



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 30 September 2020

at

3:58pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Audio Recording Statement was read by the Chairperson.

PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors PR Blomfield, KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, JM Kealey, SJ Kermode, CM Lyon and RL Wellings.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs AD Moddero – General Manager, Mr PR Murray – Director Infrastructure and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil.

MINUTES



2. ELECTION OF MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR:

2.1 Returning Officer **WO/2020/03226**

45 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that:

1. the advice in relation to the role of the Returning Officer for any election required for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor be **NOTED**; and
2. the General Manager act as the Returning Officer.

The Mayor vacated the Chair and the General Manager, as the Returning Officer, took the Chair.

2.2 Method of Voting **WO/2020/03225**

46 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Kealey that the advice in relation to the methods of voting for any election required for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor be received and noted.

2.3 Determine Method of Voting for Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor
WO/2020/03234

47 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** an Ordinary Ballot method to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing term.

2.4 Nominations for the Position of Mayor **WO/2020/03226**

48 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that the Returning Officer calls for nominations for the position of Mayor for the ensuing term and if two or more nominations are received, an election be conducted.

The Returning Officer then called for nominations for the position of Mayor. On receiving only one nomination that of Councillor EH Noakes, the Returning Officer, declared Councillor Noakes elected Mayor for the ensuing period unopposed.

2.5 Nominations for the Position of Deputy Mayor **WO/2020/03236**

49 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that the Returning Officer calls for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing term and if two or more nominations are received, an election be conducted.

The Returning Officer then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. On receiving only one nomination, that of Councillor JM Kealey, the Returning Officer declared Councillor Kealey elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing period unopposed.

The Mayor resumed the Chair.



2.6 Committees and Delegates Representation

WO/2020/03307

Suspend Standing Orders:

50 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Wellings that Council Suspend Standing Orders to talk about the Internal Committees.

Resume Standing Orders:

51 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kealey that Council Resume Standing Orders.

Motion:

It was **Moved** Councillor Lyon **Seconded** Councillor Heazlett that Council rename the Staff Committee to the General Manager's Performance Review Committee and that all Councillors be members of this Committee.

On being put to the **VOTE** the **Motion** was **LOST**.

Foreshadowed Motion

It was **Moved** Councillor Kealey **Seconded** Councillor Kermode that Council rename the Staff Committee to General Manager's Performance Review Committee to align the name with the function of the Committee and to keep the membership as it is.

52 On being put to the **VOTE** the **Foreshadowed Motion** was **CARRIED**.

53 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that the previous Staff Consultative Committee (2018-2020) is dissolved and a new Staff Consultative Committee be established in accordance with the requirement of the Local Government Award, which includes no representation from elected members or the General Manager.

54 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that the previous Walcha Waste Services Change Committee be dissolved and all waste strategy items being briefed to the Waste Management Committee (full Council), until the Waste Strategy is developed.

55 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Blomfield that Council endorse the following Agenda items nominated for the first meeting of each S355 Committee following the September Ordinary Meeting of Council:

- a) review of the Committee name and function and development of a revised Terms of Reference as required; and
- b) set a calendar of meeting dates for the ensuing 12 month period.

56 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kermode that Council determine assignment of elected members to each Committee role for the 2020-2021 term as listed below:



Walcha Council 355 Committees 2020-2021:



1. Walcha Town and District Beautification and Tidy Towns Committee

Membership:

Representative – Clr PR Blomfield – Chairperson
Representative – Clr CM Lyon
Director Infrastructure
Urban Works Supervisor
Citizen Representatives - Phyllis Hoy
Citizen Representatives - Robyn Vincent
Citizen Representatives – Jim Hallenan
Citizen Representatives – Joanne Ireland
Citizen Representatives – Caroline Street
Citizen Representatives – Beverley Betts

Purpose:

- o To generally monitor the appearance of the town and district and to advise Council of areas requiring enhancement.
- o To advise Council on its Tree Planting Programme particularly as to suitability of species to be planted.
- o Administer the conduct of the Garden Competition.

