
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023 AT

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.07 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
- Adam Nesbitt, Group Manager Operations
- Geoff Ward, Group Manager Corporate and Commercial

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

Nil.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Ordinary Council meeting minutes 18 October 2023

RESOLVED (Cadwallader/Bruem) that the Minutes of the meeting held 18 October 2023 be approved as presented.

Ordinary Council meeting minutes 18 October 2023 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

3.2 Extraordinary Council meeting minutes 15 November 2023

RESOLVED (Cadwallader/Rob) that the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 15 November 2023 be approved as presented.

Extraordinary Council meeting minutes 15 November 2023 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

5 MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

6.1 Proposed Dunoon Dam - acquisition of properties

RESOLVED (Bruem/Cadwallader) that Council:

1. To reconfirm its prior position in relation to acquisition of land in the Proposed Dunoon Dam area as shown in the Attachment 1 and land of strategic interest to the Future Water Strategy 2060.
2. The terms of such acquisition are to be in accordance with Council's current 'Land Management' policy, Item 4 (Attachment 2), namely:
 - a. Acquisition to be upon offer of sale by existing landowner.
 - b. Meets the proposed operational need or strategic objective of the future water strategy 2060.
 - c. Such acquisition costs to be calculated with due consideration to market and strategic value.
3. Report back to Council regarding strategic land purchases for the Future Water Strategy 2060.

Proposed Dunoon Dam - acquisition of properties (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

7 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

7.1 Council meeting schedule 2024 (updated)

RESOLVED (Cadwallader/Rob) that Council confirms its updated meeting schedule for 2024 as below, with meetings to be held on the third Wednesdays commencing 10.00am at the Rous County Council Administration Office on:

- 21 February
- 17 April
- 19 June
- 21 August
- October (*to be determined following 14 September LG Elections*)
- 11 December

Council meeting schedule 2024 (updated) (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

8 GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND DELIVERY REPORTS

8.1 Update on interim arrangements for Lismore Levee Scheme

RESOLVED (Rob/Cadwallader) that Council in addition to previous resolutions on the matter:

1. Receive and note this update.
2. Authorise the General Manager to approve access to the Lismore Levee Scheme assets by Lismore City Council (LCC) for the purposes of progressing new asset construction and renewal and upgrade work under the *Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program(NRRRP)*, subject to LCC's written confirmation that they will assume ownership of the new, upgraded and renewed assets.
3. Receive a further update before end of July 2024.

Update on interim arrangements for Lismore Levee Scheme (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

8.2 Staff investigation and response - Notice of Motion "Acquisition of low-lying,

high-risk rural floodplain areas"

RESOLVED (Bruem/Ndiaye) that Council adopt the following position regarding the acquisition of low-lying, high-risk rural floodplain areas:

1. Acknowledge the challenges associated with coastal riverine floodplain land uses, particularly those relating to the lowest lying land (i.e. less than 1m above mean sea level).
2. Write to the State Government requesting a review of current floodplain land uses and development of a long-term strategic direction on how different areas of the floodplain will be used, acknowledging all stakeholders, including First Nations, interests.
3. This position also be referred to the State and Federal Government seeking funding.

Staff investigation and response - Notice of Motion "Acquisition of low-lying, high-risk rural floodplain areas" (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

9 POLICIES

9.1 Investment (review)

RESOLVED (Lyon/Bruem) that Council note this report and adopt the revised Investments policy with amendments.

Investment (review) (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

10 INFORMATION REPORTS (COVER REPORT)

RESOLVED (Cadwallader/Rob) that the following information reports be received and noted:

1. Investments – November 2023
2. Water production and consumption – November 2023
3. Environmental Management System Action List Progress Update 2023

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4. Update on Bungawalbyn (East) Levee funding requests
 5. Audit Risk and Improvement Committee – meeting update
 6. Annual Model Code of Complaints Statistics
 7. Disclosure of Interest Returns 2022/23
 8. Reports/Actions pending.

Information reports (cover report) (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Cr Big Rob	8
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	None	0
Carried		

11 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.15 am.