
Rous County Council

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

21 October 2020

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Meeting commenced at 1.03pm.

In attendance:

Councillors (at Molesworth Street, Administration Office, Lismore, NSW)

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

Councillors (via video conferencing)

Basil Cameron.

Staff (at Molesworth Street, Administration Office, Lismore, NSW)

Phillip Rudd (General Manager), Guy Bezrouchko (Group Manager Corporate and Commercial), and Noeline Smith (minute taker).

Staff (via video conferencing)

Helen McNeil (Group Manager People and Performance), Andrew Logan (Group Manager Planning and Delivery), Phil Courtney (Group Manager Operations), Michael McKenzie (Future Water Strategy Project Manager), Natalie Woodhead-Tiernan (Finance Manager).

Other attendees

Geoff Dwyer – Thomas Noble & Russell (at Molesworth Street, Administration Office, Lismore)

Brian Wilkinson – Chair, Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (via video conferencing)

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3. PUBLIC ACCESS

Nil.

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

i). Ordinary Council meeting 19 August 2020

RESOLVED [46/20] (Cadwallader/Cook) that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held 19 August 2020 be confirmed as presented.

6. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Chair Cr Williams vacated the Chair.

i). Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

RESOLVED [47/20] (Cook/Humphrys) that Council proceed with the election of a chairperson and deputy chairperson consistent with the election requirements for chairpersons of county councils in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and that:

- i). If there is more than one nomination, council resolve the method of election be open voting.
- ii). The result of the election (including the names of those elected) be declared at the meeting and that those elected hold office for one year.

- Election of chair

The General Manager advised the meeting that one nomination for chair was received: Cr Williams.

The General Manager declared Cr Williams elected as Chair for the ensuing 12 months.

- Election of deputy chair

The General Manager advised the meeting that two (2) nominations for deputy chair were received: Cr Ekins and Cr Cadwallader.

Following a *show of hands*, Cr Cadwallader was elected as Deputy Chair for the ensuing 12 months.

Chair, Cr Williams resumed the chair.

7. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

8. PRESENTATIONS

- Geoff Dwyer (Thomas Noble and Russell) presented on the Annual Financial Reports and Audit Report for the year ending 30 June 2020 (*refer to Item 11. i) of the agenda*).

Council thanked Geoff Dwyer for his attendance and presentation.

- Brian Wilkinson, Chair (via Zoom) - (Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee) presented on the '*Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Performance Review: period 2019-2020*' (*refer to Item 13. i) of the agenda*).

Council thanked Brian Wilkinson for his attendance and presentation.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

i). Increased installation of water tanks

MOVED (Richardson/Ekins)

That Rous County Council undertakes the following investigations and modelling in order to provide comparative information when considering other preferred future water strategies:

1. Increased installation of water tanks

- a).
 - i. An estimation of the number and capacity of rainwater tanks required for installation of tanks on all currently existing properties, including those properties that are connected to a recycled water scheme, and new properties within expected growth patterns.
 - ii. That this estimation includes the number and capacity required for delivery of non-potable and potable water.
- b). The level of rainwater tank installation taken into consideration as part of the demand forecast with the Future Water Project.
- c). Particulars concerning dwellings utilising a dual reticulation system.
- d). Requirements, costing and issues involved in providing a decentralised model where the entire house is completely plumbed and connected only to the rainwater tank.
- e). The issues concerning non-potable use only restrictions for water tanks.
- f). Complete modelling of offsetting the total potable and non-potable use within each property so as to not rely on the town water system.
- g). Restrictions and requirements with NSW health guidelines to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and Standards.
- h). The historical work completed on rainwater tanks as a demand management option.
- i). The costs for various ownership schemes, including:
 - i. Capital and maintenance by Rous (or part of) and all maintenance and electricity, and managed by landholder
 - ii. Capital and maintenance and on-going costs by house owner
 - iii. Rous to provide the tanks and provide a periodic repayment plan
- j). Legal barriers present concerning all the issues being considered.
- k). Modelling that considers the impact of significant increases in the installation of water tanks on Rocky Creek Dam (RCD) and changes of probability of the RCD reservoir becoming empty and unable to provide the water required.

2. Demand Management

- a). Modelling effectiveness of developing further pricing structure fluidity that fluctuate in relation to Dam levels, with in-built subsidies for those in the lower economic brackets.
- b). Wider social, legal and local government implications and considerations.

3. Use of recycled (purified) water

- a). Requirements, costs (capital and operating), barriers, timeframes and general issues involved in providing purified recycled water, for drinking and non-drinking, to current and future Rous customers, and that this also consider:
 - i. Restrictions, barriers and requirements with NSW Health Guidelines to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and Standards.
 - ii. Legal and legislative barriers present concerning the utilisation of purified recycled water.
 - iii. Implications of the current level of decentralised sewerage sources.