Meetings:

The Committee is to meet quarterly, the appointed Councillor to act as Chairperson. The quorum is half the number of the Committee plus 1 = 6.

2. Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee

Function of the Committee:

To advise Council on future public art projects.

Membership:

Representative – Clr JM Kealey - Chairperson
Alternate Representative – Clr WJ Heazlett
General Manager
Director Infrastructure
Four community representatives – James Rogers, Carley McLaren, Stephen King and John Heffernan.

Meetings – The Committee is to meet six monthly or as required. The appointed Councillor to act as the Chairperson. The quorum is to be four.

3. Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee

Function of the Committee:

To advise Council on policy matters and strategic issues regarding the management of Walcha Council Community Care.

Membership:

Representative – Clr KW Ferrier - Chairperson
Director Community & Tourism



Walcha Council Community Care Coordinator
ATSI Walcha Council Community Care Coordinator
Meals on Wheels Provider – Riverview Hostel Employee
Independent Community Care Service Provider – Debra Sweeney
Six Citizen Representatives (preferably consisting of a volunteer, a carer and four clients) – Ron Denham, Kate Hoy, Sue Reardon, Syreen Kitchener, Pat Laurie & Davina Young.
All 12 Committee Members to have voting rights.

Election of Members:

Six citizen representatives to be elected for a two year term with half that number changing each year. Citizen membership to be restricted to a maximum of four consecutive terms. Ie: eight years. Casual vacancies can be appointed until the review period.

Meetings:

The Committee is to meet quarterly on third Tuesday. Quorum is 7.

4. Walcha Council Preschool Advisory Committee

Membership:

Representative – Clr RL Wellings - Chairperson
Director Community & Tourism
Nominated Supervisor
Parent/Citizen Representatives :

- o Meggie Davey – appointed March 2018 – elected to stay on Committee in 2020
- o Sarah Fletcher – appointed March 2019
- o Jordy Young – appointed March 2019
- o Sean Pendleton – appointed June 2020

The Early Intervention Officer, Rhonda Barnett, can attend Meetings but does not have voting rights.

Parent/citizen representatives to be elected for a 2 year term with half changing each year. They are also restricted to a maximum of 3 consecutive terms, ie 6 years.

Purpose: To advise Council on policy matters and strategic issues regarding the management of the Walcha Preschool.

Meetings: Meet quarterly (once per term) or as required on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of the term. The appointed Councillor to act as Chairman. The quorum to be 5.

5. Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee

Function of the Committee:

To advise Council on high level strategic tourism promotion.

Membership:

Representative – Clr JM Kealey – Chairperson
Alternate Representative – Clr WJ Heazlett
Tourism Manager
Tourist Officer
Director Community & Tourism



Seven community representatives on two year term with them being eligible for reappointment on expiration of each term – Louise Clarke, Neil Smith, Vanessa Arundale, Casper Ozinga, Jane Morrison and Vacant x 2.

Meetings:

The Committee is to meet three times a year or as required. The appointed Councillor to act as the Chairperson. The quorum is to be 5.

6. Walcha Council Audit & Risk Committee

Function of Committee:

To provide independent assurance and assistance to the Walcha Council on risk management, control, governance and external accountability responsibilities. The Committee has no executive powers, except those expressly provided by Council.

Membership:

Voting Members:

Clr SJ Kermode

Clr WJ Heazlett

Independent Representatives: Michael O'Connor (Chairperson), Sean Johnston and David Locke.

Non Voting Members:

General Manager

Chief Financial Officer

Meetings:

Meet four times per year with one of those meetings to include review and endorsement of the annual audited financial reports and external audit opinion. Additional meetings as required.

7. Walcha Council Festival Committee

Function of the Committee:

To organise an annual festival showcasing the local food, art and craft.

Membership:

One Councillor – Clr KW Ferrier – Chairperson

Tourism Manager

Tourism Officer

Community representatives on a two year term: Cameron Greig, Ron Denham, Vicki McIvor, Chris Feltham, Leanne Natty, Adam Iuston, Kim Newling (Westpac Rescue Helicopter).

Meetings:

Meet quarterly or as required. Appointed Councillor to act as a Chairperson. Quorum to be 6.

