

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, 18 JUNE 2019 COMMENCING AT 8:40AM.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Senior Biosecurity Officer, Mr James Browning

APOLOGIES: General Manager, Mr John Duggan

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

22/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Martin that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 16 April 2019, 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 APRIL 2019.

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair advised of the following:

- The drought conditions continue to have an impact on NEWA's operational activities.
- I attended the meeting of Northern Tablelands Regional Weeds Committee at Inverell on 14 May 2019. The Chairman along with Council staff attended the meeting.
- Private property inspections are way down for all, which is understandable due to the continuing drought conditions.
- The Committee agreed that with WAP funds we can send out a copy of the NT/NW Weeds guide to larger landholders, with a positive letter saying that the weed guide has been updated in accordance with the new Biosecurity Act, and if they see anything new bring it in to the office or contact their local Biosecurity Officer – mobiles included on the letter
- The transition of the Tingha area from Armidale Regional to Inverell Shire Council will occur on the 1st July 2019.

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**THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON
TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2019 COMMENCING AT 8:40AM.**

- The upcoming 20th NSW Weeds Conference will be held at Newcastle on the 26-29 August.

**1. NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN
2019-2020 (ITEM 7.1.1)**

23/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat 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 2019 – 2020.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL (ITEM 7.1.2)

24/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Kermode that the annual fees for Councillors for the 2019/20 financial year be increased by 2.5% over allowances for 2018/19. Councillors will be remunerated \$2,497.00 and the Chairperson \$6,242.00.

3. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES REPORT (ITEM 7.1.3)

25/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode 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 7.1.4)**

26/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Murat 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 7.1.5)

27/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode 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
 - Equal Employment Opportunity Policy 03/18

7. CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE (ITEM 7.1.7)

28/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Galletly and Martin that Council adopt the Code of Meeting Practice.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE (ITEM 7.1.8)

29/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Murat that Council:

1. Approve the attendance of two representatives at the 2019 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.

**ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON TUESDAY,
18 JUNE 2019 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM.**

9. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 8.1.1)

30/19 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.

10. 2018/2019 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 9.1.1)

31/19 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that the report on the 2018/2019 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, 20 August 2019 at 8.30 am.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE
MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20 AM.**