

## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE WARRUMBUNGLA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBER COONABARABRAN ON WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 2014 COMMENCING AT 10:05AM

1. PRESENT: N.Kinsey (Chairman), G. Peart, M. Coe (10.20 am), P. Shinton, I. Woodcock, A. Van Lubeck, D. Batten, D Schieb and M. Webb,

**Staff Members:** Don Ramsland and Ian Kelly.

**Visitor:** Nil.

2. **APOLOGIES:** R. Greenaway and M. Coe (late)

**03/14/1 Resolved:**

That apologies from Clrs R. Greenaway and M. Coe (late arrival) be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

**Moved:** Clr Webb

**Seconded:** Clr Shinton

**Carried**

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**03/14/2 Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council meeting held at Gilgandra on Wednesday 18 December 2013, having been circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting subject to noting that "Clr Webb" on page 4 should read "Clr Peart"

**Moved:** Clr Shinton

**Seconded:** Clr Webb

**Carried**

### 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Clr Noel Kinsey reported as follows:

I am pleased to report that the Warren end of the County has had very useful rain – 50mm or so – in the last week which is good for the rural ratepayers but will create costs on our road sides.

I have noticed that the Harisia Cactus has enjoyed the dry weather and while not as bad as had been in the past it is back.

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On 27 February, 2014 I received a Review of Weed Management in NSW, Draft Report, February 2014 from the Natural Resources Commission – some 105 pages – but have not been able to read and comment on it yet.

Public meetings are going to be held about the State Government Weed Review, one of which will be at the Dubbo RSL on 21 March at 9 am. I intend to be there.

As far as future funding for the County, I believe that \$95,000 + CPI should pay for the administration and weed control. When that money runs out for an individual council, a fee for service programme should kick in. If a council no longer wants to spend on their weed problem, then so be it

I extend my thanks to General Manager Don Ramsland for his efforts over the last two months.

**03/14/3            Resolved:**

That the Chairman's report be received and noted.

**Moved:**        Clr Kinsey

**Seconded:**    Clr Van Lubeck

**Carried**

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

The General Manger tabled a letter dated December, 2013 from the Division of Local Government concerning Council's deteriorating financial position since 2007/08. The matter was held over for consideration in conjunction with the report in the confidential section of the agenda dealing with the proposed organisational restructure.

### 6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

#### Item 6.1                    Bank Reconciliation as at 31 January 2014

**Recommendation:** That the Statement of Bank Balances as 31 January, 2014 be received and noted.

**03/14/4            Resolved:**

That the Bank Reconciliation as at 31 January, 2014 be received and noted.

**Moved:**        Clr Batten

**Seconded:**    Clr Schieb

**Carried**

**Item 6.2 Budget Review to 31 January, 2014**

**Recommendation:** That the Budget Review for the period ended 31 January 2014 be received and noted and the minor variations to budget as detailed in the attached spread sheet be adopted.

**03/14/5 Resolved:**

That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31 January, 2014, as detailed in the attached spread sheet, be received and noted and the variations as listed in the attached spread sheet be adopted.

**Moved:** Clr Batten

**Seconded:** Clr Webb

**Carried**

**7. CHIEF WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT**

**7.1 Noxious Plant Reports**

**Gilgandra Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Gilgandra

**03/14/6 Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Gilgandra.

**Moved:** Clr Peart

**Seconded:** Clr Woodcock

**Carried**

**Warrumbungle Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Warrumbungle

**03/14/7 Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Warrumbungle.

**Moved:** Clr Peart

**Seconded:** Clr Woodcock

**Carried**

**Coonamble Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Coonamble

**03/14/8      Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Coonamble

**Moved:**      Clr Peart

**Seconded:**      Clr Woodcock

**Carried**

**Walgett Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Walgett

**03/14/9      Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Walgett

**Moved:**      Clr Peart

**Seconded:**      Clr Woodcock

**Carried**

**Warren Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Warren

**03/14/10      Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Warren

**Moved:**      Clr Peart

**Seconded:**      Clr Woodcock

**Carried**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

**1. Motion to move in to Confidential Session**

**03/14/11 Resolved:**

That at 10.55 am Council move into Confidential session and that the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 10A (2) (a) and (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the matters being considered are in relation to staff and/or commercial in confidence.

**Moved:** Clr Peart  
**Seconded:** Clr Schieb

**Carried**

**2. Property Inspections Report**

**Recommendation:** That the Property Inspections Report be received and noted as a whole

**03/14/12 Resolved:**

That Council receive and note all confidential Property Inspections report matters as a whole and further note that a submission is to be prepared for an additional \$20K for Hudson Pear control through the local member for Barwon Hon Kevin Humphries MP.