8. Walcha Council Youth Advisory Committee

Function of the Committee:

To engage with the youth of Walcha and allow for their input into the Youth Programs to be developed in the Walcha area.

Membership:

One Councillor – Clr RL Wellings – Chairperson

Director Community & Tourism

Youth Worker / Librarian



Youth Community Members x 8: Between the ages of 11 and 18 years of age.
Adult Community Representatives x 2

Meetings:

Meet bi-monthly or as required. The appointed Councillor is to act as Chairperson. The quorum to be 7.

9. Walcha Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Function of the Committee:

To advise Council on aboriginal matters.

Membership:

Mayor

Deputy Mayor

General Manager

6 Amaroo Members: Mark Davies, Karen Bloomfield, Garry Towney, Raggae Towney, Katrina Bloomfield, Sue Green, Tyler Stackman.

Meetings:

The Committee is to meet six monthly or as required. The Mayor is to act as the Chairperson. The quorum is five (5). All nine Committee members to have voting rights..

Created Council Meeting 31 May 2017 – Minute No.: 186/20162017

10. Walcha Motorcycle Rally Committee

Function of the Committee:

To provide advice to Council on the event planning, coordination and management of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally. Terms of Reference created.

Membership:

One Councillor – Clr JM Kealey – Chairperson

Director Community & Tourism

Tourism Manager

Tourism Officer

3-5 Community Members: Shane Carey, Tracey Hoy, Karen Barnes, Alan Holmes and Brad Keable.

Meetings:

Meetings are to be held three times a year and the quorum is five (5).

2018 – 2020 Delegate Organisations



1. New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council – trading as New England Weeds Authority (NEWA)

Is a single purpose local government authority, established under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 387 as the control authority for noxious weeds in the Armidale Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council areas. The New England Weeds Authority has been serving the community since 1947 and their purpose is to administer the Noxious Weeds Act and control declared noxious weeds within the New England Region.

Members: Armidale Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council.



Purpose: Special Purpose County Council set up to administer the Noxious Weeds Act and control declared noxious weeds within the New England Region. They have meetings quarterly.
Delegate: Councillor SJ Kermode **(4 year term – due September 2021)**

2. Namoi Councils Joint Organisation

Function: To provide strong local government leadership, to work co-operatively for the benefit of the Namoi region and effectively advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities. This Organisation meets monthly.

Members: Gunnedah Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Moree Plains Shire Council, Narrabri Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council.

Delegate – Mayor

Alternate Delegate – Deputy Mayor

Representative – General Manager

3. Mid North Weight of Loads Group (MNWLG)

Function: The Group was established in 1986 for the purpose of minimising pavement damage caused by overloaded trucks. The main objective is to reduce the cost of maintaining roads by preventing the damage caused by overloaded vehicles. This Group meets six monthly or as required.

Members: Armidale Regional Council, Bellingen Shire Council, Coffs Harbour City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Kempsey Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mid Coast Council, Nambucca Shire Council, Port Macquarie Hastings Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Upper Hunter Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council.

Delegate – Clr CM Lyon

Alternate Delegate – Clr Heazlett

Representative – Director Infrastructure

4. NSW Public Libraries Association – North Eastern Zone

Function: NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) is the peak body for public libraries in NSW and its purpose is to: Advocate effectively, initiate partnerships, champion the public library cause, build trust and support, provide relevant information, foster cooperation and collaboration and strengthen the public library network.

Members: The Group represents libraries from Tweed Heads to Forster across to Gunnedah and up to Tenterfield.

Delegate – Clr WJ Heazlett

Alternate Delegate – Clr RL Wellings

5. Central Northern Regional Libraries Committee

Function: CNRL is a regional library formed under Section 12(1) of the Library Act. Tamworth Regional Council is the Executive Council. Its purpose is to monitor and negotiate the provision of library services through the Central Northern Regional Libraries.

Membership: Tamworth Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council, Walcha Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Narrabri Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council.



Meetings: The .CNRL Committee consists of Councillor delegate from each of the six member Councils. The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Wednesday in November, a minimum of two meetings are held each year.

