



NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ABN 35 514 070 354

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27 February 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 7th March 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 7th March 2023

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BUSINESS PAPER

**Ordinary Meeting of Council commencing at 01:00pm on
Tuesday 7th March 2023**

Statement in relation to Video Recording of Council Meetings

- 1.0 PRESENT
- 2.0 APOLOGIES
- 3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
- 4.0 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023

STATEMENT IN RELATION TO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cr. Bower advised that the Meeting was *not* being live streamed, however, a video recording of the meeting will be available on the County Council's website.

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Bower (Chair), Councillor Lara Gresham,
Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Paul Packham and
Councillor Dorothy Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager – Tim Weeks,
Chief Financial Officer – Laurie Knight and
Finance and Administration Officer – Emma Dunne

APOLOGIES: Councillor Kermode was absent without leave.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

NIL

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023**

1/23 Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on Tuesday 7 February 2023, having been distributed to the Members, be adopted as a true and correct record of events.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor O'Connor

The motion being put to the **Vote** was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023**

2/23 Resolved

That Resolution 49/22 be amended to read:

1. Having adopted the Model Policies and Model Codes of Practice documents, Councillors reminded the GM that 'model' policies and Model Codes of Practice can and should be adapted to suit local requirements..

Moved: Councillor Packham

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

The motion being put to the **Vote** was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

Laurie Knight, CFO, advised council that financial information extracted from NEWA's historic document management archive, has enabled NEWA to prepare and provide Forsyths (auditors) with analysis of the outstanding item required to complete the audit preparation.

Recommendation:

That Council note the information provided concerning the outcome of completed Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2022, ahead of the final sign off by the NSW Audit Office and Public presentation, which is planned for the Extraordinary Meeting to be scheduled for & March 2023.

Moved: Councillor Gresham

Seconded: Councillor O'Connor

The motion being put to the **Vote** was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS

QUARTERLY BUSINESS REVIEW – Quarter 2 – DECEMBER 2022

3/23 Resolved:

1. That Council endorse the changes detailed in the Quarterly Business Review report, and
2. That Council adopt the December 2022 Quarterly Budget Review including the changes agreed to at the 7 February 2023 council meeting.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Gresham

The motion being put to the **Vote** was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

WEED CONTROL MATTERS (WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM 2020-2035)

4/23 Resolved:

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

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor O'Connor

The motion being put to the **Vote** was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 7th March 2023 at 01:00pm

ATTACHMENTS

- NEWA Annual Financial Statements – GPFS – 2022 *Final for Audit Review*
2-2-2023

MEETING CLOSED – 2:50pm.

**5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2022**

**6.0 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

Recommendation:

1. In accordance with Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and Clause 215 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, that Council adopt the 2021/22 Audited Financial Reports and “Statement by Councillors and Management” for both the General-Purpose Financial Reports and the Special Purpose Financial Reports, signed by the Chair and Deputy Chair as delegated by Council.
2. That Council note that a Public Notice, for the presentation of the Audited 2021-2022 Financial Reports was issued on Monday 27 February 2022 to invite both inspection and comment on the nominated date.
3. That Council note that a copy of the 2021-2022 Financial Reports (attached) have been forwarded to the Office of Local Government.
4. That Council present the 2021-2022 Audited Financial Reports to the public at Council’s 7 March 3033 meeting.

Background

Council’s 2021/22 Financial Reports have now been completed and the Auditor’s signed report received. To comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the following actions must be implemented to allow for the finalisation of the year end accounts.

NEWA’s CFO Laurie Knight will be available to attend Council’s meeting on 7 March 2022 and present the report on the audit of Council’s accounts for the 2021/22 financial period.

The relevant sections of the *Local Government Act 1993* relating to the preparation of Council’s annual financial reports are as follows:

- a) Section 413, 415 and 416 requires a council must prepare financial reports, including Financial Reports and ‘Statement by Councillors and Management’ for both the General Purpose Financial Reports and Special Purpose Financial Reports; for each year, and must refer them for audit and be audited by the 31 October.

ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES AT 01:00PM

- b) In NEWA's case, and because of exceptional circumstances, an extension of the audit date was sort and received to 28 February 2023.
- c) Section 413 requires that the financial reports must be accompanied by a statement of Council's opinion made pursuant to a resolution of Council and signed by the Chairperson, at least one other councillor, General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer.
- d) Council must fix a meeting date to present the financial reports to the public; and
- e) Advertise, for a minimum of seven days prior to the meeting, that the financial reports and the auditor's report are available for public inspection.

Public notice for the presentation of the financial reports at the March Council meeting, in the prescribed format, occurred from Monday 27 February 2023.

Financial Summary

In addressing the statutory requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council's Audited Financial Reports together with the Auditor's Report are presented to Council and attached.

Council's Net Operating Result for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 was a surplus of \$155k. This compares to a deficit in 2021 of <\$73k>.

Council's financial position has become sound as demonstrated by the key financial indicators set out in the reports for the past three years:

7.0 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS

7.1 REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO TENDER NUMBER 2022/1

A review and report of Tender Submissions received in response to the Selective Tender Number 2022-1, will be presented in *Closed Session*. A *Confidential* Report to Council will be provided separately.

7.2 WEED CONTROL MATTERS (Weed Action Program 2020-2035)

A separate WAP report to end of February 2023 will be provided and will be available on the NEWA website – NEWA.com.au.

ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES AT 01:00PM

8.0 MATTERS OF URGENCY

9.0 NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 2nd May 2023 at 01:00pm

10.0 ATTACHMENTS:

- [NEWA Annual Financial Statements – GPFS - 2022 Final for Audit Review 2-2-2023](#)
- [Weed Action Plan to February 2023](#)