

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE WARRUMBUNGLA COUNCIL CHAMBERS COONABARABRAN ON WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2014 COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

here

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

Staff Members: Don Ramsland, John Unwin and Wade Thompson.

Visitors: Mr Ken Flower, Executive Officer, North West Local Land Services (10.10 am)

1. APOLOGIES:

Nil

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Clr Don Schieb indicated that he could have an interest in the sale of buildings, surplus plant and equipment because of his business as an auctioneer.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

10/14/1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council meeting held at Warren on Wednesday 20 August, 2014, having been circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Clr Shinton

Seconded: Clr Schieb

Carried

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Clr Kinsey extended his thanks to the General Manager, MR Don Ramsland, for his efforts over the last few months.

Clr Kinsey indicated that he believed the weeds review process did not go as well as it should have. He can't see how public lands aren't subject to the full force of the law as all private land should be.

To target water weeds and ignore cacti is pure folly and he doesn't understand the logic of such an approach.

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

As far as the “Fit For the Future” (FFTF) process is concerned, we will have to wait and see. Clr Kinsey stated that the way Acting Chief Weeds Officer is preparing his reports is a big step in the right direction.

10/14/2 Resolved:

That the Chairman’s report be received and noted.

Moved: Clr Kinsey

Seconded: Clr Van Lubeck

Carried

At this point in proceedings the General Manager took the Chair to conduct the annual elections for Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

5. METHOD OF VOTING- ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

10/14/3 Resolved:

That Council adopt the ordinary ballot method for the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Moved: Clr Batten

Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

6. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

There being only one nomination for the position of Chairperson, that of Clr Noel Kinsey, the Returning Officer declared Clr Noel Kinsey elected as Chairperson for term ending September, 2015.

7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

There being only one nomination for the position of Chairperson, that of Clr Robert Greenaway, the Returning Officer declared Clr Robert Greenaway elected as Deputy Chairperson for term ending September, 2015.

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

8. ADDRESS BY MR K DEN FLOWER – NORTH WEST LOCAL LAND SERVICES.

At 10.15 am Mr Ken Flower, Executive Officer of the North West Local Land Services addressed the meeting making the following points:

- The North West LLS services 7 Shires including Walgett – 3 Legacy Operations
- It is the only state operation that is regionally based left with local representation – 4 members nominated and 3 members elected
- There are two community consultative committees including and Aboriginal Committee
- The intention is for LLSs to be more strategically based
- Local Councils or County Councils are to remain as the Local Control Authority (LCA)
- There will be a regional weeds advisory committee with local government representation that will prepare key strategic plans and chase funding I Walgett Shire’s case for Hudson Pear and Harissia Cactus
- LLS will action the higher level staff
- LLS have no ongoing funding at present, has a ttrench to 31 December, 2014 and is negotiating beyond that
- Weeds Co-ordinator is based in Tamworth and spends approximately 80% on what is to be done with weeds
- Currently has 3 contracts with 2 Shires
- LLS does not intend to have staff on the ground – will be looking to councils and contractors to carry out works on the ground.
- Presently has a budget of \$15M and 76.9 staff – there is a disparity with NELLs which has only 20% of the area of NELLs but has 69 staff and a budget of \$13M
- Consultants will prepare plans – works will be done by contract
- Doesn’t own any equipment and has no plans to gear up
- Box thorn issue on TSRs. 1/3 rd of state’s TSRs are in the NW LLS area.
- Future funding will come from old CMA money, Federal Programmes and IPART determinations – aim is to leverage funding \$:\$
- Some money from old LHPAs being held in the “Future Fund” – aim to have buildings vest in LLS and not NSW Government Properties
- Mark Evans is Walgett based elected member of NW LLS.
- Weeds advisory Group – 2 LLS reps (CWO and Supervisor) no elected members as yet.
- Structure will be State Plan then Regional Plans the LCA plans
- Money will be made available for LLS strategic projects and LCA on the ground operations

10/14/4 Resolved:

That Council’s staff (SWO) prepare a list of priorities for TSRs in each Shire, detailing what are the most apparent major problems.

Moved: Clr Batten

Seconded: Clr Greenaway

Carried

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

9.1 Central West Local Land Services – TSRs.

Contact has been made with the Central West LLS and action is underway in respect of outstanding inspection notices.

9.2 Department of Primary Industries

An approach has been made to DPI to fence the Hudson Pear trial areas at Lightning Ridge.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Item 10.1 Bank Reconciliation as at 30 September 2014

Recommendation: That the Statement of Bank Balances as 30 September, 2014 be received and noted.

10/14/5 Resolved:

That the Bank Reconciliation as at 30 September, 2013 be received and noted.

Moved: Clr Webb
Seconded: Clr Shinton

Carried

Item 10.3 Budget Review to 30 September, 2014

Recommendation: That the Budget Review for the period ended 30 November 2014 be received and noted and the minor variations to budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.

10/14/6 Resolved:

That the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 30 November, 2014, as detailed in the attached statement, be received and noted and the variations as listed in the attached spread sheet be adopted.

Moved: Clr Batten
Seconded: Clr Shinton

Carried

Item 10.3 Organisational Review Update

This matter was deferred for consideration in the confidential section of the meeting.

