



NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

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26 April 2023

Dear Councillors,

You are requested to attend an Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council, to be held in the offices of the New England Weeds Authority, 2/129 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350 on,

Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 1:00pm

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Weeks".

Tim Weeks
GENERAL MANAGER

AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council commencing at 01:00pm on Tuesday 2nd May 2023

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ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TUESDAY 2nd
MAY 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES AT 01:00pm

BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Meeting of Council commencing at 01:00pm on Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Statement in relation to Video Recording of Council Meetings

The Council and Public are to be advised that the Meeting is not being live streamed, however, a video recording of the meeting will be available on the Council's website.

- 1.0 PRESENT**
- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
- 3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
- 4.0 ADOPTION OF OPERATIONAL PLAN AND ANNUAL BUDGET FOR
2023-2024 FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Recommendation:

1. That the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan and Annual Budget for 2023 - 2024 be adopted and placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition period, should public submissions have been received a further report be presented to Council of the submissions for the adoption of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024.
3. That the constituent member Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Walcha and Uralla Shire be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024 for comment.

Purpose

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to allow Council and the community to consider and comment on the 2023/2024 Operational Plan, including the Annual Budget.

ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TUESDAY 2nd
MAY 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES AT 01:00pm

Background

Council at its June 2017 meeting adopted its 10 Year Business Activity Strategic Plan (BASP) 2017-2027 as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

The Business Activity Strategic Plan details the activities Council will undertake over the period of the Four-Year Delivery Plan from 2022-2026, together with the actions to be undertaken through the Annual Operational Plan to implement weed management and control of scheduled priority and invasive weed species, identified in the Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2022-2027, for our constituent member Councils.

The Strategic Weed Management Plan should be reviewed over the coming financial year to incorporate the *enlarged* council area now comprising four (4) LGAs and to consider opportunities to engage with future councils and government organisations for their inclusion within the organisation as either members or on a service agreement arrangement.

Report

In accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must have an Annual Operational Plan that is adopted before the beginning of each financial year, that details the activities to be undertaken by Council during the coming year as part of the Delivery Plan covering that year.

In addition, the Annual Operational Plan must include a Statement of Revenue Policy detailing the Budget, Fees and Charges.

In preparing the Draft Annual Operation Plan, Council must give public notice of the draft Plan indicating that submissions may be made to Council at any time during the exhibition period, which must not be less than 28 days.

Council's Draft Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024 and the associated Statement of Revenue Policy has been prepared in accordance with the above requirements and is attached to this report for the consideration of Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council is required to prepare an Operational Plan annually that establishes its budgets, fees and charges and other financial information that allows the public and the member Councils to understand the resource allocations in that year.

Legal Implications

Under Clause 405 Local Government Act 1993 as amended, Council is required to prepare an Annual Operations Plan and place the draft plan on public display in order to seek comment.

Before adopting the Annual Operational Plan, Council must consider any submissions that have been made concerning the draft Plan. Once adopted, Council must post a copy on its website within 28 days from the date of adoption.

Risk Implications

If Council adopts the Draft Plan for public display and follows the provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations, there is no risk identified.

Stakeholder Consultation

The Draft Operational Plan 2022/2023 is required to be displayed and copies should be provided to our member Councils and those organisations or Councils that may have an interest in the NEWA operations. Printed copies should be freely available to landholders and other stakeholders if requested.

Options

No option exists to the requirements under the Act and Regulations.

Conclusions

Council is required under Clause 405 Local Government Act 1993 as amended and Regulations thereto, to prepare an Annual Operations Plan.

Link to Policy and/or the Business Activity Strategic Plan

Council is to be informed of changes to legislation that impact on the business of Council.

Supporting Information and/or Attachments

- Draft New England Weeds Authority - Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024.
- Statement of Revenue Policy

5.0 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW – MARCH 2023

Recommendation:

1. That Council endorse the changes detailed in the reports, and
2. That Council adopt the March 2023 Quarterly Budget Review.

The Quarterly Budget Review for March 2023 is set out in the attached documents:

- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023, as at March Q3
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q3 - Income & expense detail
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q3 – Budget Review Summary
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q3 – Capital Summary
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q1 –Cash and Investments

6.0 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM – QUARTERLY REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Weeds Action Plan summarising outcomes and activities to date, including the 2022-2023 Weeds Action Program, be received and noted.

The Weeds Action Plan Report is set out in an attached document,

7.0 MATTERS OF URGENCY

8.0 NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 18 JULY 2023

9.0 ATTACHMENTS:

- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023, as at March Q3
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q3 - Income & expense detail
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q3 – Budget Review Summary
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q3 – Capital Summary
- Quarterly Budget Review – 2022 – 2023 Q1 – Cash and Investments
- Draft New England Weeds Authority - Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024
- Draft New England Weeds Authority – Annual Budget 2023 - 2024