



NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ABN 35 514 070 354

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28 September 2022

Dear Councillors,

You are requested to attend a *Special Meeting* of the New England County Council, to be held in the offices of the New England Weeds Authority, 2/129 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350 on,

Tuesday 4th October at 12:00 noon

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Weeks".

Tim Weeks
GENERAL MANAGER

- Sandwiches will be provided for lunch.

AGENDA

Special Meeting of Council commencing at 12:00 noon on Tuesday 4th October 2022

Statement in relation to Video Recording of Council Meetings

- 1.0 PRESENT**
- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
- 3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
- 4.0 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2022-23
INCLUDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET**
- 5.0 NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 4th October 2022 AT 12:30pm**
- 6.0 ATTACHMENTS:**
 - 7.1 DRAFT NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL
OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-2023**

SPECIAL MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TUESDAY 4TH
OCTOBER 2022 in NEWA OFFICES

Statement in relation to Video Recording of Council Meetings

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INCLUDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET

Purpose This report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to allow Council and the community to consider and comment on the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

Background

Council at its June 2017 meeting adopted its 10 Year Business Activity Strategic Plan (BASP) 2017-2027, as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The Business Activity Strategic Plan details the activities Council will undertake over the Four-Year Delivery Plan from 2022-2026, together with the actions to be undertaken through the Annual Operational Plan to implement weed management and control of scheduled priority and invasive weed species, identified in the Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2022-2027, for our constituent member Councils.

The Strategic Weed Management Plan should be reviewed over the coming financial year to incorporate the enlarged council area now comprising four (4) LGAs and to consider opportunities to engage with future councils and government organisations for their inclusion within the organisation as either members or on a service agreement arrangement.

Report In accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must have an Annual Operational Plan that is adopted before the beginning of each financial year, that details the activities to be undertaken by Council during the coming year as part of the Delivery Plan covering that year.

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In addition, the Annual Operational Plan must include the Statement of Revenue Policy detailing the Budget, Fees and Charges.

Recommendation:

1. That the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023 be placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition period, a further report be presented to Council on submissions received and for the adoption of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023.
3. That the constituent member Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Walcha and Uralla be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023 for comment.

In preparing the Draft Annual Operational Plan, Council must give public notice of the draft Plan indicating that submissions may be made to Council at any time during the exhibition period, which must not be less than 28 days.

Council's Draft Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023 and the associated Statement of Revenue Policy has been prepared in accordance with the above requirements and is attached to this report for the consideration of Council. Council will note that the Annual Operational Plan and associated Budget, provides for the additional responsibility of being the Regional Service Coordination for its four (4) Member Councils.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council is required to prepare an Operational Plan annually that establishes its budgets, fees and charges and other financial information that allows the public and the member Councils to understand the resource allocations in that year.

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Legal Implications Under Clause 405 Local Government Act 1993 as amended

Council is required to prepare an Annual Operations Plan and place the draft plan on public display in order to seek comment. Before adopting the Annual Operational Plan, Council must consider any submissions that have been made concerning the draft Plan. Once adopted, Council must post a copy on its website within 28 days from the date of adoption.

Risk Implications

If Council adopts the Draft Plan for public display and follows the provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations, there is no risk identified.

Stakeholder Consultation

The Draft Operational Plan 2022/2023 is required to be displayed and copies should be provided to our member Councils and those organisations or Councils that may have an interest in the NEWA operations. Printed copies should be freely available to landholders and other stakeholders if requested.

Options No option exists to the requirements under the Act and Regulations.

Conclusions

Council is required under Clause 405 Local Government Act 1993 as amended and Regulations thereto, to prepare an Annual Operations Plan.

Link to Policy and/or the Business Activity Strategic Plan

Council is to be informed of changes to legislation that impact on the business of Council.

Supporting Information and/or Attachments

Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual - Operational Plan 2022-2023.

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