

**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, 19 JUNE 2018 COMMENCING AT 8:40AM.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M. Dusting - Chairperson, Councillors S. Kermode, L. Martin, A. Murat and J. Galletly.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** General Manager, Mr W. Deer.

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018.**

**21/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Murat and Martin that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 17 April 2018, 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 WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2018.**

There were no matters arising.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chair advised of the following:

- Reported on the recent Northern Tablelands Regional Weeds Committee meeting held at Walcha on 8 May 2018 informing Councillors that matters discussed included member delegates reports and a presentation from Mr. Syd Lisle, Coordinator Invasive Species Weed Reform Projects, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Orange on the Draft Standards for Weed Management Compliance, which is the subject of a report in the Business Paper. There was also an informative presentation by Council's District Biosecurity Officer (Weeds), Mr. Josh Biddle on the progress of the Mexican Water Lily project funded by the Office of Environment & Heritage in the Gara River catchment. Further reports were presented on the regional priority weed projects including Tropical Soda Apple in the MacLeay Valley, delegate updates on progress in their respective areas under the NSW Weeds Action Program 1520 (NSW WAP1520). In addition, advice was provided that New England Weeds Authority will continue as the Regional Service Provider on behalf of the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (NTLLS) for the implementation

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of the NSW WAP 1520 program for the remainder of the current funding agreement until 2020. However, the final year of the program will see a transition to the NTLLS as the Regional Service Provider for the next round of funding beyond 2020. Once written confirmation of this change is received from the NTLLS a report will be presented to Council. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Armidale on 7 August 2018.

**1. NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN  
2018-2019 (ITEM 7.1.1)**

**22/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that Council in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and Regulations thereunder, adopt the New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2018 – 2019.

**2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL (ITEM 7.1.2)**

**23/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that the annual fees for Councillors for the 2018/19 financial year be increased by 2.5% over allowances for 2017/18. Councillors will be remunerated \$2,436.00 and the Chairperson \$6,090.00.

**3. DRAFT STANDARD FOR WEED MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE –  
STATE WEED COMMITTEE (ITEM 7.1.3)**

**24/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Galletly that the report on the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Draft Standard for Weed Management Compliance be received and noted.

**4. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES REPORT (ITEM 7.1.4)**

**25/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Murat that:

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.

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**5. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) ACT 2009 (GIPA) (ITEM 7.1.5)**

**26/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Murat and Martin that under the provisions of Section 21 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, Council adopts the revised New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council Publication Guide, as attached to the report.

**6. REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES (ITEM 7.1.6)**

**27/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Martin that:

1. Council reaffirm the adoption of the following Policies, as attached to the report.
  - Investment Policy No: 01/11
  - Credit Card Policy 02/11
  - Drug and Alcohol Policy No: 03/11
  - Engagement of Contractors Policy No: 04/11
  - Procurement of Goods and Services Policy No: 05/11
  - Annual Leave Policy No: 02/12
  - Gifts and Benefits Policy No: 03/12
  - Records Management Policy No: 01/13
2. That Council adopt the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy 03/18, as attached to the report.

**7. INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE (ITEM 7.1.7)**

**28/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Kermode that the report on the resource sharing arrangements with Armidale Regional Council's Audit and Risk Committee be received and noted.

**8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE (ITEM 7.1.8)**

**29/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Murat and Martin that Council:

1. Approve the attendance of two representatives at the 2018 Local Government Annual Conference, those representatives being the Chair as Voting Delegate and the General Manager.
2. Approve payment of all expenses associated with the attendance at the Conference in accordance with the Payment of Expenses Policy.

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**9. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 8.1.1)**

**30/18 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.

**10. 2017/2018 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 9.1.1)**

**31/18 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Murat that the report on the 2017/2018 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

**11. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21 August 2018 at 8.30 am.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30 AM.**