

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2018 COMMENCING AT 8:37AM.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Dusing - Chairperson, Councillor S Kermode and Councillor L Martin.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** General Manager Mr W Deer and Senior Weeds Officer Mr J Browning.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor A Murat.

**1/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that the apology be accepted.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017.**

**2/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 24 October 2017, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017.**

There were no matters arising.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chair advised of the following:

- Advised of his attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference held in Sydney from 4 to 6 December 2017 where Councillors and General Managers from NSW Councils and County Councils discussed and debated motions on the future direction of the local government sector in NSW.

Conference delegates were addressed by Acting Premier John Barilaro; the Minister for Local Government Gabrielle Upton; Roads, Maritime & Freight Minister Melinda Pavey as well as the Shadow Minister for Local Government Peter Primrose, amongst other distinguished speakers. The key note address on transforming local government was presented via video link by Dr Jonathan Carr-West, Chief Executive Local Government Information Unit, United Kingdom.

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Topics covered at the Conference included planning reform, the container deposit scheme, prevention of violence towards women and children, and issues related to economic development of Aboriginal lands. Delegates also debated motions relating to infrastructure and planning policy, the risks involved in private certification and Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels. There were some 89 motions debated over the course of the Conference.

Of particular interest from our Council's perspective was the presentation by Ms Dianna Watkins, Group Director Legislation Performance and Consultation, Biosecurity & Food Safety of the Department of Primary Industries who spoke about "*What is Biosecurity*". Ms Watkins spoke about the Government's efforts to prevent, respond and recover from plant and animal pests, and diseases as well as engaging and making communities aware of the impacts of invasive weeds in local communities. A further speaker complimenting this theme was Dr Tom Calebrezza, Director Biodiversity Policy, Office of Environment & Heritage who presented an interesting paper on land management biodiversity conservation reforms, simplifying the Local Land Services Act, the Biodiversity Offset Scheme, the Biodiversity Conservation Act and various other associated Acts.

Voting also took place to elect the new 18 member LGNSW Board, including a new President and Treasurer, new metro and regional Vice Presidents and 14 new Directors (7 from Metro-Urban and 7 from Rural- Regional Councils). The new President of LGNSW is Councillor Linda Scott from the City of Sydney.

Clr Dusting thanked Council for the opportunity to attend what was a very interesting and worthwhile Conference.

- Reported on the recent Northern Tablelands Regional Weeds Committee meeting held at Inverell on 6 February 2018 informing Councillors that matters discussed included member delegates reports and an update from Mr P Blackmore Invasive Species Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Armidale on various aspects of the new Biosecurity Act 2015. Further reports were presented on the regional priority weed projects, the NSW Weeds Action Program 1520 Year 3 funding allocations and the templates for the Best Practice Management Guidelines for priority weeds identified under the Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022. The next meeting of the Committee will be a joint meeting with the North West Regional Weeds Committee and will be held at Walcha on 8 May 2018.

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**1. 19<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL NSW STATE WEEDS CONFERENCE ARMIDALE (ITEM 7.1.1)**

**3/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode that the report on the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial NSW State Weeds Conference be received and noted.

**2. NORTHERN TABLELANDS NSW WEED ACTION PROGRAM 2015-2020 SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAM-FUNDING DEED CONTRACT FOR REGIONAL SERVICES (ITEM 7.1.2)**

**4/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that the report on the Funding Deed Contract NT00590 between the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and Council for the provision of Regional Coordination Services on behalf of the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services under the Northern Tablelands NSW Weeds Action Program 1520 Regional Sub- Program for the financial year 2017/18 be received and noted.

**3. STATECOVER WORKERS COMPENSATION AND WORK HEALTH & SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT (ITEM 7.1.3)**

**5/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode that the report on the 2016/17 Workers Compensation and Work Health and Safety Annual Report, the Work Health and Safety Incentive Program and Council's Contents Valuation be received and noted.

**4. GRIEVANCE POLICY (ITEM 7.1.4)**

**6/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode that the NEWA Grievance Policy No: 01/18, as attached to the report, be adopted.

**5. ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW (ITEM 7.1.5)**

**7/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode:

1. That the report on the review of the NEWA Risk Management Policy and Strategy, including the updated Risk Register be received and noted.
2. That Council adopt the NEWA Risk Management Policy 02/18, as attached to the report.
3. That Council reaffirm the NEWA Risk Management Strategy, as attached to the report.

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**6. DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT (ITEM 7.1.6)**

**8/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that the report on the 6 monthly progress of the Principal Activities under Council's Delivery Plan 2017-2021 to 31 December 2017 be received and noted.

**7. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES REPORT (ITEM 7.1.7)**

**9/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode:

1. That the six- monthly report on Council's compliance with their obligations under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 be received and noted.
2. That a copy of the report be forwarded to the NSW Ombudsman.

**8. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 7.2.1)**

**10/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that:

1. The report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted.
2. The Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

**9. DECEMBER 2017 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW (ITEM 7.2.2)**

**11/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode that Council adopt the December 2017 Quarterly Budget Review and approve the Budget variations.

**10. 2017/2018 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 7.3.1)**

**12/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode that the report on the 2017/2018 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

**11. MATTERS OF URGENCY - Nil**

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 8.30 am.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE  
MEETING CLOSED AT 9:20 AM.**

**THE MEETING WAS FOLLOWED BY THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL TOUR  
OF THE COUNTY AREA.**