



Trading as:

# NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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2350

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8 December 2019.

Dear Councillors,

You are requested to attend the Extraordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council to be held at the Council Chambers.

**Tuesday, 17 December 2019 commencing at 8.30 am**

Yours sincerely,

John Duggan  
GENERAL MANAGER

# **AGENDA**

## **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING – Commencing at 8:30 am**

<b>1</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>3</b>
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**1 PRESENT**

**2 APOLOGIES**

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN ST STREET, ON TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2019 COMMENCING AT 8.40:AM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** General Manager, Mr John Duggan, Senior Biosecurity Officer, Mr James Browning

**APOLOGIES:**

Nil

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2019.**

**32/19 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 18 June 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 18 JUNE 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 Glen Innes on 13 August 2019. The Chairman along with Council staff attended the meeting. We agreed that a sub committee would attempt to integrate reporting of the MERI, the WAP and the Regional Weeds Plan.
- Following this meeting we met staff from Glen Innes. There was general acceptance of the new MOU and we discussed the process suggested in this Business Paper to move forward on the integration of Glenn Innes Severn Council into NEWA.
- Private property inspections are way down for all, which is understandable due to the continuing drought conditions.
- The upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> NSW Weeds Conference will be held at Newcastle on the 26-29 August.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN ST ON TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2019 COMMENCING AT 8:40AM**

**1. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT as at 31st July 2019 (ITEM 7.1.1)**

**33/19 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.

**2. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES REPORT (ITEM 7.1.2)**

**34/19 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.

**5. NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY- COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES 03/17 (ITEM 7.1.3)**

**35/19 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Murat THAT Council reaffirm the New England Weeds Authority, Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedures 04/17, as attached to the report..

**6. REVIEW OF GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FORMAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS COUNTY COUNCIL (ITEM 7.1.4)**

**36/19 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Murat that:

1. That NEWA in consultation with Glen Innes Severn Council (GISC) agrees to prepare a draft proposal to OLG to enable GISC to become a full member of the New England Tablelands County Council.
2. That Council endorses the draft MOU and authorises the Chair and General Manager to sign the MOU once supported by GISC.
3. That the draft proposal be prepared for Councils meeting of 22 October 2019.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND  
TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE  
ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN ST ON TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2019  
COMMENCING AT 8:40AM**

**7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (ITEM 7.1.5)**

**37/19 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Murat that:

1. That the report on the Annual Financial Statements as at 30 June 2019 be received and adopted.
2. That the signing of the Certificate under Section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, as detailed in the Attachments to the report, by the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the General Manager/Responsible Accounting Officer be endorsed.

**10. 2018/2019 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 7.1.6)**

**38/19 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Murat that the report on the 2019/2020 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, 29 October 2019 at 8.30 am at Walcha.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE  
MEETING CLOSED AT 9.17 AM.**

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON THE 29 OCTOBER 2019**

## **4 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **4.1 ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

#### **4.1.1 Proposed Amendment to County Council Constitution**

##### **Introduction**

Glenn Innes Severn Council (GISC) has requested full membership of the County. This process requires the amendment of the County Councils constitution.

##### **Report**

Since 2015, NEWA has been undertaking priority weed management and other processes included in the Biosecurity Act 2015 for GISC under a memorandum of understanding.

GISC resolved on 21 August 2018 to join the County. A letter was forwarded to the Office of Local Government (OLG) on 17 October 2018 requesting amendment to the County's constitution.

OLG responded to GISC in January this year clarifying the process to move the amendment forward. A copy of this letter is attached to this report.

Discussions have occurred between staff and Councillors of GISC and NEWA resulting in NEWA's resolution at its August meeting to prepare a proposal to be submitted to the OLG.

A proposal has been prepared and is attached to this report. The proposal has also been provided to GISC to endorse at their December meeting. The proposal meets the requirements detailed in the letter from OLG and outlines the way forward.

Council needs to endorse this proposal to OLG for assessment and hopefully to be recommended to the Minister to amend the County's constitution.

##### **RECOMMENDED: That in accordance with Section 383 (1) of the Local Government Act (1993), Council**

- **endorses the making of the attached proposal to amend the constitution of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council and;**
- **authorises the referral of the attached proposal to amend the constitution of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council to the Office of Local Government for assessment and recommendation to the Minister.**

**5 MATTERS OF URGENCY**

**6 NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 19 February 2019 at 8:30am.**

**7 ATTACHMENTS**

7.1 Letter from OLG

7.2 Proposal to amend the Constitution of the New England Tablelands (Noxious  
Plants) County Council