

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 26 JUNE 2017 COMMENCING AT 9:55AM

PRESENT: Clrs D. Batten (Chairman), B. Fisher, P. Shinton, G. Peart, M. Beach, M. Martinez, M. Webb and I. Woodcock.

Staff Members: D. Ramsland (General Manager), J. Unwin (Senior Weeds Officer), C. Molloy (Weeds Inspector) and A. McCudden (Minute Secretary)

- 1. WELCOME:** Clr Batten welcomed all councillors and staff to the meeting.
- 2. APOLOGIES:** A. Brewer and R. Lewis

6/17/1 Resolved:

That apologies from A. Brewer and R. Lewis be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

Moved: Clr Shinton
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**- Nil
- 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

6/17/2 Resolved:

That the minutes of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council meeting held at Warrumbungle's on Monday 10 April, 2017, having been circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Clr Webb
Seconded: Clr Fisher

Carried

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. A report in respect of Council's Review of Meeting Schedule – Quarterly Meetings has been prepared and will be discussed at item 9.1 of the meeting agenda.

6. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Clr Batten reported as follows:

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Clr Batten together with the General Manager had the opportunity to address the monthly meetings of three of the five constituent Councils. Gilgandra and Walgett are scheduled to be addressed prior to the end of June.

The discussions were centred on the current structure of the organisation, its finances and the changing face of our service delivery as a result of the Biosecurity reforms. In all instances the presentations have been well received with most questions centred upon the regulatory role of Weeds Officers and associated enforcement action. Those operational issues which were raised have been noted by the General Manager and will be actioned.

Clr Batten advised that from these discussions there has been an undercurrent in regard to the current structure of the County Council. Taking into consideration the long term governance structure and in particular the tenure of Council's Part-time General Manager and the much appreciated administrative support provided by Walgett Shire Council. The current 'Changing of the guard' of General Managers within the OROC region would suggest that Mr Ramsland, may himself consider retirement before this term of Council concludes in 2020. Clr Batten stated that if the General Manager's replacement was not interested in filling the position or alternatively Walgett Shire Council no longer wished to provide administrative support what position would this leave the County in.

Clr Batten believes it is in the County's best interest to establish a clear direction in this regard over the next twelve months and welcomed discussion on the matter.

6/17/3 Resolved:

That Council move the Suspension of Standing Orders.

Moved: Clr Peart

Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

6/17/5 Resolved:

That the General Manager investigate the option of reducing the number of delegates from 10 back to 5 and seek comment from the Office of Local Government. Further advice also be sought with regards to dissolving the County Council and replacing it with a Section 355 Committee established under the umbrella of one of the Constituent Councils.

Moved: Clr Webb

Seconded: Clr Fisher

Carried

6/17/4 Resolved:

That Council move the Resumption of Standing Orders.

Moved: Clr Webb

Seconded: Clr Peart

Carried

6/17/6 Resolved:

That the Chairman's report be received and noted.

Moved: Clr Batten

Seconded: Clr Woodcock

Carried

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Item 7.1 Reconciliation Certificate 30 April & 31st May 2017

Recommendation: That the Statement of Bank Balances as at 30 April and 31st May 2017 be received and noted.

6/17/7 Resolved:

That the Bank Reconciliation as at 30 April and 31st May 2017 be received and noted.

Moved: Clr Woodcock

Seconded: Clr Peart

Carried

6/17/8 Resolved:

That the General Manager write off the outstanding debt owing by Western Catchment (Local Land Services) with the sum of \$40,000.

Moved: Clr Shinton

Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

Item 7.2 Quarterly Budget Review Statement – Period Ended 31 May, 2017

Recommendation: That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 31 May, 2017 be received and noted and the recommended variations to the revised budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.

6/17/9 Resolved:

That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 31 May 2017 be received and noted and the recommended variations to the revised budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.

Moved: Clr Webb

Seconded: Clr Fisher

Carried

Item 7.3. Report of Draft Operational Plan and Budget – 2017/18 and Supporting Documentation

Recommendation: That Council, following public exhibition and no comments/submissions being received, adopt the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan and Budget including Scenario 3 “Planned” and the supporting integrated planning and reporting documentation noting that there may be some legislative changes to be made that will be automatically incorporated into such documentation.

6/17/10 Resolved:

That Council, following public exhibition and no comments/submissions being received, adopt the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan and Budget including Scenario 3 “Planned” and the supporting integrated planning and reporting documentation noting that there may be some legislative changes to be made that will be automatically incorporated into such documentation.

Moved: Clr Shinton

Seconded: Clr Martinez

Carried

Item 7.4. Organisational Action Plan – May 2017

Recommendation: That Council receive and note the General Manager’s report in respect of the progress being made in respect of the new Organisational Action Plan and endorse the action taken so far.

6/17/11 Resolved:

That Council receive and note the General Manager’s report in respect of the progress being made in respect of the new Organisational Action Plan and endorse the action taken so far.

Moved: Clr Peart

Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

Item 7.6 Matters for Brief Mention or Generally for Information Only

Recommendation: That the above issues for brief mention or information only as detailed in the General Manager’s report to the June, 2017 meeting be received and noted and Council determine any other action required.

6/17/12 Resolved:

That the above issues for brief mention or information only as detailed in the General Manager's report to the June, 2017 meeting be received and noted and Council determine what further action, if any, should be taken in respect of the matters listed.

Moved: Clr Fisher
Seconded: Clr Shinton

Carried

Item 7.7 Payment of Councillors 2017/2018

Recommendation: That Council as a matter of policy resolve to adopt the minimum fees payable for "County Councils – Other" as set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal from time to time. And that the fees for 2017/2018 be set at \$3,730 for the Chairperson and \$1,740 for a member.

6/17/13 Resolved:

That Council as a matter of policy resolve to adopt the minimum fees payable for "County Councils – Other" as set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal from time to time. And that the fees for 2017/2018 be set at \$3,730 for the Chairperson and \$1,740 for a member.

Moved: Clr Webb
Seconded: Clr Shinton

Carried

Item 9.1 Review of Meeting Schedule – Quarterly Meetings

Recommendation: That Council receive and note the General Manager's report and Council continue to meet June and August and meet in November rather than both October and December and also meet in March.

6/17/14 Resolved:

That Council receive and note the General Manager's report and Council continue to meet June and August and meet in November rather than both October and December and also meet in March.

Moved: Clr Peart
Seconded: Clr Martinez

Carried

8. SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT

Item 8.1 Senior Weeds Officer's Report

Recommendation: That Council receive and note the Senior Weeds Officer's Report.

6/17/15 Resolved:

That Council receive and note the Senior Weeds Officer's report for April / May 2017.

Moved: Clr Webb
Seconded: Clr Woodcock

Carried

Item 8.3 Bi-Monthly Property Inspections, Infestation and Treatment Report from Inspectors; April to May 2017

Recommendation: That Council receive and note the Bi-Monthly Property Inspections, Infestation and Treatment Report from Inspectors for the period of April to May 2017.

6/17/16 Resolved:

That Council receive and note the Bi-Monthly Property Inspections, Infestation and Treatment Report from Inspectors for the period of April to May 2017.

Moved: Clr Shinton
Seconded: Clr Woodcock

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS – Nil

At this point in the meeting the Chairman and General Manager extended a note of thanks to the Senior Weeds Officer, John Unwin who will be retiring on Thursday 13 July 2017.

Don Ramsland acknowledged John's 31 years of service with the County and added his appreciation of John's role over the years.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 21 August, 2017 at Walgett.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:20AM.

To be confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 21 August 2017.

CHAIRMAN

GENERAL MANAGER