Delegate – Clr Heazlett

Alternate Delegate – Clr RL Wellings

6. Local Traffic Committee (LTC) and Council Advisory Committee

Function: This Committee is a technical advisory group which considers proposed traffic measures to ensure that technical criteria and local requirements are being met. Traffic measures include: regulatory road signs and line markings including parking restrictions; median and traffic islands – whether line marked or concrete; pedestrian crossings; traffic calming; temporary controls for some Special Events and construction projects.

Members:

NSW Police – Walcha Sergeant Brock Freeman

Roads & Maritime Services – Grafton Region

Nominee for the State Member of Parliament for Walcha – Nominated by the MP – Clr KW Ferrier

Director Infrastructure

Meetings: The Walcha Local Traffic Committee meets once every three months. Quorum is 3.

7. Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

Function: This Committee covers the local government areas of Walcha, Armidale Regional and Uralla.

Members: Police, State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service, Ambulance, NSW Fire & Rescue and Hunter New England Area Health Service, local Councils.

Meetings:

Meet quarterly or as required.

New England Local Emergency Management Committee

Delegate – Clr Blomfield

Local Emergency Management Officer – Director Infrastructure

8. New England Bush Fire Management Committee

Function: Each Bush Fire Management Committee must, in accordance with the State Legislation, prepare and submit to the State Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee a draft of each of the following kinds of bush fire management plans for the rural fire district or other part of the State for which it is constituted:

- (a) A Plan of Operations; and
- (b) Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.

Members:

Unless the Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee determines otherwise, the following persons are to be invited to become members of a Bush Fire Management Committee:



- (a) A person nominated by each local authority whose area comprises land in the Bush Fire Management Committee's area, being (in the case of a local authority that is a council) the Mayor or a councillor of the Council;
- (b) A person nominated by each of the following organisations as being in charge of its affairs in the Bush Fire Management Committee's area:
 - (1) The Roads & Maritime Services;
 - ii) The Land & Property Management Authority;
 - iii) The NSW Fire Brigades;
 - iv) The NSW Police;
 - v) Each distribution network service provider listed in Schedule 3 to the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* having a distribution district comprising land in the Bush Fire Management Committee's area;
 - vi) Each Livestock Health & Pest Authority established for any rural lands protection district comprising land in the Bush Fire Management Committee's area;
 - vii) Rail Corporation NSW
 - viii) Rail Infrastructure Corporation.
- (c) A person or persons nominated by the Director-General of the Department of Environment & Climate Change and Water NSW as being in charge of the affairs of the Department in the Bush Fire Management Committee's area;
- (d) A person or persons nominated by the Deputy-General, Primary Industries of the Industry & Investment NSW as being in charge of the affairs of the Department in the Bush Fire Management Committee's area;
- (e) A person nominated by each local authority for the Bush Fire Management Committee's area as having responsibilities for the performance of the local authority's functions respecting the environment;
- (f) A person nominated by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW;
- (g) Not more than 2 persons chosen by rural fire brigades operating in the area;
- (h) A rural land holder nominated by the NSW Farmers Association or, if the Association does not nominate a rural land holder within a reasonable time (as determined by the Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee), by the local authority for the area;
- (i) A person nominated by each Local Aboriginal Land Council for any Local Aboriginal Land Council area comprising land located in the Bush Fire Management Committee's area;
- (j) And other person or persons approved by the Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee.

Meetings: This Committee meets quarterly.

Delegate – Clr PR Blomfield

Alternate Delegate – Clr SJ Kermode

9. Arts North West

Function: Arts North West was established in 1996 as a Regional Arts Development Program and established as an independent Regional Arts Board in 1997. The program receives financial support from Arts NSW and twelve local governments in the New England North West region. Its main purpose is to build community capacity in the Arts North West region through supporting creative activity.

Meetings: Annual General Meeting is in March and Board meets quarterly.

Representative – Clr JM Kealey



Alternate – Clr WJ Heazlett

10. Northern Inland Regional Waste Group (NIRW)

Function: NIRW is a voluntary Local Government networking group to specifically address waste management issues on a regional level.

