
ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

19 June 2019

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Meeting commenced at 1.02pm.

In attendance:

Councillors

Keith Williams (Chair), Sharon Cadwallader, Basil Cameron, Darlene Cook, Vanessa Ekins (Deputy Chair), Sandra Humphrys, Robert Mustow and Simon Richardson.

Staff

Phillip Rudd (General Manager), Guy Bezrouchko (Group Manager Corporate and Commercial), Andrew Logan (Group Manager Operations), Natalie Woodhead-Tiernan (Finance Manager), Ben Wilson (Risk and Compliance Coordinator), Emma Fountain (Governance Officer), Peter Morgan (Project Accountant) and Noeline Smith (minute taker).

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council showed its respect and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land, of Elders past and present, on which this meeting took place.

3. PUBLIC ACCESS

- Richmond River Cane Growers' Association: Geoff Pye (Chair), Tracey Doherty (General Manager) and Michael O'Connor.

Richmond River Cane Grower's representatives spoke in relation to the IP&R submission concerning an effective alternative to the fixed weir across the Tuckombil Canal.

RESOLVED [32/19] (Cadwallader/Cook) that an extension of five minutes public access time be granted (ended 1.17pm).

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

i). **Ordinary Council meeting 17 April 2019** (File 182/13)

RESOLVED [33/19] (Cadwallader/Mustow) that the minutes of the meeting held 17 April 2019 be confirmed as presented subject to amendment to resolution 18/19, i.e. removal of dot point 3.

Voting against: Crs Ekins and Richardson.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr Cook declared a non-pecuniary, non-significant interest in relation to Item 9. ii) and a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 11. ii); Cr Richardson declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 11. ii).

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

i). **Review of cost / benefit of current and recent insurance arrangements (File 96/18(2))**
RESOLVED [34/19] (Mustow/Humphrys) that management provide a report on current and recent insurance arrangements and report back to Council.

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

i). **Development of a Coastal Management Program for the Richmond River (File 1181)**
RESOLVED [35/19] (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council receive and note the report which provides an overview of the five stages associated with the development of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the Richmond River.

9. GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTS

i). **Final draft Delivery program / Operational plan and 2019/20 Budget (File 2333.1/19)**
RESOLVED [36/19] (Mustow/Cadwallader) that Council:

1. Receive for information the public submission lodged during the consultation process and note the staff response.
2. Receive and note the staff submissions lodged during the consultation process outlined in the report.
3. Adopt the final draft Delivery program/Operational plan (incorporating the 2019/20 Budget estimates and 'Revenue' policy), including changes arising from staff-initiated amendments.

Representatives of the Richmond River Cane Growers' Association left the meeting; the Chair thanked them for their time and detailed presentation.

ii). **Retail water customer account assistance (File 2283/13)**

RESOLVED [37/19] (Cadwallader/Richardson) that Council in accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, approve financial assistance as listed in Table 1 of the report.

iii). **Innovate 2020 Reconciliation Action Plan (File 2453/18)**

RESOLVED [38/19] (Ekins/Mustow) that Council adopt the draft '*Innovate 2020 Reconciliation Action Plan*' as presented.

10. GROUP MANAGER PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTS

i). Draft Code of Meeting Practice (File 856/15)

RESOLVED [39/19] (Humphrys/Cook) that Council:

1. Revoke Council's current Code of Meeting Practice dated 21 November 2018 and any Codes of Meeting Practice revived as a result of that revocation.
2. Adopt the draft Code of Meeting Practice attached to the report.

11. GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

i). Fluoride plant dosing plant performance report: Quarter 1 – 2019 (File 150.8/18)

RESOLVED [40/19] (Ekins/Cook) that Council note and receive the Fluoride Dosing Plant Performance Report for Quarter 1 – 2019, which shows that all plants are dosing in accordance with relevant guideline values.

ii). Contract for the provision of electricity for Council operations (File 2092/17)

RESOLVED [41/19] (Cadwallader/Cameron) that Council:

1. Note the proposed engagement of Regional Procurement and EnergyAction to undertake, on Council's behalf, a reverse auction for electricity (contestable sites only).
2. Note that a contract for purchase or sale at public auction is exempt from the tendering requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993* and that the General Manager has the delegated authority to execute the contract.

12. POLICIES

i). Financial Reserves (proposed) (File 172)

RESOLVED [42/19] (Cameron/Cook) that Council:

1. Adopt the attached 'Financial Reserves' policy.
2. Endorse a transfer of cash funds of \$800,000 from the Fleet Reserve to the Retail Water Reserve and a transfer of \$800,000 from the Employee Leave Entitlement Reserve to the Bulk Water Assets and Programs Reserve.
3. That Budget and IP&R documents include the following information on Reserves:
 - a) Opening and closing balances for each Reserve.
 - b) Movements in and out for each Reserve.

13. INFORMATION REPORTS

i). Investments – May 2019 (File 59/12)

RESOLVED [43/19] (Cadwallader/Cameron) that Council receive and note the investments for May 2019.

ii). **Water production and usage – April 2019 and May 2019** (File 5/12)

RESOLVED [44/19] (Mustow/Ekins) that Council receive and note the report

(Noting that the labels for April/May year-to-date totals for new connections did not align with the contents of the tables).

iii). **Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – meeting update** (File 847)

RESOLVED [45/19] (Cook/Cadwallader) that Council receive and note the attached minutes from the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting of 27 May 2019.

iv). **Reports/actions pending** (File 1181)

RESOLVED [46/19] (Richardson/Cadwallader) that Council receive and note the report.

14. CLOSED COUNCIL

MOVE INTO CLOSED COUNCIL

RESOLVED [47/19] (Cadwallader/Richardson) that Council move into Closed Council to consider the following matters and that members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting based on the grounds detailed below.

(Voting against: Cr Ekins)

1. Report	Financial assistance for pensioners – section 582
Grounds for closure	Section 10A(2)(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.
Public interest	Public discussion would not be in the public interest due to disclosure of personal information.
2. Report	Strategic review of Richmond Water Laboratories
Grounds for closure	Section 10A(2)(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed: (ii). confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council.
Public interest	Public discussion would not be in the public interest due to disclosure of commercial information.

RESUME TO OPEN COUNCIL

RESOLVED [48/19] (Cameron/Cook) that Council resume to Open Council.

The General Manager read to the meeting the following resolutions of Council:

i). **Financial assistance for pensioners – section 582** (File 2442/15)

RESOLVED [49/19] (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council in accordance with section 582 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its '*Retail Water Customer Account Assistance*' policy, consider and approve the financial assistance as listed in Table 1 of the report, subject to receipt of a valid Water Use Audit report.

ii). Strategic Review of Richmond Water Laboratories (File 1035.2/18)

RESOLVED [50/19] (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council:

1. In respect of IP&R 2.4.18, receive the report and Attachment 1 - *KPMG: Strategic Review of Richmond Water Laboratories (February 2019)*.
2. Endorse "Management's position – points 1 and 2" described in the report.

15. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

16. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Cr Ekins enquired into relation to timing of the demand management workshop.

General Manager advised updated calendar events will be issued to Councillors for the remainder of year.

17. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.41pm.