



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 26 October 2022

at

3:04pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**The Audio Statement and Acknowledgement of Country
were read by the Chairman.**


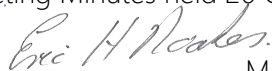
PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors MA Berry, KW Ferrier, NF Hicks, SJ Kermode, AC Pointing, and GDM Schaefer.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Barry Omundson – General Manager, Mr PE Hood – Director Infrastructure, Mrs KMD Kermode – Director Community & Tourism, Mr CC Martin – Manager Corporate & Finance and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

61 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kermode that the Leave of Absence emailed to Council by Clr Reilly, due to illness, be **ACCEPTED**.

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.....General Manager .....Mayor

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2022:

62 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kermode that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 28 September 2022, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6.1: Alcohol Free Zone Walcha Proposal & Alcohol Prohibited Area McHattan Park Proposal Submissions WO/2022/03018

Clr Ferrier declared a Non-Pecuniary Non-Significant interest in this matter being the Liquor Accord retiring Secretary and will leave the Chambers.

Clr Schaefer declared a Non-Pecuniary Significant interest in this matter being Chair of the Liquor Accord and President and Licensee of the Walcha Sports Club and will leave the Chambers.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

5.1 Renewable Energy Developments

It is abundantly clear that renewable energy development in Walcha is a divisive topic, pitting friends and families against each other; destroying long term relationships and placing Council in an unenviable position. To support or not?

It is evidenced by the recently adopted Community Strategic Plan (CSP) that Council supports renewable energy. Goal 6.4 *Walcha will increase the use and production of renewable energy with Strategy 6.4.1 Establish alternative renewable energy supplies that will meet our energy needs.*

It is also evident from the 2022 Integrated System Plan – June 2022 released by the Australian Energy Market Operation (AEMO) page 7, that “... *there is an overriding message from both, it is that our energy system transformation is accelerating and irreversible, and ever more comprehensive and challenging.*”

That renewable energy will play a role in our future energy needs is undeniable, yet the role by Council to support or oppose wind generating projects in Walcha



is not a decision for Council. Council has no decision making powers in what are projects of state significance.

While not taking a position either way, this Council has not sat on its hands.

This Council has already commenced a dialogue with Energy Developers to ensure the elements Council has some level of control over, such as infrastructure and distribution of 'community funds' are undertaken and delivered in the best interest to the Walcha Community. Indeed, the previous Council provided its support in principal, at the time, for the Walcha Energy Project.

Further evidence of a proactive Council is CoREM – the *Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors*. Walcha Council created this forum in June this year where we seek to share and learn from other local governments in their journey with renewable energy for the benefit of our respective communities. It is also a forum potentially covering five (5) states and some 70 local governments that seeks to influence Commonwealth and State legislations thereby providing certain standards with regard to infrastructure agreements and community funds.

As your Mayor I am approached often by those seeking to influence me and Council to either publicly support or not support wind farms here in Walcha. My strong view is that this is not a position for Council. How does one gauge support for either position? A petition? A website with a bunch of 'likes'? And regardless, is that indicative of what all our community wants?

In my view there is nothing to be gained by taking a position other than that of neutrality and continue to work alongside potential proponents, other Councils and other levels of government – just as we are doing right now.

My fellow Councillors I call on your support for this resolution as this is a battle where there will be no winners and one where Council has an obligation to the whole community – not just one group.

