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

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.05 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
- Helen McNeil, Group Manager Organisational Services
- Adam Nesbitt, Group Manager Operations
- Geoff Ward, Group Manager Transformation and Strategy
- Andrew Logan, Group Manager, Planning and Delivery
- Jonathan Patino, Finance Manager
- Tania Burls, Future Water Program Manager
- Robyn Waldron, Secretary

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.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED [38/24] (Cadwallader/Gordon) that the Minutes of the meeting held 19 June 2024 be approved as presented.

Confirmation for Previous Minutes (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow, and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Sarah Ndiaye	1
Carried		

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MINUTES

RESOLVED [39/24] (Bruem/Humphrys) that the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 17 July 2024 be approved as presented.

Confirmation of Council Extraordinary Minutes (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Absent	Cr Sarah Ndiaye	1
Carried		

6 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor Big Rob and Councillor Andrew Gordon declared a non-pecuniary interest in *Agenda item 16.1* and will vacate the Council meeting for discussion and voting on that item

7 CHAIR'S MINUTE

7.1 End of term for Rous' current county councillors

RESOLVED [40/24] (Mustow/Bruem) that Council receive and note the Chair's Minute and acknowledge the achievements of the General Manager and Staff during this term.

Cr Sarah Ndiaye joined the meeting at 10:10am

End of term for Rous' current county councillors (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 MATTERS OF URGENCY / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

10 PRESENTATIONS

10.1 Laurie Lefcourt (Chair) - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Annual Performance Report

RESOLVED [41/24] (Rob/Ndiaye) that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Performance Review – period 2023-2024 be received and endorsed.

Laurie Lefcourt (Chair) - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Annual Performance 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 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Nil.

12 GROUP MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 Preliminary 2023/24 End of Financial Year Summary and Budget Carry Forwards

RESOLVED [42/24] (Rob/Lyon) that Council:

1. Receive and note the Preliminary 2023/24 End of Year Financial Summary Report, acknowledging that it is a preliminary summary prior to end of year adjustments and audit.
2. Approve the funds to be carried forward as detailed in Tables 2 - 5 of this report.

Preliminary 2023/24 End of Financial Year Summary and Budget Carry Forwards (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		

12.2 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - meeting update

RESOLVED [43/24] (Rob/Cadwallader) that Council:

1. Receive and note the:
 - (a) Attached minutes from the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting of

22 July 2024, and

(b) Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee performance report for the period 2023-2024.

2. Revoke the Internal Audit Charter dated 23 November 2020, and any charter revived as a result, and approve the revised Internal Audit Charter attached to this report.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - meeting update (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		

13 GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND DELIVERY REPORTS

13.1 Purified Recycled Water Investigation report

RESOLVED [44/24] (Rob/Lyon) that Council:

1. Receive and note the *Purified Recycled Water (PRW) Investigations Report (Attachment 1)*.
2. Defer further investigations into a Purified Recycled Water pilot / demonstration plant until Purified Recycled Water becomes a viable Stage 3 source option.

Purified Recycled Water Investigation 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		

13.2 Desalination Options Assessment Report

RESOLVED [45/24] (Lyon/Bruem) that Council:

1. Receive and note the *Desalination Options Assessment Report (June 2024) (Attachment 1)*.
2. Include Temporary Desalination as an option for consideration in an adaptive approach for the next revision of the Drought Management Plan.
3. Continue to focus planning efforts on preventative measures to reduce the impact of future droughts, through additional source augmentations.
4. Note the significant cost of a Permanent Desalination plant and poor comparison to previously costed groundwater and surface water alternatives.

5. Include Permanent Desalination, and the learnings from the Report, as an option for consideration in the next update to Rous’s Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCM).

Desalination Options Assessment 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		

14 POLICIES

14.1 Revised Workplace Surveillance Policy

RESOLVED [46/24] (Cadwallader/Bruem) that Council:

1. Revoke the Workplace Surveillance Policy adopted by Rous Water on 17 June 2015 and the former Richmond River County Council and Far North Coast County Council on 22 June 2015, and any policy revived as a result of the revocation; and
2. Approve the revised Workplace Surveillance Policy attached.

Desalination Options Assessment 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		

14.2 People and Culture policies (reviewed)

RESOLVED [47/24] (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council:

1. Re-adopt the Human Resources – Employment Conditions Policy dated 20 October 2021 without change.
2. Re-adopt the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy and Management Plan dated 19 April 2017 with updated schedule and dates.

People and Culture policies (reviewed) (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		

15 INFORMATION REPORTS (COVER REPORT)

RESOLVED [48/24] (Cadwallader/Bruem) that the following information reports be received and noted:

1. Rous Regional Demand Management Plan 2023-2024: Annual report
2. Tenders awarded by the General Manager under Delegation
3. Temporary Water Allocation for the Nimbin supply
4. Investments – July 2024
5. Retail Water Customer Account Assistance
6. Water production and usage – July 2024
7. Retail Water Debt Write-off
8. Delivery program | Operational plan result for year ending 30 June 2024
9. Reports/Actions pending.

Information Reports (cover sheet) (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		

16 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

MOVED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

RESOLVED [49/24] (Lyon/Ndiaye) that Council move into Closed Council with the press and public excluded from the meeting based on the grounds detailed below:

Report	Perradenya Estate – update report
Grounds for closure	1. 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, or (ii). confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or reveal a trade secret.

CARRIED

The meeting moved to Closed Council at 11:35am

Councillor Andrew Gordon and Councillor Big Rob left the meeting 11:35am

16.1 Perradenya Estate - update report

RESOLVED [50/24] (Cadwallader/Ndiaye) that Council receive and note the Perradenya Estate update report.

RESUME TO OPEN COUNCIL

RESOLVED [51/24] (Humphrys/Cadwallader) that the meeting resume to Open Council.

CARRIED

The meeting reopened at 11:46am

Councillor Andrew Gordon rejoined the meeting at 11:47am

The General Manager read the meeting the following resolution.

RESOLVED [50/24] that the Council receive and note the Perradenya Estate update report.

Perradenya Estate - update report (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sarah Ndiaye	6
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Conflict of Interests	Cr Andrew Gordon and Cr Big Rob	2
Absent	None	0
Carried		

17 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.48 am.