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**MINUTES OF ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2024 AT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 218-232 MOLESWORTH STREET, LISMORE**

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**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

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The Chair opened the meeting at 10.14 am.

In attendance:

Voting Committee:

- 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

Rous County Council:

- Phillip Rudd, General Manager
- Andrew Logan, Group Manager Planning and Delivery
- Geoff Ward, Group Manager Corporate and Commercial
- Jonothan Patino, Finance Manager
- Robyn Waldron, Executive Assistant

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**2. APOLOGIES**

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- Helen McNeil, Group Manager People and Performance
- Adam Nesbitt, Group Manager Operations

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**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY**

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

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**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader/Lyon) that the Minutes of the meeting held 13 December 2023 be approved with amendments.

**AMENDED** 7.1 – 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.

<b>Confirmation of previous minutes (Resolution)</b>		
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
<b>Carried</b>		

## **5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil.

## **6 NOTICES OF MOTION / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil.

## **7 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

### 7.1 Election of chairperson and deputy chairperson

**RESOLVED** (Humphrys/Gordon) that Council conduct an election for a chairperson and deputy chairperson consistent with the election process for chairpersons of county councils in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and that:

1. If there is more than one nomination, council resolve the method of election (to be either by preferential ballot, ordinary ballot, or open voting); and
2. The result of the election (including the names of those elected) be declared at the meeting, and
3. Those elected hold office until the ordinary local government elections expected to occur in September 2024.

**CARRIED** that Cr Mustow is elected Chairperson and Cr Cadwallader elected Deputy Chairperson and will hold office until the ordinary local government elections expected to occur in September 2024.

<b>Election of chairperson and deputy chairperson (Resolution)</b>		
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
<b>Carried</b>		

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## 8 GROUP MANAGER PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCE

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### 8.1 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Appointment of Councillor Members

**RESOLVED** (Rob/Bruem) That Council:

1. Revoke the [Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter dated 16 December 2020](#) and any other revisions revived as a result,
2. Approve the revised Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter attached to this report, and
3. Invite nominations from amongst the membership of Council's governing body (excluding the Chair) for appointment as a non-voting councillor member, and substitute non-voting councillor member, on the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a 2-year term or until a casual vacancy occurs, whichever is the earlier.

**CARRIED** that Cr Big Rob be appointed the non-voting councillor member on the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a 2 year term or until a casual vacancy occurs, whichever is the earlier.

<b>Audit, risk and improvement committee - Appointment of councillor members (Resolution)</b>		
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
<b>Carried</b>		

### 8.2 International Women's Day

**RESOLVED** (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council approve Cr Ndiaye to be the MC for the International Women's Day event.

<b>International Womens Day (Resolution)</b>		
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
<b>Carried</b>		

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## 9 GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTS

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### 9.1 Quarterly Budget Review Statement Quarter ending 31 December 2023

**RESOLVED** (Bruem/Rob) that Council note the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 December 2023 and authorise the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

<b>Quarterly Budget review Statement Quarter ending 31 December 2023 (Resolution)</b>		
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
<b>Carried</b>		

### 9.2 Retail Water Debt Write-off

**RESOLVED** (Gordon/Cadwallader) that Council, in accordance with its 'Debt Management and Financial Hardship' policy, approve the write-off of one (1) retail water billing customer's account (10451-10000-1) of \$5,759.01 for Mr MJ Hammer.

<b>Retail Water Debt Write-off (Resolution)</b>		
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
<b>Carried</b>		

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## 10 INFORMATION REPORTS (COVER REPORT)

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

1. Sustainable Water Partner Program Pilot
2. Retail Water Customer Account Assistance Information Report
3. Investments – January 2024
4. Water production and consumption – January 2024
5. Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework
6. Reports/Actions pending

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<b>Information reports (Resolution)</b>		
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
<b>Carried</b>		

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## 11 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.12 am.