

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2023 AT ROUS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 218-232
MOLESWORTH STREET, LISMORE**

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.09 am.

In attendance:

Councillors

- Cr Robert Mustow, Richmond Valley Council (Chair)
- Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council (Deputy Chair)
- Cr Rod Bruem, Ballina Shire Council
- Cr Michael Lyon, Byron Shire Council
- Cr Sarah Ndiaye, Byron Shire Council
- Cr Andrew Gordon, Lismore City Council
- Cr Big Rob, Lismore City Council
- Cr Sandra Humphrys, Richmond Valley Council

Council Officers

- Phillip Rudd, General Manager
- Andrew Logan, Group Manager Planning and Delivery
- Helen McNeil, Group Manager People and Performance
- Geoff Ward, Group Manager Corporate and Commercial
- Jonathan Patino, Finance Manager
- Anthony Acret, Catchment and Cultural Awareness Manager
- Noeline Smith, Executive Assistant
- Luka Taylor, ICT Support Officer

Apologies

- Adam Nesbitt, Group Manager Operations

1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED [1/23] (Cadwallader/Rob) that the Minutes of the meeting 15 December 2022 be confirmed as presented.

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 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

4 CHAIR'S MINUTE

Nil.

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

6 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Nil.

7 GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 December 2022

RESOLVED [2/23] (Bruem/Rob) that Council note the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 December 2022 and authorise the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

MOVED (Bruem/Gordon) that Rous write to the Federal Minister for Education expressing disappointment regarding the rejection of the bid for the nature-based study (Australian Research Council Linkage) and requesting continuation with the Study.

On being put to the meeting the Motion was Carried.

RESOLVED [3/23] (Bruem/Gordon) that:

1. Council note the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 December 2022 and authorise the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.
2. Write to the Federal Minister of Education outlining disappointment at the outcome of the ARC research application / bid and strongly recommend that they reconsider their decision not to fund the project.

7.2 Retail water customer account assistance

RESOLVED [4/23] (Cadwallader/Rob) that Council:

- a) 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.
- b) Receive and note the 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance Report' will cease to be presented to Council.
- c) Receive and note that a bi-annual financial assistance information report will instead be presented to Council.

8 GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND DELIVERY REPORTS

8.1 Finalisation of the Scoping Study for the Richmond River Coastal Management Program

RESOLVED [5/23] (Rob/Ndiaye) that Council:

1. Receive and note the submissions report outlining the public exhibition process and outcomes associated with the Scoping Study (Stage 1 of the *Richmond River Coastal Management Program*).

2. Endorse finalisation of the Scoping Study as outlined in the submissions report.

8.2 Adoption of the Bulk Water Supply and Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plans

RESOLVED [6/23] (Rob/Bruem) that Council:

1. Note there were no public submissions lodged during the public exhibition period.

2. Adopt the '*Bulk Water Supply Development Servicing Plan*' as tabled at the Council meeting held on 14 December 2022 with implementation of the updated charge from 1 July 2023.

3. Adopt the '*Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plan*' as tabled at the Council meeting held on 14 December 2022 with implementation of the charge from 1 July 2023.

9 POLICIES

9.1 Policies for revocation

RESOLVED [7/23] (Cadwallader/Lyon) that Council revoke the 'Community Sponsorship and Donations' policy dated 19 May 2004 attached to the report and any policy revived as a result of the revocation.

10 INFORMATION REPORTS (COVER REPORT)

RESOLVED [8/23] (Humphrys/Cadwallader) that Council receive and note the following reports:

1. Investments – January 2023
2. Water production and consumption – December 2022
3. Debt write-off information summary
4. Delivery program update - 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022
5. Reports/actions pending
6. Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support Contract # RCC1122-0014

11 MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (COVER REPORT)

RESOLVED [9/23] (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council move into Closed Council to consider the following matter and the meeting be closed to members of the public and press based on the grounds detailed below:

Section 10A(2)(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed: i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

12.1 Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support - Contract # RCC1122-0014

RESOLVED [11/23] (Bruem/Cadwallader) that Council:

1. Accept the schedule of rates tender submitted by SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd for a period of up to 5 years.
2. Approve an upper limit contract value of up to \$750,000 ex GST per year.

13 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil.

14 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.06 am.