



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on

Tuesday, 20 February 2024

1:00pm

In

NEWA Meeting Room, 2/129 Rusden Street, Armidale

Present: Councillor Dorothy Robinson (Chair), Councillor Tim Bower (Deputy Chair),
Councillor Troy Arandale, Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Paul
Packham

In Attendance: Laurie Knight (CFO) and Renee Irvine (Finance Manager)

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Clr. Dorothy Robinson advised that while the meeting was not being live-streamed, a video recording of the meeting will be available on the County Council's website.

PRESENT: Cr. Dorothy Robinson (Chair), Cr Tim Bower (Deputy Chair),
Cr. Troy Arandale, Cr. Margaret O'Connor, Cr. Paul Packham

IN ATTENDANCE: Laurie Knight – CFO (via Teams), Renee Irvine – Finance Manager

APOLOGIES: Cr. Scott Kermode

Resolved: 1/24 **Approval of Leave**

Moved: Councillor Bower Seconded: Councillor O'Conner

The motion being put to the vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

DECLARATION

OF INTEREST: Nil

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023**

Resolved: 2/24 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 21 November 2023, which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

Moved: Councillor Arandale Seconded: Councillor Robinson

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS:

AUTHORISATION OF PROJECT OFFICER TO PREPARE FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Resolved: 3/24

1. That NEWA's Project Officer shall be authorised by Council to prepare and submit funding applications for grant submissions.
2. In accordance with Council's Delegations, the General Manager may be required to review and co-sign such funding applications.

Moved: Councillor Arandale Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM – QUARTERLY REPORT - FEBRUARY

Resolved: 4/24

1. That the Weeds Action Program Report, summarising activities and outcomes to date, including the 2023-2024 Weeds Action Plan results be received and noted.
2. That Council Note that funding under The Weeds Action Program (WAP), provided by the Department of Primary industries (DPI) had not been received with uncertainty as to when payment *might* be made.
3. That the GM write to and contact the Local Member, to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss the overdue funding by the DPI.

Moved: Councillor O'Connor

Seconded: Councillor Arandale

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

DRAFT 2022-2023 YEAR END AUDIT

Resolved: 5/24

1. That Council note the status of the current audit of the draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023,
2. That Council note that an extraordinary meeting is likely to be required in order to meet the requirements of sec 418 of the Act for public presentation of audited accounts, and
3. That the Chair and Deputy Chair be authorised to re-sign the Statement by Councillors and Management, in the event they are requested to do so by the Auditor.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Packham

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

COMMONWEALTH BANK LOAN [GUARANTEES]

Resolved: 6/24

1. That Council accept the offer of loan funding in accordance with documentation provided by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA).
2. That the Chair and Deputy, in conjunction with the General Manager and Chief Financial Officer, if required, be authorised to execute the loan documents when provided by the Commonwealth Bank.
3. That Council notes that Security documentation, by way of guarantees, will be provided by the Commonwealth Bank to Member Councils, as required.
4. That council notes the expedited need for these guarantees is the urgency that has resulted from not receiving funding from the DPI under the Weeds Action Program for the 2023-2024 FY; and authorises council's GM to make representation to the relevant ministers and government MPs, as appropriate, to accelerate receipt of this funding.

Moved: Councillor Arandale

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

QUARTERLY BUSINESS REVIEW – DECEMBER 2023

Resolved: 7/24

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

Moved: Councillor Arandale

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

INVESTMENT REPORT

At the time of meeting, Council had no funds invested.

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COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC)

Resolved: 8/24

1. That Council establish a committee of three (3) members, to negotiate the establishment of an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) to be in place prior to 1 July 2024.
2. That the committee (1) above, meet with the Uralla and Walcha Councils to identify potential independent members that might join a NEWA ARIC committee.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Arandale

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) AGREEMENT [COMPLIANCE SYSTEM] WITH UPPER MACQUARIE
COUNTY COUNCIL (UMCC)**

Being of a confidential nature and commercial in confidence information, Council moved into Closed Session.

Moved: Councillor Robinson (Chair)

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

While in Closed Session, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved: 9/24

1. That Council receive and note the Intellectual Property Agreement.
2. That Council enter into an Intellectual Property (IP) agreement with Upper Macquarie County Council (UMCC) for licencing on a free of charge basis, of the Compliance System, to commence 1 July 2024 .

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Arandale

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

Moved: Councillor Arandale

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

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MATTERS OF URGENCY – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters of urgency.

NEXT MEETING – 1:00pm, 16 April 2024

Please note future meetings:

16 April 2024
18 June 2024
20 August 2024

CLOSE: 2:53pm