Members: Armidale Regional Council, Glen Innes Severn Council, Gunnedah Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Inverell Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Moree Plains Shire Council, Narrabri Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Tenterfield Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council.

Representative – Senior Manager – Waste, Sewer & Water – Tess Dawson

11. Walcha Australia Day Committee

The Service Clubs currently fill this role.

Councillor – Clr Wellings

Representative – General Manager

12. Management Committee Pioneer Cottage

Representative – Clr WJ Heazlett

13. Walcha Local (Liquor) Consultative Committee

Members: Representatives of all Licensed Premises', Police and Council.

Delegate – Clr KW Ferrier

Alternate Delegate – Clr CM Lyon

14. Walcha Community Centre Management Committee - (Multi – Purpose Centre)

Delegate – Clr JM Kealey

Alternate Delegate – Clr RL Wellings

15. Walcha Community Consultative Committee

Function: To discuss community wide social issues.

Members: All community organisations are invited to attend and include the Police, Service groups, Schools, Amaroo and Council.

Meetings: Quarterly

Delegate – Clr WJ Heazlett

Alternate Delegate – Clr SJ Kermode

16. Walcha Local Health Committee (LHC)

Function: The purpose or key role of a Local Health Committee is to provide leadership in the local community to ensure health services meet local community needs and ensure the promotion and enhancement of the health of the community.

Members: Members of the LHC will be appointed by the Cluster General Manager on advice of the Chair and the Local Health Service Manager. Committees should seek an active



membership of between 6 and 10. Appointment of members will be for a three year period and members may seek re-appointment after their term expires.

Meetings: Meetings are bi-monthly. The Chair is elected annually by vote of the Committee.

Delegate – Mayor

17. Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA)

Function: The CMA was established to further the interests of regional and country areas in NSW by being an effective voice and forum for country NSW Mayors.

Members: Those eligible for membership are the Mayors and General Managers of regional and country councils in NSW.

Meetings: Held quarterly in Sydney

Delegates: Mayor and General Manager

2020 – 2021 Internal Committees



1. Plant Committee

Membership:

Representative – Clr EH Noakes

Representative – Clr CM Lyon

Representative – Clr SJ Kermod

General Manager

Director Infrastructure

Plant Foreman

Purpose: to assess recommendations on replacing and reviewing plant assets of Council.

2. General Manager's Performance Review Committee

Membership:

Representative – Mayor

Representative – Deputy Mayor

Representative – Clr KW Ferrier

Representative – Clr CM Lyon

General Manager

Other Senior Staff as appropriate

Function:

- ✚ To assess applications, carry out interviews and report to Council on appointments to the General Manager position.

- ✚ To carry out the General Manager's performance appraisal and negotiate performance agreement.

3. Staff Consultative Committee

Membership:

Development & Environmental Professionals' Association Representative: Lacey Latham

Local Government Engineers Association Representative: Matthew Targett



United Services Union Representative: Bernard Lynch
Employee Representatives:
Office of General Manager – Joanne Barton
Community & Tourism – Cassandra McKenna
Environment & Development – Angelique McKenna
Roads – Paul Lordanic
Waste, Water & Sewer – Sally Munday
Urban Works – Harley Fontanella

Purpose:

The Consultative Committee shall:

- ✚ Provide a forum for consultation between the employer and its employees that encourages a free and open exchange of views;
- ✚ Positively co-operate in workplace reform to enhance the efficiency and productivity of the employer and to provide employees with access to career opportunities and more fulfilling, varied and better paid work.

Function:

- ✚ The main functions of the consultative committee include:
 - Award implementation
 - Training
 - Consultation with regard to organisation restructure
 - Job redesign
 - Salary systems
 - Communication and education mechanisms
 - Performance management systems
 - Changes to variable working hours arrangements for new or vacant positions.
 - Local Government reform
 - Proposed variations to leaseback vehicle arrangements.
- ✚ The consultative committee shall not consider matters which are being or should be processed in accordance with Award Clause 35, Grievance and Dispute Procedures.
- ✚ The consultative committee will make recommendations based upon consensus. Where being no consensus on a particular item, the recommendations to the employer should note the dissenting views.
- ✚ The consultative committee shall meet as required.

