



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 17 February 2016
2:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

Members:

Mayor – Councillor Janelle Archdale
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Scott Schmutter
Councillor Kevin Ferrier
Councillor Bill Heazlett
Councillor Lloyd Levingston
Councillor Clint Lyon
Councillor Robert Thomson
Councillor Maria Woods

Quorum – 5 Members to be Present

WO/2016/00140

AGENDA

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Dear Mayor and Councillors

You are requested to attend the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on **Wednesday, 17 February 2016** commencing at **2:00pm**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack O'Hara'.

Jack O'Hara
GENERAL MANAGER

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1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
 - 2.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 December 2015, at Walcha Council Chambers. WO/2015/02336
 - 2.2 Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 21 December 2015 at Walcha Council Chambers. WO/2015/02360
3. Business Arising
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Mayoral Minute
6. Senior Officers Reports
 - 6.1 Landfill Consolidation and Environment Improvements Grant Funding WO/2016/0137
 - 6.2 Quarterly Review Budget Statements as at 31 December 2015 WO/2016/00144
 - 6.3 Adopt Amended Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW WO/2016/00139
7. Notice of Motion
8. Matters of Urgency
(Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



9. Management Review Report WO/2016/00104

10. Committee Reports

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Care Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 15 December 2015. WO/2016/00147

11. Delegate Reports

11.1 Minutes of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council, New England Weeds Authority, held in Armidale on Wednesday, 28 October 2015. WI/2016/00631

11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation General Meeting held at Liverpool Plains Shire Council on Thursday 2 February 2016. WI/2016/00599

12. Committee of the Whole

Resolution to adjourn the Ordinary Meeting and to move into Committee of the Whole and to exclude the Press and the Public from the entire proceedings of the Committee Meeting.

Resolution to move into Open Council.

Resolution to adopt Committee of the Whole Report and Recommendations.



Present:

Apologies:

**Confirmation of the Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday,
16 December 2015:**

**Confirmation of the Extra Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Monday,
21 December 2015:**

**Matters arising from the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 December
2015:**

**Matters arising from the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 21 December
2015:**

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 16 December 2015

at

4.00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Cllr SJ Schmutter (Chairman) Deputy Mayor together with Councillors KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, L Levingston, CM Lyon, RS Thomson and MJ Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager, and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

1. APOLOGIES:

93 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Levingston that the apology received from Councillor Archdale, being personal reasons, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2015:

94 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 November 2015, 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: 6.2 Request from Rotary Club of Walcha to consider Toilet Amenities being installed in John Oxley Cairn WO/2015/02244

Clr Ferrier declared a pecuniary interest in this matter being the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Walcha.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

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

6.1 Public Feedback regarding Renaming of McKeatons Bridge

WO/2015/02291

96 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that Council continue with the renaming process as per Regulations.

6.2 Request from Rotary Club of Walcha to Consider Toilet Amenities being installed in John Oxley Cairn **WO/2015/02295**

Clr Ferrier left the Chambers and took no part in the debate.

97 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Woods that Council do not support the construction of a toilet block at this time at John Oxley Cairn **FURTHER THAT** Council respond in writing to the Rotary Club of Walcha advising of Council's decision, noting the work that the Rotary Club accomplishes is appreciated by Council.



Clr Ferrier returned to the Chambers and the Chairman conveyed Council's recommendation to him.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS **WO/2015/02289**

98 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Thomson that items included in the Management Review Report numbered 1 to 13 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Meeting held on 2 December 2015. **WO/2015/02272**

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

11.1 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 27 November 2015.

11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation General Meeting held on Friday, 27 November 2015.

12. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Nil.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:15PM.



EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 21 December 2015

at

6:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Clr JM Archdale (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, L Levingston, CM Lyon, SJ Schmutter, RS Thomson and MJ Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

1. APOLOGIES:

Nil.

MINUTES



2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

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

3.1 Response to Government's Proposal to Merge Walcha Council to Tamworth Regional Council

100 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Walcha Council call on the Minister for Local Government to withdraw the proposal for Walcha Council to merge with Tamworth Regional Council as it no longer has Walcha's support **DUE TO**:

- ❖ The re-emergence of the Rural Council Model.
- ❖ Walcha Council being treated differently to other similar Rural Councils.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:15PM.



