

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE AND ON LINE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON TUESDAY, 21 APRIL 2020 COMMENCING AT 8:33AM.**

**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 18 FEBRUARY 2020.**

**13/20 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 18 February 2020, 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 FEBRUARY 2020.**

The was no Business arising.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Let me welcome you all to the new meeting process. Covid 19 has certainly affected many things including the way we do things so thanks to our staff and Councillors for embracing new methods.
- We are in a very fortunate position in comparison to many other Councils. We continue to operate effectively whilst still embracing social distancing rules. Our staff continue to be fully engaged in the operations of our organisation and we continue to provide services and advise to our local community. Thanks to our GM and staff we have been able to modify our operations with only minor impact on our bottom line.
- I wish to advise that the next meeting of Northern Tablelands Regional Weeds Committee which was to be held in May 2020 has been cancelled. No doubt we will get back to normal gatherings at some time.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION:**

**14/20 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Dusting and Murat that Council deal with all items in the open meeting agenda in one motion.

**15/20 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Martin and Kermode

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**7.1 ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

**7.1.1 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2021**

1. That the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2020-2021 be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition period a further report be presented to Council on submissions received and for the adoption of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2020-2021.
3. That the constituent member Councils of Armidale Regional, Walcha and Uralla be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2020-2021 for comment.
4. That the Council of Glen Innes Severn Council, operating under and MOU be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2020-2021 for comment.

**7.1.2 AUDIT OFFICE OF NSW – AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 2020**

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That the report on the Audit process of Council's financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2020 be received and noted.

**7.1.3 INVESTED FUNDS REPORT**

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.

**7.1.4 MARCH 2020 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW**

That Council adopt the March 2020 Quarterly Budget Review and approve the proposed Budget variations.

**7.2 WEED CONTROL MATTERS**

**7.2.1 2019/2020 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM**

**Private Property Inspections – Weeds Action Program 2019/2020**

That the report on the 2019/2020 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

### **7.1.5 PROPOSED PURCHASE OF LAND FOR NEW OPERATIONS CENTRE**

**16/20 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Galletly that in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, that the matter of the proposed land for a new operations centre be discussed in confidential matters in Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,

Council discussed the matter and adopted the following resolution in Committee of the Whole

**17/20 RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Martin that the General Manager be authorised to negotiate the option or purchase of a block for Councils operations centre to the limits detailed in the report.

### **11. MATTERS OF URGENCY –**

There were no matters of urgency

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 8.30 am.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:47 AM.**