63 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Noakes and Hicks that Walcha Council take a neutral position in relation to the Winterbourne Wind Project noting:



1. Walcha Council continues its dialogue with Winterbourne Wind in relation to possible infrastructure agreements and community fund; and
2. Walcha Council lobbies strongly State & Federal Governments to ensure should project approval be achieved Walcha and its community benefit as much as possible from State Government approval.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

64 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Hicks that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Alcohol Free Zone Walcha Proposal & Alcohol Prohibited Area McHattan Park Proposal Submissions WO/2022/03018

Clr Ferrier and Schaefer left the Chambers and took no part in the debate 3:08pm

- 65 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Berry that Council:
1. **NOTE** the completion of the consultation period for the proposed Alcohol Free Zone and Alcohol Prohibited Area and consider submissions received during the period.
 2. **APPROVE** the proposal with the following amendments:
 - a) that Hamilton Street, between Derby Street and South Street be added to the Alcohol Free Zone Walcha Proposal;
 - b) that 1W-5W Fitzroy Street be exempt from the proposed Alcohol Free Zone during opening hours of the Taphouse and under the condition that only alcohol purchased directly from the Taphouse be consumed at this location and in accordance with current liquor requirements for this premises.

Clr Ferrier & Schaefer returned to the Chambers at 3:11pm where the Chair advised them of the resolution.

6.2 Quarterly Review of Operational Plan & Budget as at September 2022 WO/2022/03044

- 66 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Schaefer that Council:
1. **ADOPT** the September 2022 Quarterly Budget Review Statements; and
 2. **APPROVE** the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed in the report.



6.3 Section 7.2 Contribution Plan

WO/2022/03037

67 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council **PREPARE**:

1. a draft Section 7.12 Contribution Plan for Council consideration; and
2. a suitable Work Schedule for inclusion in the Draft Section 7.2 Contribution Plan.

Being a **Planning Matter a Division** was called prior to voting on this matter and the result was as follows:

For: Councillors: Berry, Ferrier, Hicks, Kermode Noakes, Pointing & Schaefer.

Against: Nil.

Absent: Councillor Reilly

Declared Interest: Nil.

6.4 Waiving of Green Waste Disposal Fees – Quota Club of Walcha

WO/2022/03047

68 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that Council **APPROVE** waiving the Waste Management Facilities Green Waste Disposal Fees for the Walcha Quota Club's routine maintenance of Quota Park.

6.5 Waiving of After Hours Pool Hire Fees – Walcha Flippers Swimming Club

WO/2022/03040

69 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Pointing that Council:

1. **APPROVE** waiving 50% of the After Hours Pool Hire Fees for the Walcha Flippers Swimming Club for the 2022-2023 season, amounting to \$1,391.25 from the full fee of \$2,782.50;
2. Given the Financial Sustainability Review no further waiving of fees will be considered by Council.

6.6 Updated Administration Policies – Social Media Policy

WO/2022/02795

70 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schaefer and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** the Social Media Policy as presented.

6.7 Arrangements for Christmas for Council Staff

WO/2022/02989

71 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Kermode that Council:



1. **ALLOW** the combined Staff Christmas Party to be held during working hours on Thursday 22 December 2022 from 12:30pm;
2. A donation of \$3,000 be **MADE** towards the cost of the Function.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1 Notice of Motion # 25: New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council trading as New England Weeds Authority

WO/2022/03041

72 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council **AUTHORISE** the General Manager to prepare a report for Council on the value for money and risk profile for Walcha Council in relation to Council's ongoing membership of the New England Weeds Authority including such expenditure as required within budget on legal advice.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2022/03070

73 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Hicks that items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.2 Infrastructure

WO/2022/03025

74 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schaefer and Pointing that items included in the Infrastructure Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.3 Environment & Development

WO/2022/03038

75 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Hicks that items included in the Environment & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.4 Community & Tourism

WO/2022/03004

76 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that items included in the Community & Tourism Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.



9.5 Corporate & Finance

WO/2022/03052

77 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Ferrier that items included in the Corporate & Finance Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

78 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Hicks that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Committee Reports as presented.

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 07 September 2022 at the Walcha Community Care Office.

WO/2022/02786

79 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** the Draft Walcha Council Community Care and Walcha Council Early Intervention Policy Manual as presented.

10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Motorcycle Rally Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 14 October 2022 in the Council Chambers.

WINT/2022/06123

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

Nil.

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

12.1 Detailed Motorcycle Rally Budget

WO/2022/03039

80 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that the Report was **NOTED** by Council.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:45PM.