4. Work Health & Safety Committee

Membership:

No Elected members

Purpose:

- ✚ To provide a forum that will allow consultation and discussion between management and employees at the Council to aid in achieving a safe workplace.
- ✚ To advise the Council on effective ways to ensure the health and safety of staff, visitors and contractors.
- ✚ To encourage all staff and contractors to work together to establish a safe and health working environment, and



- ✚ To enable all persons employed by the Council and persons covered by the legislation to be able to refer matters to the Committee for advice and assistance.

Meetings:

At least three meetings per year or as required.

5. Roads Management Committee

Membership:

All Councillors
Director Infrastructure

Function: oversee the development of the Roads Management Plan for Walcha Council area.

6. Waste Management Committee

Membership:

All Councillors
General Manager
Director Infrastructure
Senior Manager Waste, Sewer & Water:

Function: to discuss current and future issues relating to the Waste Transfer Station and other waste issues and to provide recommendations to Council.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2020:

57 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 26 August 2020, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 7.2 Procurement Policy

Clr Kermode declared a pecuniary interest in this item due to being a local business.

6. MAYORAL MINUTE

From the Mayor:

Today marks four years since this Council was sworn in. A mix of experience and new Councillors we entered Local Government at a time of growth. Importantly we entered Council with a passion, a vision and purpose and although the 'process' at times confuses us I believe we have achieved much for our Council. One of the first things I was told by an ex-councillor was to make measured decisions as rushed decisions have poor consequences. While this slows progress down I have found this to be so true. Rushed and hasty decisions lead to poor outcomes.



If not for the COVID issue the makeup of this room may look totally different today with elections originally scheduled for nearly three weeks ago.

Firstly I would like to thank my fellow Councillors. I know that as a group we are totally committed to this Council and community and our debates and decisions reflect that we believe our community is special and will back us if we take them forward. In thanking you I feel I must single out past Deputy Mayor, Clr Clint Lyon, a loyal Deputy who has given me advice, occasionally measured criticism and certainly insight and foresight. Thank you Clint for all your support. Your dedication and passion for your community can never be questioned.

To me the highlights of these four years have been the success of the Thunderbolts Way Strategy being funded and the pathway of securing our town water supply. Dylan Reeves' vision of a strategy for Thunderbolts Way, incorporating other councils along its route, was recognised by the State Government and funded by over \$11M. The upgrading of this road will bring tremendous benefits to Walcha. While this funding is great we must never stop chasing grants to continue to upgrade this road.

The allocation of \$1.5M to further promote a solution to our town water issues will see a storage designed and land purchased for this purpose. Another project that we worked closely with Dylan Reeves on will hopefully see funding allocated in the near future. I believe, if successful, this will singularly be the most important outcome for Walcha.

Funding through Stronger Country Community Grants, drought and bushfires has seen much needed infrastructure upgrades and building throughout the whole area. I will not list these as it is an extensive list and we have been over it many times. These will be included in the End of Term Report.

Four years of reflection cannot pass without mentioning the drought, bushfires and COVID. I don't wish to dwell on the negative side but they have had a massive impact on our community, yet our town has rallied and looked forward with vision and passion. Our businesses are to be applauded for their dedication and we currently have no vacant business premises and a vibrant CBD.

Changing our General Manager consumed part of 2019 with the retirement of long serving custodian Jack O'Hara and the appointment of Ms Anne Moddero to this role. This year also saw the departure of Engineering Director Dylan Reeves to Kempsey and the appointment of Peter Murray as Director Infrastructure. In conjunction with Lacey Latham they are the source of most of the recommendations and information that comes to Council and we thank you for the work that goes into providing this detailed information.

The approximately 80 other staff that makeup our workforce are the public face of what we do. When we get compliments it is these staff that mostly deserve and earn them. Whether it's customer service in the office, the state of our parks and gardens or work on our infrastructure, no Council can operate without the support of its public. To the Staff, without your dedication and loyalty it falls down. As Councillors we believe and hope we make the right decisions that assist you in carrying out your roles. We will continue to strive to do this. Once again thank you all.



