

Rous County Council

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

17 February 2021

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Meeting commenced at 1.16pm

Preamble

In accordance with clause 5.21 of the Local Government Act 1993, attendees at the Council meeting were advised by the Chair that the meeting was being live streamed. The following points were noted by the Chair:

- *All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent.*
- *Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending meetings. All liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.*
- *This meeting must not be recorded by others without the prior written consent of the Council in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.*

In attendance

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

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

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

Phillip Rudd (General Manager), Guy Bezrouchko (Group Manager Corporate and Commercial), Helen McNeil (Group Manager People and Performance), Andrew Logan (Group Manager Planning and Delivery), Adam Nesbitt (Group Manager Operations) and Noeline Smith (minute taker).

- *Staff (via video conferencing)*

Michael McKenzie (Future Water Project Manager), Natalie Woodhead-Tiernan (Finance Manager), Lauren Edwards (Governance Advisor), Paul Coore (Enterprise Risk Manager).

The Chairperson acknowledged and thanked those that provided deputations during the Public Forum held prior to the Council meeting:

- Steve Smith (speaking against – Agenda item 6 i)
- Big Rob (speaking for – Agenda item 6 i)
- Richard Trevan (speaking for – Agenda item 6 i)
- Cindy Roberts (speaking against – Agenda item 6i)

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. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

Noted that Cr Cook will be on leave from 19-26 April 2021 and will be absent for the April 2021 Council meeting (will attend via 'Zoom' if access available).

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

i). Ordinary Council meeting minutes 16 December 2020

RESOLVED [1/21] (Cadwallader/Cook) that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held 16 December 2020 be confirmed as presented.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

6. NOTICE OF RESCISSION MOTION

i). Future Water Project 2060

MOVED (Mustow/Cadwallader) that Council rescinds resolution [61/20] and replaces with the following motion:

1. That Council:

- a) Receives and notes the public exhibition review document Rous County Council Future Water Project 2060 Public Exhibition Outcomes.
- b) Acknowledges the deep significance of the land in and around the proposed Dunoon Dam site to traditional owners and to the local community.
- c) Notes that 1298 submissions were received with 90% of respondents to the exhibition having concerns regarding the Dunoon Dam and 56% of respondents expressing concerns regarding groundwater options.

2. Directs the General Manager to:

- a) Provide a report on the orderly exit from Dunoon Dam as an option in the Future Water Project.
- b) Commence work on the exit strategy once the long-term viability of Scenario 1 Groundwater has been confirmed.

3. Direct the General Manager to revise the draft Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy to reflect the following preferred strategy:

- a. Scenario 1 IWCM report - groundwater

4. Schedule a special meeting of Council on Wednesday, 17 March 2021 to consider the revised draft IWCM Strategy for public exhibition for a period of eight (8) weeks.

5. Authorise the transfer \$200,000 from bulk water reserves for the 2020/21 financial year to progress the above.

6. Undertake the following actions as described in Section 4 of this report:

i) Immediate actions

- a) Water Loss Management Plan
- b) Smart Metering
- c) Marom Creek WTP and Alstonville groundwater site
- d) Marom Creek WTP upgrade
- e) Alstonville groundwater site
- f) Woodburn groundwater coastal sand scheme

ii) Ongoing action

- a) Enhanced demand management and water efficiency program

iii) Innovative actions

- a) Progress Perradenya Estate pilot purified recycled water scheme and work with relevant stakeholders to design a long-term public education campaign to increase awareness and acceptance of indirect potable reuse (IPR) and direct potable reuse (DPR).
- b) Investigate concurrently IPR and DPR schemes utilising effluent from Ballina, Lennox, south and east Lismore wastewater treatment plants (preferred options for water reuse identified in the CWT report)

7. Note that environmental, ecological, cultural heritage and economic impacts were identified during the development of the IWCM and were also raised as concerns during the public exhibition period and will remain key considerations going forward.

8. Note the progress of discussions with Ballina Shire Council regarding the potential transfer or lease of Marom Creek WTP and that a further report will be provided.

9. Authorise the General Manager to write to the constituent councils inviting participation in the Rous Smart Metering project commencing 1 July 2021.

10. Seek a meeting with relevant State Government Ministers and Local MPs to expedite any regulatory and legislative or funding approvals required to implement IPR and DPR schemes.

Extension of speaking time

RESOLVED [2/21] (Humphrys/Richardson) that an extension of speaking time be granted to Cr Cadwallader.

Public submissions

General Manager provided an update on the number of letters received from the public since December 2020 in support/against the Rescission Motion.

The **RESCISSION MOTION** on being put to the meeting was **LOST**.

Voting for: Crs Mustow, Humphrys and Cadwallader.

Voting against: Crs Williams, Richardson, Ekins, Cook, Cameron.

Meeting adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2.30pm and resumed at 2.46pm.

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Nil.

8. GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTS

i). Loan restructure assessment

RESOLVED [3/21] (Cook/Richardson) that Council:

1. Note that no action is proposed in terms of the early repayment of existing Council loans.
2. Receive and note the report.

ii). Quarterly budget review statement for the quarter ending 31 December 2020

RESOLVED [4/21] (Mustow/Humphrys) that Council note the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 December 2020 and authorise the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

iii). Water usage charges write-off

RESOLVED [5/21] (Cadwallader/Cameron) that Council approve the write-off of \$1,024.28 in water charges from L Hannigan and S Nye's water account in relation to a property at 170 Lagoon Grass Road, Lagoon Grass, due to reasons outlined in the report.

9. GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND DELIVERY REPORT

i). Deferral of bulk headworks charges – Brunswick Heads Surf Life Saving Club

RESOLVED [6/21] (Richardson/Cameron) that Council, under clause 2.5 of its Development Servicing Plan for Bulk Water Supply 2016, approve the deferral of the Rous County Council developer contributions levied to Brunswick Heads Surf Life Saving Club in relation to DA 10.2018.486.1.

10. POLICIES

i). Risk management

RESOLVED [7/21] (Mustow/Cadwallader) that Council:

1. Revoke the following policies and any policy revived because of the revocation:
 - a) Risk Management (Rous) dated 15 April 2015
 - b) Risk Management (FNCW) dated 20 April 2015
 - c) Risk Management (RRCC) dated 20 April 2015
2. Approve the draft Risk Management policy as presented.

ii). Policies for revocation - various

RESOLVED [8/21] (Cook/Mustow) that Council revoke the following policies attached to the report and any policy revived because of the revocation:

- a) Representation of elected councillors dated 16 February 2005
- b) Delegates to Floodplain Management Authorities of NSW dated 21 October 2002

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- c) Policy and procedure development dated 4 March 2009
 - d) Interview and relocation expenses dated 20 June 2007
 - e) Procurement dated 16 February 2015 (FNCW)
 - f) Procurement dated 16 February 2015 (RRCC).

11. INFORMATION REPORTS

i). Information reports

RESOLVED [9/21] (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council receive and note the following information reports:

- i). Investments – January 2021
- ii). Fluoride dosing plant performance report: October to December 2020 – Q4
- iii). Delivery program/Operational plan – July to December 2020
- iv). Debt write-off information summary
- v). Reports/actions pending

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

13. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Cr Ekins requested information pertaining to the Council adoption of Project Reference Group (PRG) minutes with reference to the Ainsworth Heritage Report 2011.

14. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.39pm.