Item 6:

Senior Officers'

Reports

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2016/00137
Title: Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Grant Funding
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not applicable
Attachment: No

Introduction:

In August 2015 Council applied for funding under the NSW Government's Waste Less, Recycle More Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Grants Program. The program is designed to support rural councils' move towards improved, benchmark techniques for managing landfills.

The program has a total of \$7 million in funding with individual grants up to \$200,000. For successful applications the grant funding covers up to 70 per cent of the total cost with the remainder being met by Council contributions.

Three separate applications for funding under Round 2 of the Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements grants were submitted:

1. Walcha Landfill Environmental Improvement Works - \$197,960
2. Woolbrook Landfill closure - \$95,000
3. Nowendoc Landfill Environmental Improvement Works - \$60,360

Council proposed that if successful the projects could be undertaken during the 2016/17 Financial Year. Last month Council received advice that the applications for Woolbrook and Nowendoc were successful, but with a reduced funding amount of \$91,000 offered for the Woolbrook project.

Report:

The two successful applications for grant funding are summarised as:

1. Woolbrook Landfill closure and conversion to a Waste Transfer Station:
 - ◆ The existing landfill cell is closed, reshaped, compacted and capped.
 - ◆ Internal roads and hardstand areas (sacrificed during closure and remediation works) be re-instated to current standard (ie: compacted gravel).
 - ◆ Fencing, signage, recycling / waste bins are installed to enable the site to function as a Waste Transfer Station where general waste and recyclable materials are contained on site before being transported for disposal or recovery.
2. Nowendoc Landfill Environmental Improvement Works:
 - ◆ Fencing, signage, recycling / waste bins are installed along with surface water diversion shaping works.
This will improve security at the site, enhance recyclable material separation (allowing suitable materials to be contained on site before being transported for recovery / reprocessing) and will improve surface water management around the remaining landfill area.

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



SUMMARY	Woolbrook	Nowendoc
WLRM Funding	91,000	60,360
Council Funding	14,000	1,000
In-Kind Contributions	31,800	24,200
Total Project Value	136,800	85,560

Management of Walcha's waste is a challenge which imposes significant costs upon the community to manage. The 'costs' include the more obvious direct financial burdens but also include less apparent environmental and social impacts.

The Woolbrook landfill has limited capacity for filling remaining at the site. Pertinent for both sites is the increasing environmental compliance requirements, along with the level of scrutiny by regulatory agencies. The Woolbrook and Nowendoc community's expectations regarding their waste service needs are rising. Thus acceptance of the funding from the NSW Government for both landfills would be timely to assist with improved management of Walcha's waste.

NB: Converting the Woolbrook landfill to a waste transfer station requires community consultation and closure design approval from the EPA prior to project work commencing onsite.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Council to accept the funding offers by signing and returning the Deeds of Agreement FURTHER THAT approving the Council Funding and In-Kind Contribution amounts to be incorporated in the 2016/17 Financial Year budget.



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2016/00144
Title: Quarterly Review of Operational Plan & Budget as at December 2015
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Yes – Quarterly Budget Review Statements attached separately.

December Quarter Budget Review

The December Quarter Budget Review is attached for adoption by Council.

General Fund

The September review predicted a deficit of \$61,000. This is now predicted to be a surplus of \$80,409. The main reasons for this are an increase in revenue from State Roads maintenance and additional capital funding for bridge replacement.

Operating Income is expected to increase by \$1,038,777 while Operating Expenses are expected to increase by \$628,243.

General Fund Major Budget Variation Items - Quarter Ending December 2015

Income Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
Administration Revenue	\$9,009	Favourable	Service NSW contract fees, increased insurance claims
Sundry Income	\$20,592	Favourable	Statewide Mutual rebate \$9,742, StateCover WHS incentive \$13,667
Profit on Sale of Investment	\$106,941	Favourable	Dividend payment received from Lehman CDO, offset by \$75,856 legal fees
Health – inspection fees	\$64,500	Unfavourable	Septic tank inspection fees not proceeding in current year
Waste Management annual charges	\$40,541	Favourable	Incorrect budget income entered on Domestic and Other Waste
Preschool grant income	\$12,281	Favourable	Additional funding for CPOG & increase in operating grant
HACC user fees	\$21,000	Favourable	Increased user charges & prior year receipts from TCT bus (Uralla)
HACC grant funding	\$15,000	Favourable	Transitional funding received
DA & town planning fees	\$7,000	Favourable	Increase in revenue
Other sport ground & recreation grant funding	\$150,000	Unfavourable	Funding not available (swimming pool capital works)