We now have one extra year as a Council to shape this community. Nearly all of our current grant funding is allocated and while it will take a while to complete all these projects we need to focus on what our community needs next. We have been the recipients of millions of dollars in grant funding but now, as this funding pool will contract, we need to be pro-active and chase funds. Obviously high on our agenda is our library, the recreating of this space into a modern and functional facility will give our residents of all ages a relaxing environment.

If we are successful in securing our water supply we need to look at the shortage of land, both for residential and industrial use. It is our role to solve this problem and it will be our vision and foresight that does it. To solve this problem can never start too early. Anecdotally even under the current situation this lack of land is seen as an inhibitor to our growth.

Our local members, Barnaby Joyce and Kevin Anderson, deserve special recognition. It is when we are fighting for funds that we see how important dedicated and invested politicians are in this process. Their wish to "go in and bat" for small communities like Walcha is recognised and respected.

Finally, even though they do stand at the top of the Organisation Structure of Local Government, I wish to thank the community of Walcha for your support, input and respect of our Council. I believe we work hard within the confines of our role to make our Local Government Area a better place. I know as Councillors we never take this honour and responsibility for granted.

Thank you all.

Mayor Eric Noakes

58 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes that the Mayoral Minute as read and submitted be **ADOPTED** by Council.

7. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

59 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

7.1 Section 355 Committee Policy **WO/2020/03322**

- 60 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that Council:
1. **NOTE** that this new Policy supersedes the previous policy last amended by Council in March 2012 (Minute No.: 215/1112);
 2. **EXHIBIT** the Draft Section 355 Committees Policy for a period of 28 days;
 3. **ADOPT** the Draft Section 355 Committees Policy as presented subject to no submissions received during the exhibition period.
 4. **LIST** this Draft Policy on the Agenda for the first 355 Committee Meetings held after this Ordinary Meeting.

7.2 Procurement Policy **WO/2020/03282**

Clr Kermode declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and left the Chambers.



61 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** the Procurement Policy as amended.

Clr Kermode returned to the Chambers and was informed of the resolution.

7.3 Request to Waive Development Application Fees and Costs – Rotary Club of Walcha Inc WO/2020/03310

Motion

It was **Moved** Councillor Ferrier **Seconded** Councillor Kealey that Council waive associated Development Application Fees and Charges for the Rotary Club of Walcha's project to build a Picnic Shelter at Ohio North Road entrance from Thunderbolts Way.

Amendment

It was **Moved** Councillor Lyon **Seconded** Councillor Blomfield that Council waive associated Development Application Fees and Charges for the Rotary Club of Walcha's project to build a Picnic Shelter at Ohio North Road entrance from Thunderbolts Way as long as there is a scope document presented to Council outlining the relevant stakeholders.

62 On being put to the **VOTE** the **Amendment** was **CARRIED**.
Clr Ferrier recorded his vote **AGAINST** this **Motion**.

7.4 Ordinary Meetings of Council WO/2020/03237

63 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Lyon that Council maintain the current Governance Structure for the ensuing term of:

1. One Ordinary Council Meeting held on the last Wednesday of the month for months between February and November inclusive;
2. December Ordinary Meetings of Council be held on the third Wednesday of the month;
3. No Ordinary Meetings of Council held during the month of January; and
4. All Ordinary Meetings of Council to commence at 3:00pm.

7.5 Local Government NSW Annual Conference WO/2020/03241

64 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that Council nominate Councillor representatives, Mayor Noakes and Councillor Wellings to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference Online event on 23 November 2020.

7.6 Australian Water Association NSW State Conference WO/2020/03240

65 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kealey that Council nominate Councillor representatives, Mayor Noakes and Clr Kealey to attend the



Australian Water Association Conference to be held in Tamworth on 12-13 November 2020 as appropriate.

