

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE WALCHA COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2W HAMILTON STREET, WALCHA ON TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2018 COMMENCING AT 8:42AM

PRESENT: Councillor M. Dusting (Chair), Councillors S. Kermode, A Murat and J Galletly.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Mr W. Deer and Senior Weeds Officer Mr J Browning and Financial Consultant, Mr J Duggan.

APOLOGIES: Councillor L Martin.

32/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Galletly that the apology be accepted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2018

33/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 19 June 2018, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2018

There were no matters arising

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Reported on the recent Northern Tablelands Regional Weeds Committee meeting held at Armidale on 7 August 2018 informing Councillors that matters discussed included a presentation from Prof Brian Sindel from the School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England, Armidale who gave an informative presentation on the ecology and management studies being undertaken in regard to weed species such as Serrated tussock, Fireweed, African lovegrass and Saffron thistle amongst others. Further reports were presented on the regional priority weed projects including Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) in the Macleay Valley and the recent control work carried out by the Rapid Response team from the Northern Tablelands and North West Local Lands Services member organisations at Urbanville, Tenterfield also on TSA. Member delegates gave reports and updates on progress in their respective areas under the NSW Weeds Action Program 1520 (NSW WAP1520). The next meeting of the Committee will be a combined meeting with the North West Local Land Service Regional Weeds Committee to be held at Lake Keepit on 8 November 2018.

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- Advised of attendance at the Glen Innes Severn Council meeting held on 28 June 2018 accompanied by Council's General Manager and Senior Biosecurity Officer (Weeds) at which presentations were made in regard to Glen Innes Severn Council becoming a formal member of Council, which is the subject of a report in the Business Paper.
- Advised of a letter forwarded to the General Manager, Mr. W Deer following receipt of advice of his resignation from Council to be effective as of 31 August 2018, expressing Council appreciation for his outstanding contribution to the organisation over the past 8 years, that he will be missed and wishing him well in his retirement. A report on this matter is contained in the Business Paper.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

1. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS (ITEM 7.1)

INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 7.1.1)

34/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Galletly that:

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

PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS (ITEM 7.1.2)

35/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Galletly that Council formally records that the Ordinary Returns of Pecuniary Interest required to be submitted by Councillors and the General Manager, for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 have been submitted as required and have been tabled in accordance with the provisions of Section 450A of the Local Government Act, 1993.

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY (ITEM 7.1.3)

36/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Murat that Council reaffirm the New England Weeds Authority, Compliance and Enforcement Policy 03/17, as attached to the report.

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AUDIT OFFICE OF NSW- AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018-19 AND BEYOND (ITEM 7.1.4)

37/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Kermode that the report on the NSW Audit Office audit arrangements for 2018/19 and beyond be received and noted.

GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FORMAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS COUNTY COUNCIL (ITEM 7.1.5)

38/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Galletly that:

1. That Council amend its constitution so as to allow Glen Innes Severn Council membership of the New England Tablelands County Council.
2. That Council welcomes and supports Glen Innes Severn Council in making a written application to the Office of Local Government to become a full member of the New England Tablelands County Council.

INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE ITEM (7.1.6)

39/18 RESOLVED moved from the Chair and seconded by Councillor Murat that:

1. Council adopt the New England Tablelands County Council Audit & Risk Committee Charter, as attached to the report.
2. Council appoint Councillor John Galletly and Councillor Scott Kermode to the Armidale Regional Council's Audit and Risk Committee to represent Council.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2017/2018 (ITEM 7.1.7)

40/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that:

1. The report on the Annual Financial Statements as at 30 June 2018 be received and adopted.
2. The signing of the certificate under Section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, as detailed in the attachment to the report, by the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the General Manager/Responsible Accounting Officer be endorsed.

2. WEED CONTROL MATTERS (ITEM 7.1.2)

2018/2019 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 7.1.2)

41/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Kermode that the report on the 2018/2019 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

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MATTERS OF URGENCY

1. RESIGNATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGER MR W. DEER

42/18 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Galletly:

1. That the resignation of the General Manager, Mr Wayne Deer be accepted with regret.
2. That Council express its appreciation to Mr Wayne Deer for his dedicated and valued service to the County Council over the past 8 years and wish him well in his retirement.
3. That Council appoint Mr John Duggan as Acting General Manager for a 12 month period under the same terms and conditions as incumbent General Manager with the additional work of completing Annual Financial Statements.
4. That the Acting General Manager prepare a report for Council's consideration on the timeframe and process for calling applications for the appointment of a new General Manager.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16 October 2018 at 8:30 am.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE
MEETING CLOSED AT 10.10 AM.**