

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE NEWA COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 8:35AM.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Dusting - Chairperson, Councillor S. Kermode, Councillor A Murat, Councillor M O'Connor, Councillor C Sparks.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager, Mr John Duggan, Acting Senior Biosecurity Officer, Mr Matthew Benham

APOLOGIES:

Councillor J Galletly.

51/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that the apology of Councillor Galletly be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The General Manager declared an interest in item 1.1.2 of the Closed Committee Meeting and the subsequent resolution in open Council.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020.

52/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 20 October 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 20 OCTOBER 2020.

Nil.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair advised of the following:

Welcome to the first meeting of the New England County Council. We are commencing a new era for this organisation. Welcome also to the representative from Glen Innes Severn Council, Councillor Sparks. We look forward to your input and participation.

We also welcome the return of Councillor O'Connor from Armidale Regional Council. This is also the first meeting since the Armidale Councillors were returned, so welcome back Councillors Murat and Galletly.

As this is the first meeting of the New Year, let me wish all our Councillors and staff a very happy and prosperous 2021.

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We have many items in front of us in the current agenda and no doubt going forward. In my history here, we have always supported a team based approach between Councillors and staff.

I think this is a great option to progress the New England County Council.

I recently received advice from the Minister of Local Government (Which is tabled in front of me) regarding the terms of Mayors and Chairs. I provided a written response and received a response from the Office of Local Government. (Both items are also tabled) It seems the legislation will change to remove Chairs on Election Day and elect a new chair at the first meeting of the new Council.

You would also be aware that recent weather and conditions have kept our organisation very busy. We had the opportunity to address a Walcha Council workshop regarding our activities on February 10 this year. I feel that all participants learned something from this session. Maybe we can look forward to workshops in other Councils.

53/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and O'Connor that the Chairs report be received and noted.

1. NEW COUNCIL (ITEM 7.1.1)

54/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

That:

- Council welcomes Councillors Sparks and O'Connor to the New England County Council.
- Council endorses the new logo.

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

55/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that standing orders be suspended to deal with Closed Committee

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

56/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and O'Connor, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, that the matters of organisation review and the appointment of an acting general manager be discussed in confidential matters in Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors),

2. ORGANISATION REVIEW (CLOSED ITEM 1.1.1)

57/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode, that:

- That Council endorse the actions of the General Manager.
- Council supports recommendations 1 to 9 and 11 to 13 as detailed in the independent report dated 2 February 2021.

3. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING GENERAL MANAGER (CLOSED ITEM 1.1.2)

At 9.27 am the General Manager and Acting Senior Weeds Officer left the room.

At 9.33 the General Manager and Acting Senior Weeds Office returned to the meeting.

58/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

- That Council accepts the resignation of Mr John Duggan and agrees to the requests in his letter including that all information held by NEWA remains with NEWA.
- That Council appoint Mr Glenn Wilcox to the role of Acting General Manager to commence on 15 March 2021.
- The Chair finalise contract negotiations and sign the contract.
- The other applicant be formally advised.

Cr Kermode requested that his vote be recorded against the motion.

59/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Sparks:

That Council return to the Council meeting

Upon returning to the normal meeting:

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

60/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Dusting and Sparks, that the above motions adopted in closed committee be endorsed in ordinary Council.

4. GRIEVANCE POLICY (ITEM 7.1.2)

61/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Murat that the NEWA Grievance Policy No: 01/20, as attached to the report, be adopted.

5. ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY REVIEW (ITEM 7.1.3)

62/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

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 02/21, 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 7.1.4)

63/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Kermode that the report on the 6-monthly progress of the Principal Activities under Council's Four Year Delivery Plan 2019 - 2023 to 31 December 2020 be received and noted.

7. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES REPORT (ITEM 7.1.5)

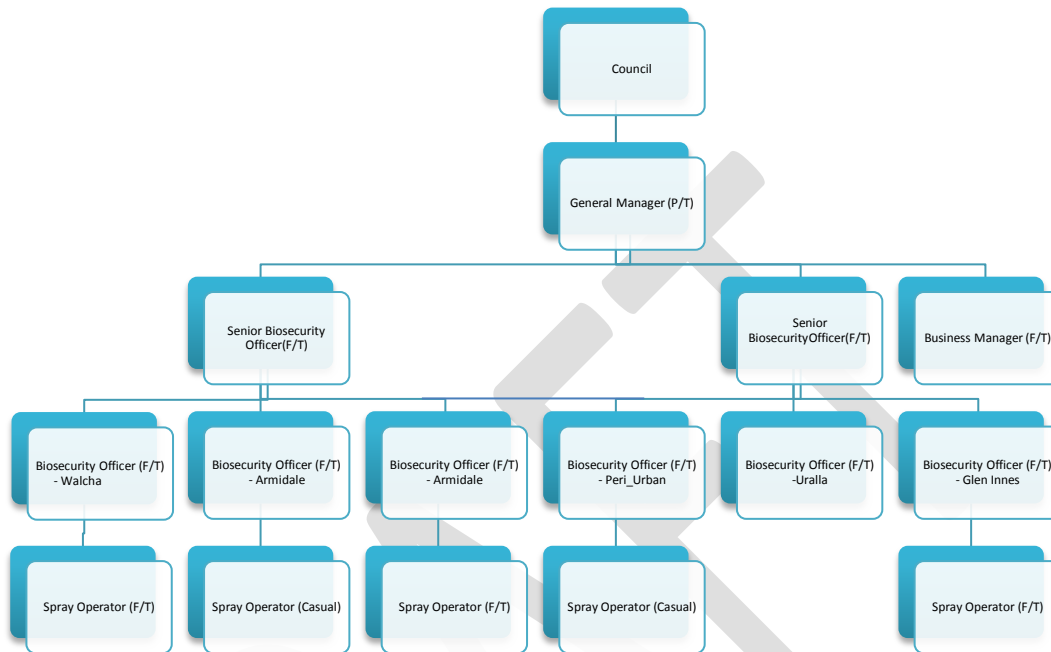
64/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Murat:

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. ORGANISATION STRUCTURE (ITEM 7.1.6)

65/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O'Connor and Murat that:

1. Council adopts the new structure as detailed below:



2. Supports the immediate development of appropriate position descriptions, policies and procedures..

9. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 7.2.1)

66/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Kermode:

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.

10. DECEMBER 2020 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW (ITEM 7.2.2)

67/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O'Connor and Murat that Council adopt the December 2020 Quarterly Budget Review and approve the Budget variations.

11. 2020/2021 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 7.3.1)

PRECEDURAL MATTER:

At 10.25 am, the chair adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes to enable a 5 minute break
At 10.32 am, the chair called the meeting back to order.

68/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

That the report on the 2020/2021 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 April 2021 at 9:00 am to be held in Glen Innes.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.37 AM.