



# MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on

Friday, 21 June 2024

10:00am

In

NEWA Meeting Room, 2/129 Rusden Street, Armidale

Present: Interim Administrator John Rayner (Chair), and  
Tim Weeks – General Manager

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 21 JUNE 2024**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:** Interim Administrator John Rayner  
Tim Weeks – General Manager

**APOLOGIES:** None

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None

**MATTERS OF URGENCY:** None

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2024**

**Resolved: 20/24**

That while the Administrator was not present for the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 May 2024, the Minutes of that Meeting are noted as being Official.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2024**

None

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 31 MAY 2024**

**Resolved: 21/24**

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 31 May 2024, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 31 MAY 2024**

None

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 21 JUNE 2024**

**INTERIM ADMINISTRATORS MINUTE - JUNE**

**Resolved: 22/24**

That the Administrator's Minute be received and noted.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS:**

**WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM REPORT**

**Resolved: 23/24**

That the Weeds Action Plan (WAP) Report, summarising activities and outcomes to date, including the 2023-2024 Weeds Action Program, be received and noted.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2023-2024 WAP FUNDING**

**Resolved: 24/24**

1. That Council note the status and timing of funding to be provided under the 2023-2024 Weeds Action Program.
2. That Council has received \$379,134 (incl. GST) from DPI/LLS. The remainder of WAP funding is being withheld pending finalisation of a forensic audit by LLS.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 21 JUNE 2024**

**ADOPTION OF 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL PLAN AND ANNUAL BUDGET**

**Resolved: 25/24**

- 1 That the Annual Operational Plan be adopted other than the Annual Budget and 10 year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).
- 2 That the Budget and the 10 year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) be updated to take account of NEWA's current financial circumstances and the early payment of the annual contributions for 2024-2025 by ARC.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**SETTING OF COUNCILLOR FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2024-2025  
FINANCIAL YEAR.**

**Resolution: 26/24**

1. That Councillors note the contents of the Office of Local Government [Circular No 24-08](#) in relation to the setting of fees for elected members, as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal for 2024-25 financial year, and
2. That in accordance with Sections 248 and 249 of the Local Government Act. 1993, the annual fees payable to the Chair and Councillors for the 2024-25 financial year, be increased by 3.75% with effect from 1 July 2024, bringing the annual amounts to \$6,730 for councillors and \$12,300 for the Chair.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 21 JUNE 2024**

**CONFIRMATION OF EMPLOYEE WAGE INCREASE FOR THE 2024-2025  
FINANCIAL YEAR**

**Resolved: 27/24**

- 1 That Councillors note the details of the Local Government State Award increases as determined for the 3 financial years 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 inclusive; noting that increases are generally in line with forecast wage increases outlined in Council's 10 year Financial Plan.
  
- 2 That for the 2024-2025 Financial Year, NEWA employees be paid an increase of 3.5% *plus* 0.5% of employees' annual salary (as of 30 June 2024) *or* \$1,000, whichever is the greater.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**INVESTMENT REPORT**

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

**PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR THE 2024-2025 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

**Resolution: 28/24**

That the schedule of proposed meeting dates for the 2024-2025 financial year, be endorsed and advertised for public information.

Moved – Administrator John Rayner

Carried.

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 21 JUNE 2024**

Month	Specific Items for Council Determination (in addition to normal standing agenda items and other ordinary business)	Endorsed Meeting Date
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive and note draft Financial Statements for referral to audit</li> </ul>	15 Aug 2024
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public presentation of audited Financial Statements,</li> <li>• Receive and adopt September Quarterly Budget Review,</li> <li>• Receive and adopt Annual Report for 2023/24 FY</li> </ul>	26 Nov 2023
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive and adopt December Quarterly Budget Review</li> </ul>	18 Feb 2024
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorse draft Operational Plan, Budget &amp; Revenue Policy for 2025/26 FY for public exhibition,</li> <li>• Receive and adopt March Quarterly Budget Review</li> </ul>	22 Apr 2024
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt Operational Plan, Budget &amp; Revenue Policy for 2024/25 FY</li> </ul>	18 Jun 2024

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**14. NEXT MEETING – 10:00 AM, 15 AUGUST 2024**

**MEETING CLOSE: 10:19AM**