

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2020 COMMENCING AT 8:33AM.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Dusting - Chairperson, Councillor S. Kermode and Armidale Regional Council Administrator Viv May by video link.

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 16 JUNE 2020.

28/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors May and Kermode that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 16 June 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 16 JUNE 2020.

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair advised of the following:

- Firstly, thanks to Uralla Shire Council for hosting our meeting today.
- The meeting of Northern Tablelands Regional Weeds Committee to be held tomorrow has been cancelled mostly due to Covid 19 but also because we do not currently have a Chair after the resignation of Maria Woods. The next meeting will be held in November where a chair and executive will be elected. Congratulations to Councillor Kermode who has been nominated as the LLS representative on this committee.
- We have recently been advised that our proposal to include Glen Innes Severn Council as part of the County will be advertised soon. The delay has been primarily the result of Covid 19 as the proposal must be available for inspection at Council offices and many of these have been closed.

- The Local Government NSW conference is scheduled to be held in the Hunter Valley from 22 to 24 November 2020. The Chair and GM are registered to attend in accordance with Councils resolution.
- Our Annual Financial Statements are presented for adoption at this meeting. Once again we have achieved an excellent result with an operating surplus of \$94,000. Given the impact of Covid 19, this is an outstanding result. I want to place on record my thanks to the General Manager and staff for their dedication and commitment to achieving positive results for our Council.

1. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT as at 31st July 2020 (ITEM 7.1.1)

29/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and May 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. PEUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS FOR 2019/2020 (ITEM 7.1.2)

30/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and May that:

That Council formally records that the ordinary Returns of Interest required to be submitted by Councillors and the General Manager, for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 have been submitted as required and have been tabled in accordance with the provisions of Section 450A of the Local Government Act 1993.

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

31/20 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. NEW ENGLAND JOINT ORGANISATION (ITEM 7.1.4)

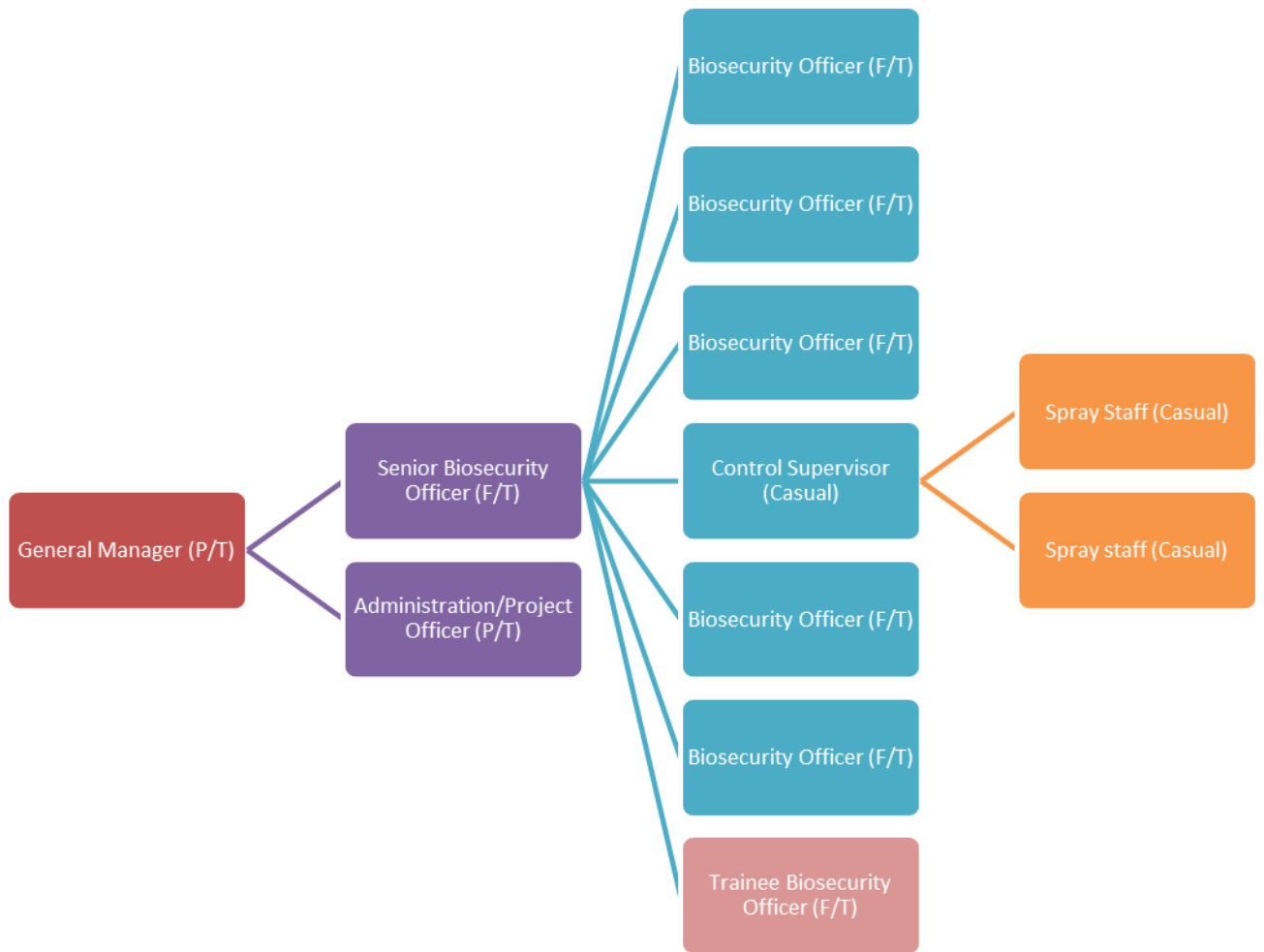
32/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors May and Kermode that:

1. NEWA accepts the offer of Associate membership of NEJO subject to there being no membership costs involved.
2. The Chairperson liaise with the NEJO chair to attend the next NEJO meeting accompanied by the General Manager.

7. ORGANISATION STRUCTURE (ITEM 7.1.5)

33/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors May and Kermode that:

1. Council adopts the following staffing structure That the position of Trainee Biosecurity Officer be advertised as a full time position.



2. The structure be reviewed in 2 years time.

7. EPIDEMIC/PANDEMIC POLICY (ITEM 7.1.6)

34/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and May that Council adopts the Pandemic Policy and associated operational plan with the following amendments.

1. That the disclaimer be removed
2. That the reference to the World Health Organisation be changed to NSW Senior Medical Advisor.

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (ITEM 7.1.7)

35/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and May that:

1. That the report on the Annual Financial Statements as at 30 June 2020 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. 2020/2021 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 7.1.8)

36/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and May that the report on the 2020/2021 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY

36/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Dusting and May that:

1. That the letter received from the Hon Shelly Hancock, Minister for Local Government advising that the Authority's proposal to amend its constitution to vary its area of operations to include the local government area of Glen Innes Severn Shire is proceeding and to change the Authority's name to "New England County Council" be received and noted
2. That the Authority's representative on the Internal Audit and Risk Committee remain as one representative at this stage that being Councillor Kermode.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20 October 2020 at 8.30 am at Walcha.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30 AM.