**Moved:** Clr Batten  
**Seconded:** Clr Schieb

**Carried**

At 11.05 am Mr Ian Kelly left the meeting.

**3. Implementation of Organisational Restructure**

**Recommendation:** For Council's consideration

**03/14/13 Resolved:**

**That:**

1. Council re-determine its organisation structure pursuant to section 333 of the Local Government Act 1993, by reducing staffing levels to five (5) full time weeds officers plus a full time supervisor, with such change to take effect on or before 30 May 2014.
2. Council authorise the General Manager to take all necessary action to give effect to resolution 1 above and to comply with the Council's obligations under the Local Government (State) Award 2010. Such action includes but is not limited to, notifying the employee(s) who may be affected by the change and the union(s) to which they belong, and discussing measures to avert or mitigate the adverse effects on those employees.

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3. Without limiting the above, the General Manager is directed to take appropriate action to eliminate or reduce the Council's obligation to pay severance pay to employees who may be affected by the change in resolution 1 above. Such action may include, but is not limited to, facilitating the redeployment of displaced employees within constituent councils or Local Land Services and applying to the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales pursuant to clause 35(xv) of the Local Government (State) Award 2010 for an order authorising the Council to pay a lesser amount or no amount of severance pay if the Council obtains acceptable alternate employment for an employee.
4. Council establish a moratorium of twelve months in respect of the re-employment any staff made redundant by Council or any constituent council.
5. Council advise the Division of Local Government and Council's Auditor of the course of action being taken to restore Council's financial viability.
6. Council explore the possibility of short term interest free loans/advances of up to three years from constituent councils to fund the cost of the restructure pending the realisation of Council's surplus built assets.
7. Council approach it bankers to establish an overdraft of up to \$300,000
8. Council invite expressions of interest from constituent councils to provide Council's administrative/accounting function
9. Council continue negotiations for the disposal of the Coonamble Freight Agency
10. Council immediately commence action for the sale/auction of surplus depot facilities at Coonamble and Coonabarabran.
11. Council, as part of the restructure process, transfer an appropriate sum to a cash backed employees leave entitlements reserve by 30 June 2104.
12. Council prepare a mini-budget which reflects the above actions for consideration at its April, 2014 meeting.

**Moved:** Clr Batten

**Seconded:** Clr Shinton

**Carried**

**Motion to move out of Confidential**

**4. Motion to move out of Confidential Session**

**03/14/14 Resolved:**

That at 12.35 pm Council move out of Confidential Session.

**Moved:** Clr Shinton

**Seconded:** Clr Coe

**Carried**

**5. Adoption of Committee Recommendations**

**03/14/15 Resolved:**

That the following recommendations for the Confidential Committee be adopted;

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2. Council authorise the General Manager to take all necessary action to give effect to resolution 1 above and to comply with the Council's obligations under the Local Government (State) Award 2010. Such action includes but is not limited to, notifying the employee(s) who may be affected by the change and the union(s) to which they belong, and discussing measures to avert or mitigate the adverse effects on those employees.
3. Without limiting the above, the General Manager is directed to take appropriate action to eliminate or reduce the Council's obligation to pay severance pay to employees who may be affected by the change in resolution 1 above. Such action may include, but is not limited to, facilitating the redeployment of displaced employees within constituent councils or Local Land Services and applying to the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales pursuant to clause 35(xv) of the Local Government (State) Award 2010 for an order authorising the Council to pay a lesser amount or no amount of severance pay if the Council obtains acceptable alternate employment for an employee.
4. Council establish a moratorium of twelve months in respect of the re-employment any staff made redundant by Council or any constituent council.
5. Council advise the Division of Local Government and Council's Auditor of the course of action being taken to restore Council's financial viability.
6. Council explore the possibility of short term interest free loans/advances of up to three years from constituent councils to fund the cost of the restructure pending the realisation of Council's surplus built assets.
7. Council approach its bankers to establish an overdraft of up to \$300,000
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12. Council prepare a mini-budget which reflects the above actions for consideration at its April, 2014 meeting.

**Moved:** Clr Shinton

**Seconded:** Clr Coe

**Carried**

### **General Business**

#### **1. Weeds Management Review Report Seminars.**

It was agreed that a reminder would be sent to all Councillors in respect of the seminar to consider the NSW Weeds Management Review to be held at the Dubbo RSL on Friday 21 March commencing at 9 am

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**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 16 April, 2014 at Walgett.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12.40 PM**

**To be confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Council Meeting held on 7 May, 2014.**

**CHAIRMAN**

**GENERAL MANAGER**