement of Boundaries Commission to ensure evidence based impartial assessment of possible mergers and boundary changes.

On Day 1, **Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir** and **Cr Clover Moore** spoke and were both equally pleasant to listen to despite their totally different demeanours. Unfortunately the **Hon Barry O’Farrell MP, Premier of NSW** was not able to attend.

Gail Kelly, Chief Executive Officer/ Managing Director of Westpac was nothing short of brilliant in her address on Day 2. She spoke for 40 minutes and I would encourage Councillors to see if her talk is available online.

Mr Mark McCrindle, Demographer and Social Researcher was incredibly interesting with many statistics and projections. His focus was toward “Regional



and Urban councils – what will we look like in 2036?” Australia’s population has doubled since 1966 and looking forward our highest intake of immigrants will be from India and it is projected that India will overtake China to be the most populated country in the world. He also informed us of a new social phenomenon called “KIPPERS” which I personally find worrying as KIPPERS stands for “kids in parents pockets eroding retirement savings!!

The elected LGNSW Board certainly have a challenging year ahead forging a unified path for this newly formed organisation. Councillor Woods successfully put her hand up for a role on the board which has 24 members in total including executive. Ten board members will represent metropolitan and ten regional rural. There was an overwhelming concern at the conference that politics may hamper the progress of LGNSW and the expectation of its members. I wish the board a productive and successful year.

I would like to host a Mayoral Function after the December Council Meeting where there will be drinks and nibbles for the public members of the 355 Committees to basically recognise their contribution over 2013. I would also like to move the Council Meeting from 18 December to Monday, 16 December.

Clr Janelle Archdale
Mayor of Walcha

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

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

70 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Schmutter that the Senior Officers’ Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Consideration for a Peter Lundberg Sculpture for the Open Air Gallery
WO/2013/01724

It was **MOVED** Clr Woods **Seconded** Clr Thomson that the General Manager do a more in-depth costing of the installation and transportation of the sculpture and present it to the next Council Meeting.

Clr Schmutter **FORESHADOWED** a **Motion** that Council accept the sculpture on the proviso that the installation and transportation costs be met on the established art vote.

The Original Motion was put to the vote and **DEFEATED**.



71 Clr Schmutter Moved his **FORESHADOWED Motion Seconded** Clr Heazlett and on being put to the vote was **CARRIED**.

6.2 Review of Private Works for Organisations / Individuals – Water Deliveries WO/2013/01758

Clr Archdale and Clr Thomson left the Meeting and took no further part in the debate. Clr Schmutter took the Chair whilst the Mayor vacated the Chambers.

It was **MOVED** Councillor Heazlett **Seconded** Councillor Lyon that Council repeal the Policy.

This Motion was **DEFEATED**.

It was **MOVED** Councillor Woods **Seconded** Councillor Levingston that Council amend its Private Works for Organisation / Individuals Policy as follows:

OBJECTIVE:

To maintain a stable and secure financial structure in order to effectively and efficiently deliver services and provide facilities to the community.

POLICY

Private works will only be performed by Council when the Director - Engineering Services so approves but shall not be carried out if such Private Work interferes with Council's Works Programme.

Council shall carry out Private Work with charges being made on the basis of costs actually incurred.

Charges for private works will be calculated on Council's comprehensive hire rates or Council cost plus 25%. However the additional 25% shall not apply to the supply and delivery of domestic potable water to rural ratepayers when over 50% of the Walcha Shire has extremely low rainfall relative to historical records for the preceding 6 months.

Estimates may be provided by the Director - Engineering Services where considered appropriate.

Payment in advance of work being carried out is not a requisite except where:

- ❖ considered so by the General Manager;
- ❖ the Private Works are valued at more than \$2,000 and a written authority to proceed with the work has not been given; and



- ❖ the private works is requested by a government department or other approved organisations.

Where payment in advance is required, 50% of the work value shall be paid prior to the work being commenced.

The 10% Goods and Services Tax will be added to the cost of all private works.

REASON

To clarify the conditions under which Council will undertake Private Works.

POLICY

Persons or organisations requesting Private Works to be carried out, other than casual Plant Hire, must authorise the work in writing prior to the work commencing.

REASON

To formalise the arrangements between Council and persons/organisations requesting Private Works to be undertaken.

72 On being put to the Vote this Motion was **CARRIED**.

Clr Archdale and Thomson returned to the Chambers and were informed of the decision. Clr Archdale resumed the Chair.

Drought Declarations / Exceptional Circumstances

73 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Heazlett that the General Manager prepare a report for the next Council Meeting around the grounds for the provision of exceptional circumstances especially around the declaration of drought.

AFTERNOON TEA

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.40pm and resumed at 4:00pm.

6.3 Walcha Preschool National Quality Standard – Assessment and Rating Report
WO/2013/01740

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.4 Delivery Program Six Monthly Review 2012/13 – 2016/17
WO/2013/01730

74 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Thomson that in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993,



Council adopt the Delivery Program 2012/13 – 2016/17 six monthly review.

6.5 Planning Bill 2013 WO/2013/01756

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.6 Review of Organisational Structure WO/2013/01760

75 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Heazlett that in accordance with the provisions of Section 333 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council re-determine its Organisational Structure to be that as shown as presented to Council.

6.7 Planning Issues Walcha WO/2013/01753

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.8 Senior Staff Conditions of Contract Annual Report WO/2013/01739

76 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Levingston that Council **NOTE** the Report.

6.9 Draft Swimming Inspection Program WO/2013/01741

77 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Lyon that the Draft Swimming Pool Inspection Program be formally endorsed and adopted by Council.

LATE ITEMS

1. Woolbrook Bridge

The Director – Engineering Services advised that Woolbrook Bridge will be closed from 6 November 2013.

2. Water Restrictions

The Director – Engineering Services advised that unless rain was received in the next two weeks it would be necessary to implement water restrictions.

3. Purchase of Art – Portrait of Shirley Davison

78 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Schmutter that Council purchase the portrait of Shirley Davison for the price of \$690.



7. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

8. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS WO/2013/01721

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

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil.

10. DELEGATE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the New England Community Transport Forum Meeting held on 7 & 8 August 2013 at Barraba Playhouse.

WI/2013/06259

10.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Meeting held at Gunnedah Shire Council on Thursday, 18 October 2013.

WI/2013/06210

10.3 Minutes of the Armidale Dumaresq Council Economic Development & Tourism Committee held at Armidale Dumaresq Council Chambers on Thursday, 22 August 2013. WI/2013/06320

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Nil.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:55PM.