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Income Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
Construction & building certificates	\$4,000	Favourable	Increase in revenue
State Roads RMAP & RMCC	\$903,182	Favourable	Increase ordered works
Street Lighting contribution	\$15,356	Favourable	Northern Lights Project
Bridges, local rural sealed roads	\$170,000	Favourable	Fixing timber bridges funding
Concrete batching plant	\$80,000	Unfavourable	Not being operated
Profit on sale of buildings	\$8,375	Favourable	Industrial block, Beaver Place
Bridges Renewal Programme	\$639,500	Favourable	Funding for Aberaldie, Flags Niangala & Kangaroo Flats bridges

Expenditure Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
Elected members contributions	\$24,700	Unfavourable	Increase Namoi Councils membership
Admin legal fees	\$13,000	Unfavourable	Increase legal fees for ongoing Lehmans cases
IMF settlement legal fees	\$75,856	Unfavourable	Lehman settlement
Insurance costs	\$32,224	Favourable	Decrease insurance premiums – Corporate Services \$19,223, Engineering \$13,001
OHS/ Consultative Committee	\$9,742	Unfavourable	Echelon risk management, funded from Statewide rebate
HR expenses	\$69,000	Favourable	No HR in place
Animal Control costs	\$13,000	Favourable	No ranger & Septic tank inspections
Health Admin costs	\$32,000	Favourable	No septic tank inspections
Waste Management Services	\$21,744	Unfavourable	Increase operating costs, offset by increase in revenue
Preschool	\$12,281	Unfavourable	Utilise additional funding
HACC transitional	\$15,000	Unfavourable	Utilise additional funding
Library wages	\$13,000	Favourable	Decrease wages costs
Bridges local rural sealed roads	\$220,000	Unfavourable	Fixing Timber Bridges, partially offset by \$170,000 funding, carry over from prior year.
State Roads Maintenance costs	\$456,870	Unfavourable	Increase RMAP/RMCC works

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..... General Manager Mayor



Expenditure Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
Concrete batching plant costs	\$62,476	Favourable	Not being operated
Sporting ground	\$10,455	Unfavourable	Funding received 2014/15 – Carry Over
Swimming Pool capital works	\$150,000	Favourable	Funding not available
Swimming Pool safety upgrade	\$13,667	Unfavourable	Funded from StateCover WHS incentive
Swimming Pool shade sails	\$9,202	Unfavourable	Original contractor unable to complete
Replace street lights, LEDs	\$16,078	Unfavourable	Northern Lights Project, additional funds received

Reserve Transfers

In view of the current financial position, the following Reserve transfer is recommended:

- \$446,312 be transferred to the Infrastructure Replacement Reserve. This will take the Infrastructure Reserve balance to \$857,635

Water Fund

The September budget review predicted a deficit of \$217,062, funded from the Reserves. The projected year end result after the December Review is a reduced deficit of \$167,000. This is due to some capital works being postponed. There was also capital works removed for which there was no funding available.

Income Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
Off Creek storage emergency works	\$1,500,000	Unfavourable	Project will not be carried out in current financial year

Expenditure Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
Filter media replacement	\$50,000	Favourable	Work postponed
Off Creek storage emergency works	\$1,500,000	Favourable	Project will not be carried out in current financial year

Sewer Fund

The September budget predicted a deficit of \$636,009, funded from the Reserves. The projected year end result at the December quarter is a reduced deficit of \$169,764. This is mainly due to capital works funding not being available.

Income Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
STP Upgrade (STCWSS 50/50 with Council)	\$500,000	Unfavourable	Project will not be carried out in current financial year

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Expenditure Item	Amount	Favourable/ Unfavourable	Reason
Land acquisition	\$26,999	Unfavourable	Not in original budget
STP Upgrade (STCWSS 50/50 with Council)	\$1,000,000	Favourable	Project will not be carried out in current financial year
Tertiary pond curtains	\$20,000	Favourable	Work postponed

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the December 2015 Quarterly Budget Review Statements FURTHER THAT Council approve the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed.

