

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 FEBRUARY 2019 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Mr J Duggan and Senior Weeds Officer Mr J Browning.

APOLOGIES: Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2019.

1/19 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 16 October 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 TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2018.

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As this is the first meeting of the new year, let me wish all our Councillors and staff a very happy and prosperous new year.

During October last year I had the opportunity to represent Council at the Local Government Annual Conference in Albury. It was good to hear from the Minister for Local Government and other dignitaries. Some of the interesting motions sought to extend the term of a County Council Chair to 2 years, and to increase funding for the implementation of the Biosecurity act 2015.

I attended the joint meeting of NTRWC and NWRWC at Lake Keepit in November. It is dryer now than when we were there. I also attended the meeting of the NTRWC on Feb 5 and we raised an issue to the state weeds committee that we do not want administrative and reporting requirements to take away from on-ground works.

We have also been advised that our WAP funding will increase this year by 7.5%. A detailed report is included in the agenda.

The drought continues to be problematic for our communities and the need for ongoing rain intensifies. I am experiencing very few complaints about our activities and the job we are doing so I want to thank the councillors and staff for a job well done.

**1. NORTHERN TABLELANDS NSW WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM 2015-2020
SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAM-FUNDING DEED CONTRACT FOR
REGIONAL SERVICES (ITEM 7.1.1)**

2/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Kermode 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 2018/19 be received and noted.

**2. STATECOVER WORKERS COMPENSATION AND WORK HEALTH &
SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT (ITEM 7.1.2)**

3/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode that the report on the 2017/18 Workers Compensation and Work Health and Safety Annual Report, the Work Health and Safety Incentive Program be received and noted.

3. GRIEVANCE POLICY (ITEM 7.1.3)

4/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Murat that the NEWA Grievance Policy No: 01/19, as attached to the report, be adopted.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT (ITEM 7.1.4)

5/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Galletly that:

1. That Council adopt the New England Weeds Authority Code of Conduct and the Procedures for the Administration of the New England Weeds Authority Code of Conduct, as attached to the report.
2. That Council appoint the Project/Admin Officer as Complaints Coordinator.
3. That Council adopt the following persons as its conduct review panel.

- Monica Kelly, Prevention Partners NSW
0438 280 621

- enquiry@preventionpartnersnsw.com

- Kath Roach, SINC Solutions Pty Ltd
0414 193 755

- solutions@sincolutions.com.au

- Linda Pettersen, Linda Pettersen Consulting Pty Ltd
0413 552 155

linda.petterson@iinet.net.au

• Emma Broomfield, Locale Consulting
0421 180 881

emma@localeconsulting.com.au

• Belinda Nolan, Pinnacle Integrity
0419 472 133

b.nolan@pinnacleintegrity.com.au

• Shane White, Pinnacle Integrity
0439 485 428

s.white@pinnacleintegrity.com.au

• Andrew Hedges, LKA Group Pty Ltd
1300 139 321

sydney@lkagroup.com.au

• Greg Wright, Wright Associates
0418 225 027

greg.wright@wrightassociates.com.au

5. ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW (ITEM 7.1.5)

5/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat 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 02/19, as attached to the report.
3. That Council reaffirm the NEWA Risk Management Strategy, as attached to the report.

6. DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT (ITEM 7.1.6)

6/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Martin and Murat that the report on the 6 monthly progress of the Principal Activities under Council's Delivery Plan 2018-2021 to 31 December 2018 be received and noted.

7. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES REPORT (ITEM 7.1.7)

7/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Martin:

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. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE (ITEM 7.1.8)

8/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Kermode:

1. That Council adopt the New England Tablelands County Council Audit & Risk Committee Charter, as attached to the report.
2. That Council adopt the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee.

8. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 7.2.1)

9/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Galletly 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 2018 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW (ITEM 7.2.2)

10/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Martin and Galletly that Council adopt the December 2018 Quarterly Budget Review and approve the Budget variations.

10. 2018/2019 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 7.3.1)

11/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Martin that the report on the 2018/2019 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY –

MEMBERSHIP OF A JOINT ORGANISATION

12/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that NEWA as a County Council write to the New England Joint Organisation requesting the cost of joining and what Council needs to do should it consider membership.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th April 2019 at 8.30 am. Councillor Kermode indicated he will be an apology.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:15 AM.