7.7 Grants for Junior Coaching Clinics

WO/2020/03339

66 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Lyon that Council allocate the following funds to each applicant:

1. Walcha Flippers Swimming Club - \$1,800.
2. Walcha & District Tennis Association - \$800.
3. Walcha Pony Club Inc - \$1,500.

7.8 Request for Funding Donation for Proposed Walcha Central School Drive-In Movie Night

WO/2020/03323

Motion

It was **Moved** Councillor Heazlett **Seconded** Councillor Ferrier that Council approve the \$3,500 donation from the Bushfire Recovery Funding.

Amendment

An **Amendment** was **Moved** Councillor Kealey **Seconded** Councillor Lyon that Council provide \$2,300 donation to the event, so the donation does not include the refreshments budget allocation but the Event to be offered as a free event to the community.

Suspend Standing Orders

67 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Kealey that Council Suspend Standing Orders to discuss the request from Walcha Central School.

Resume Standing Orders

68 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council Resume Standing Orders.

Clr Kealey **WITHDREW** the **Amendment** in relation to further information provided by Clr Wellings.

69 The Original Motion was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Clr Kealey raised the matter of Regional Meetings Schedule as a matter of urgency.

70 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that the matter of Regional Meetings Schedule be discussed as a matter of urgency.



It was ruled as a Matter of Urgency by the Chairperson.

Regional Meetings 2020 Schedule

71 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that the Regional Meetings be scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, 17 November 2020:

11:30 "Europambela's Shearers Quarters
02:30pm Ingleba Hall
06:00pm Walcha Council Chambers

Wednesday, 18 November 2020:

09:00am Yarrowitch Hall
11:30am "Brockley Park" Woolshed
02:30pm Nowendoc Hall
06:00pm Woolbrook School Library

Clr Kealey raised the issue of the Walcha Men's Shed request to waive Development Application fees for their new Men's Shed in Fitzroy Street, Walcha.

72 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that the matter of waiving the Walcha Men's Shed Development Application Fees be discussed as a Matter of Urgency.

It was ruled as a Matter of Urgency by the Chairperson.

73 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyons that Council waive the Development Application fees for the Walcha Men's Shed development.

10. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

10.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2020/03230

74 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10.2 Infrastructure

WO/2020/03109

75 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kermode that items included in the Infrastructure Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council

10.3 Environment & Development

WO/2020/03172

76 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kermode that items included in the Environment & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council



10.4 Community & Tourism

WO/2020/03254

77 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kermode that items included in the Community & Tourism Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11.1 **Minutes of the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street Walcha on Thursday, 03 September 2020. WO/2020/03052**
- 11.2 **Minutes of the Walcha Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on Tuesday, 15 September 2020. WO/2020/03184**
- 11.3 **Minutes of the Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street Walcha on Thursday, 17 September 2020. WO/2020/03220**

12. DELEGATE REPORTS

- 12.1 **Minutes of the Board Meeting of Namoi Joint Organisation of Councils trading as Namoi Unlimited held at Liverpool Plains Shire Council on Monday, 31 August 2020. WI/2020/14205**

13. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Clr Lyon requested a report outlining final expenditures for the completed Bushfire Recovery Grant funded works on Kangaroo Flat Road and Brackendale Road.

14. CLOSED COUNCIL

14A Referral to Closed Council Meeting – Request to Waive Cemetery Fees AND Recruitment Activities WO/2020/03309

78 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matters of Request to Waive Cemetery Fees AND Recruitment Activities be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

79 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Lyon that Council resolve into Closed Council Meeting and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Closed Council for the reason that the reports relate to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

80 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Ferrier.



The Chairman publicly declared the **RESOLUTIONS** passed by the Council whilst in Closed Council Meeting.

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.

14.1 Request to Waive Cemetery Fees – Council Error Identified from 1981

CC: 16/202021 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Wellings that Council:

1. **NOTE** the Report;
2. **ENDORSE** the immediate action by the General Manager to manage and mitigate the immediate impacts of the situation as it emerged; and
3. **APPROVE** the future proposed actions as detailed in the body of the report.

14.2 Council Recruitment Activities – Update

WINT/2020/05334

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

Mayoral Minute

The Mayoral Minute is noted.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:06PM.