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2016/00139
Title: Adopt Amended Model Code of Conduct due to Commencement of the Local Government Amendment (Councillor Misconduct and Poor Performance Act) 2015
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Yes – Amended Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW

Introduction:

This report relates to the *Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993* made by the *Local Government (Councillor Misconduct and Poor Performance) Act 2015* which commenced on 13 November 2015.

Report:

Councillors and General Managers must note the following:

- ◆ As of the commencement date, Councillors who have previously been suspended on two or more occasions will be automatically disqualified from holding office in a Council for 5 years if they are suspended on a further occasion. The Office has written directly to Councillors who have been suspended on two or more occasions to inform them of this change.
- ◆ The definition of “misconduct” has been expanded to include acts or omissions by Councillors that are intended to prevent the proper or effective functioning of a council or a committee of a Council (eg: by disrupting decision making). Penalties for Councillor misconduct include suspension and disqualification from holding office.
- ◆ Councillors will no longer be permitted to participate in the consideration of the making, amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant part of their local government area they have pecuniary interests in unless:
 - ❖ The only interests affected by the changes are the interests they or their relatives have in their principal places of residence; **and**
 - ❖ They have made a special disclosure of the affected interest.
- ◆ This amendment is complemented by an amendment to clause 4.29 of the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* which also commenced on 13 November 2015. The amendment will mean that councillors with significant non-pecuniary conflicts of interests in the making, amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant part of their local government area will no longer be permitted to participate in consideration of those matters unless:
 - ❖ The only interests affected by the changes relate to the interest a person (eg: a close friend or affiliate of a Councillor) has in their principal place of residence; and
 - ❖ The Councillor has disclosed the affected interests.

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Notice is no longer required of a motion to censure a Councillor for misconduct under Section 440G. Under the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, Councils can only formally censure a Councillor for misconduct where this is recommended in a report by an independent investigator. This will be reported to the Council under cover of a staff report by a Council's complaints coordinator.

Other Key Changes:

The amendments are also designed to:

- ◆ Ensure a faster but fair investigation process for Councillor misconduct.
- ◆ Remove impediments to effective action in response to serious corrupt conduct;
- ◆ Maximise the effectiveness of Performance Improvement Orders issued by the Minister for Local Government to a Council; and
- ◆ More effectively address Council maladministration.

Attached as Appendix A is the amended *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* with the changes highlighted.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council ADOPT the AMENDED *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* as presented.

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Appendix A



Walcha Council Code of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW

November 2015

*Adopted by Council February 2013 – 128/2012-2013
Amended & Adopted by Council February 2016 –*

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



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PART 1 INTRODUCTION

This Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (“the Model Code of Conduct”) is made for the purposes of section 440 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (“the Act”). Section 440 of the Act requires every council to adopt a code of conduct that incorporates the provisions of the Model Code. For the purposes of section 440 of the Act, the Model Code of Conduct comprises all parts of this document.

Councillors, administrators, members of staff of council, independent conduct reviewers, members of council committees including the conduct review committee and delegates of the council must comply with the applicable provisions of council’s code of conduct in carrying out their functions as council officials. It is the personal responsibility of council officials to comply with the standards in the code and regularly review their personal circumstances with this in mind.

Failure by a councillor to comply with the standards of conduct prescribed under this code constitutes misconduct for the purposes of the Act. The Act provides for a range of penalties that may be imposed on councillors for misconduct, including suspension or disqualification from civic office. A Councillor who has been suspended on three or more occasions for misconduct is automatically disqualified from holding civic office for five years.

Failure by a member of staff to comply with council’s code of conduct may give rise to disciplinary action.

A better conduct guide has also been developed to assist councils to review and enhance their codes of conduct. This guide supports this code and provides further information on the provisions in this code.

PART 2 PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Model Code of Conduct sets the minimum requirements of conduct for council officials in carrying out their functions. The Model Code is prescribed by regulation.

The Model Code of Conduct has been developed to assist council officials to:

- understand the standards of conduct that are expected of them
- enable them to fulfil their statutory duty to act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence (section 439)
- act in a way that enhances public confidence in the integrity of local government.