Item 10.4 Local Government Reform Process – “Fit For the Future”

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Recommendation: That Council: 1. Receive and Note the General Manager's Report 2. Once all information has been collated, council hold a special meeting to determine its preferred course of action. 3. Prepare a list of questions/issues to be raised at future teleconferences or forums

10/14/7 Resolved:

That Council:

1. Receive and Note the General Manager's Report
2. Once all information has been collated, council hold a special meeting to determine its preferred course of action.
3. Prepare a list of questions/issues to be raised at future teleconferences or forums

Moved: Clr Batten

Seconded: Clr Woodcock

Carried

Item 10.5 Payment of Councillors – 2014/15

Recommendation: That Council, as a matter of policy, resolve to adopt the maximum fees payable for "County Council – Other" as set down by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal from time to time.

A motion was moved Clrs Peart/van Lubeck – That Council, as a matter of policy, resolve to adopt the maximum fees payable for "County Council - Other" as set down by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal from time to time.

An amendment was moved Clrs Greenaway/Woodcock that the fees for 2014/15 be set at \$7,000 for the Chairperson and \$4,000 for a member. A foreshadowed amendment was moved Clrs Shinton/Coe that the fees fro 2014/15 be set at \$5,000 for the Chairperson and \$3,000 for a member.

On being put, the amendment was lost. The foreshadowed amendment then became the amendment and on being put was carried.

10/14/8 Resolved:

That the fees for 2014/15 be set at \$5,000 for the Chairperson and \$3,000 for a member.

Moved: Clr Shinton

Seconded: Clr Coe

Carried

Item 10.6 Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only

Recommendation: That the General Manager's Report be received and noted.

10/14/9 Resolved:

That Council receive and note the General Manager's Report in respect of the following:

1. Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June, 2014
2. Review of Weeds Management in NSW
3. Update on Grant Funds Position
4. Review of Office/Equipment Requirements

Moved: Clr Greenaway

Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

11. ACTING CHIEF WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT

10/14/10 Resolved:

That the Acting Chief Weeds Officer's Report be received and noted.

Moved: Clr Peart

Seconded: Clr Shinton

Carried

11.1 Noxious Plant Reports

Gilgandra Shire Plant Report

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

10/14/11 Resolved:

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Gilgandra Shire.

Moved: Clr Coe

Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

Warrumbungle Shire Noxious Plant Report

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

10/14/12 Resolved:

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Warrumbungle Shire.

Moved: Clr Coe
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

Coonamble Shire Noxious Plant Report

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

10/14/13 Resolved:

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Coonamble Shire.

Moved: Clr Coe
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

Walgett Shire Noxious Plant Report

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

10/14/14 Resolved:

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Walgett

Moved: Clr Coe
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

Warren Shire Noxious Plant Report

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

10/14/15 Resolved:

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Warren

Moved: Clr Coe
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

1. Motion to move in to Confidential Session

12/13/16 Resolved:

That at 12.30 pm 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 Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

2. Property Inspections Report

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

12/13/17 Recommendation:

That Council receive and note all confidential Property Inspections report matters as a whole.

Moved: Clr Batten
Seconded: Clr Lubeck

Carried

At 12.55 pm John Unwin and Wade Thompson left the meeting.

3. Staffing Issues and Item 10.3 Update of Implementation of Organisational Restructure

Recommendation: That Council receive and note the General Manager's Report in respect of the progress in the Organisational Restructure process and endorse the action taken so far. In addition, Council is requested to consider what actions it should be initiating with regards addressing the "Fit for the Future" concept.

10/14/18 Recommendation:

That the General Manager be given authority to conduct a further review and implement a staffing structure which provides for appropriate levels of weeds officers at Gilgandra and Coonabarabran and act accordingly.

Moved: Clr Batten
Seconded: Clr Greenaway

Carried

10/14/19 Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the General Manager's Report in respect of the progress in the Organisational Restructure process and endorse the action taken so far. In addition, Council is requested to consider what actions it should be initiating with regards addressing the "Fit for the Future" concept.

Moved: Clr Webb
Seconded: Clr Woodcock

Carried

Motion to move out of Confidential

4. Motion to move out of Confidential Session

10/14/20 Resolved:

That at 1.20 pm Council move out of Confidential Session.

Moved: Clr Woodcock
Seconded: Clr Van Lubeck

Carried

5. Adoption of Committee Recommendations

10/14/21 Resolved:

That the following recommendations for the Confidential Committee be adopted:

1. That Council receive and note all confidential Property Inspections report matters as a whole.
2. That the General Manager be given authority to conduct a further review and implement a staffing structure which provides for appropriate levels of weeds officers at Gilgandra and Coonabarabran and act accordingly.
3. That Council receive and note the General Manager's Report in respect of the progress in the Organisational Restructure process and endorse the action taken so far. In addition, Council is requested to consider what actions it should be initiating with regards addressing the "Fit for the Future" concept.

Moved: Clr Greenaway

Seconded: Clr Batten

Carried

General Business

1. Councillor Van Lubeck requested that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding the "Future Fund" indicating that these funds should be returned to the local communities where they were raised and if not, why not? Also as to where the funds are currently, what it is proposed that they be used for and when.

10/14/ 22 Resolved:

That a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding the "Future Fund" indicating that these funds should be returned to the local communities where they were raised and if not, why not? Also advice as to where the funds are currently, what it is proposed that they be used for and when.

Moved: Clr Van Lubeck

Seconded: Clr Shinton

Carried

2. Councillor Batten requested that an inspection of the Hudson Pear issue at Lightning Ridge be arranged in conjunction with the next Board meeting to be held in Walgett Shire.
3. Councillor Coe gave notice of motion to change the Board' meeting day to the 3rd Monday of the month.

NEXT MEETING

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 December, 2014 at Coonamble.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1.21 PM

To be confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Council Meeting held on 17 December, 2014.

CHAIRMAN

GENERAL MANAGER