The following updated wording for point 3. (as above) was provided by Cr Richardson prior to the meeting:

3. Use of Recycled Water for Non-Drinking Purposes Only

3. a. Requirements, costs (capital and operating), barriers, timeframes and general issues involved in providing recycled water for non-drinking purposes only, to current and future Rous customers, and that this also consider:
 - i. Restrictions, barriers and requirements of the NSW Government, including Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Health.
 - ii. Legal and legislative barriers concerning the use of non-potable recycled water.
 - iii. Sustainable water yield that could realistically be achieved by non-potable recycling.
 - iv. Opportunity costs (if any) associated with redirecting and reusing treated effluent.
 - v. Broader environmental benefits (if any) associated with reducing discharge of treated effluent.

Use of Purified Recycled Water for Drinking

3. b. Requirements, costs (capital and operating), barriers, timeframes and general issues involved in providing purified recycled water to supplement current drinking water supplies, to current and future Rous customers, and that this also consider:
 - i. Restrictions, barriers and requirements of the NSW Government, including Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Health.
 - ii. Legal and legislative barriers concerning the use of purified recycled water for drinking.
 - iii. Sustainable water yield that could realistically be achieved through purified recycled water for drinking.
 - iv. Opportunity costs (if any) associated with redirecting and reusing treated effluent.
 - v. Broader environmental benefits (if any) associated with reducing discharge of treated effluent.

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4. That these reports be presented as soon as practicable and prior to any decision made on RCC's long term future water strategy priority infrastructure projects, being either the new Dunoon Dam or long-term groundwater schemes and that items 4. and 5. of Council's resolution 24/20 remains unaffected by this resolution of Council.

The motion on being put to the meeting was lost.

Voting against: Crs Williams, Cadwallader, Mustow, Cook and Humphrys.

Foreshadowed Motion

MOVED (Mustow/Cadwallader) that Council consider the issues identified in the Notice of Motion as above - Item 9. i) '*Increased installation water tanks*' at Council's 18 November 2020 information session.

The foreshadowed motion on being put to the meeting was carried.

RESOLVED [48/20] (Mustow/Cadwallader) that Council consider the issues identified in the Notice of Motion as above - Item 9. i) '*Increased installation water tanks*' at Council's 18 November 2020 information session.

ii). Increase water conservation requirements of BASIX

RESOLVED [49/20] (Cadwallader/Cook) that:

1. Rous County Council seek support from the constituent councils to increase the water conservation requirements of BASIX as outlined in this Notice of Motion.
2. Should letters of support be received from the constituent councils, that council authorises the General Manager and Chair to write to the relevant NSW Minister and LGNSW to seek support of same.
3. Council be advised on any future response received from the Minister and LGNSW.
4. Council submit a Notice of Motion to NSW Local Government conference to increase the water conservation requirements of BASIX.

9. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

i). Council meeting schedule 2021

RESOLVED [50/20] (Mustow/Cadwallader) that Council determine its meeting schedule for 2021 with meetings to be held at 1.00pm at Rous County Council Administration office (or via Zoom) on: 17 February; 21 April; 16 June; 18 August; 20 October and 15 December.

10. GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTS

i). Annual Financial Report and Auditor's report for year ending 30 June 2020

Tabled report

As noted in the 'Annual Financial Report and Auditor's report for year ending 30 June 2020' Councillors were to be provided with a copy of the *Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee minutes of 19 October 2020 report*. The report was tabled for Councillors' information.

RESOLVED [51/20] (Cook/Cadwallader) that Council:

1. In accordance with section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and clause 215 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, adopt the 2019/20 Audited Financial Reports and “Statement by Councillors and Management” for both the General Purpose Financial Reports and the Special Purpose Financial Reports, with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson delegated to sign on behalf of Council.
2. Advertise the presentation of the draft 2019/20 Financial Reports to the public from Monday, 2 November 2020 for a period of two weeks, and invite both inspection and submissions.
3. Forward a copy of the 2019/20 Audited Financial Reports to the Office of Local Government.
4. Present the 2019/20 Audited Financial Reports to the public at Council’s 16 December 2020 meeting.

ii). Quarterly Budget Review Statement for quarter ending 30 September 2020

RESOLVED [52/20] (Humphrys/Cadwallader) that Council note the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2020 and authorise the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

iii). Retail water customer account assistance

RESOLVED [53/20] (Cadwallader/Cook) 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.

12. GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND DELIVERY REPORTS

i). Deferral and refund of developer contributions – Ballina Community Men’s Shed

RESOLVED [54/20] (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council, under clause 2.5 of Council’s Development Servicing Plan 2016, approve the deferral and refund of the Rous County Council developer contributions levied to Ballina Community Men’s Shed Inc. in relation to DA2020/69.

13. INFORMATION REPORTS

i). Information reports

RESOLVED [55/20] (Mustow/Cadwallader) that:

1. Council receive and note the following information reports.
 - a). Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Performance Review period 2019-2020: Chairpersons Report (*Note: Report presented by the ARIC Chair at the commencement of this meeting during “Presentations”*).
 - b). Investments – September 2020.
 - c). Water production and usage – August 2020 and September 2020.

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- d). Fluoride plants' dosing performance report July to September 2020 – Q3.
 - e). Disclosure of Interest Returns.
 - f). Reports pending.

In relation to report a). '*Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Performance Review period 2019-2020: Chairpersons Report*', Council extended its appreciation to members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for their continued work and support.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

15. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

16. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.31pm.