PART 3 GENERAL CONDUCT OBLIGATIONS

General conduct

- 3.1 You must not conduct yourself in carrying out your functions in a manner that is likely to bring the council or holders of civic office into disrepute. Specifically, you must not act in a way that:
- a) contravenes the Act, associated regulations, council’s relevant administrative requirements and policies
 - b) is detrimental to the pursuit of the charter of a council
 - c) is improper or unethical
 - d) is an abuse of power or otherwise amounts to misconduct
 - e) causes, comprises or involves intimidation, harassment or verbal abuse
 - f) causes, comprises or involves discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to employment
 - g) causes, comprises or involves prejudice in the provision of a service to the community. (*Schedule 6A*)
- 3.2 You must act lawfully, honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out your functions under the Act or any other Act. (*section 439*)
- 3.3 You must treat others with respect at all times.

Fairness and equity

- 3.4 You must consider issues consistently, promptly and fairly. You must deal with matters in accordance with established procedures, in a non-discriminatory manner.
- 3.5 You must take all relevant facts known to you, or that you should be reasonably aware of, into consideration and have regard to the particular merits of each case. You must not take irrelevant matters or circumstances into consideration when making decisions.

Harassment and discrimination

- 3.6 You must not harass, discriminate against, or support others who harass and discriminate against colleagues or members of the public. This includes, but is not limited to harassment and discrimination on the grounds of sex, pregnancy, age, race, responsibilities as a carer, marital status, disability, homosexuality, transgender grounds or if a person has an infectious disease.

Development decisions

- 3.7 You must ensure that development decisions are properly made and that parties involved in the development process are dealt with fairly. You must avoid any occasion for suspicion of improper conduct in the development assessment process.



3.8 In determining development applications, you must ensure that no action, statement or communication between yourself and applicants or objectors conveys any suggestion of willingness to provide improper concessions or preferential treatment.

Binding caucus votes

3.9 You must not participate in binding caucus votes in relation to matters to be considered at a council or committee meeting.

3.10 For the purposes of clause 3.9, a binding caucus vote is a process whereby a group of councillors are compelled by a threat of disciplinary or other adverse action to comply with a predetermined position on a matter before the council or committee irrespective of the personal views of individual members of the group on the merits of the matter before the council or committee.

3.11 Clause 3.9 does not prohibit councillors from discussing a matter before the council or committee prior to considering the matter in question at a council or committee meeting or from voluntarily holding a shared view with other councillors on the merits of a matter.

3.12 Clause 3.9 does not apply to a decision to elect the Mayor or Deputy Mayor or to nominate a person to be a member of a council committee.

PART 4 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

4.1 A conflict of interests exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your public duty.

4.2 You must avoid or appropriately manage any conflict of interests. The onus is on you to identify a conflict of interests and take the appropriate action to manage the conflict in favour of your public duty.

4.3 Any conflict of interests must be managed to uphold the probity of council decision-making. When considering whether or not you have a conflict of interests, it is always important to think about how others would view your situation.

4.4 Private interests can be of two types: pecuniary or non-pecuniary.

What is a pecuniary interest?

4.5 A pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person. (*section 442*)

4.6 A person will also be taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter if that person's spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person or a partner or employer of the person, or a company or other body of which the person, or a nominee, partner or



employer of the person is a member, has a pecuniary interest in the matter. (*section 443*)

4.7 Pecuniary interests are regulated by Chapter 14, Part 2 of the Act. The Act requires that:

- a) councillors and designated persons lodge an initial and an annual written disclosure of interests that could potentially be in conflict with their public or professional duties (*section 449*)
- b) councillors and members of council committees disclose an interest and the nature of that interest at a meeting, leave the meeting and be out of sight of the meeting and not participate in discussions or voting on the matter (*section 451*)
- c) designated persons immediately declare, in writing, any pecuniary interest. (*section 459*)

4.8 Designated persons are defined at section 441 of the Act, and include, but are not limited to, the general manager and other senior staff of the council.

4.9 Where you are a member of staff of council, other than a designated person (as defined by section 441), you must disclose in writing to your supervisor or the general manager, the nature of any pecuniary interest you have in a matter you are dealing with as soon as practicable.

What are non-pecuniary interests?

4.10 Non-pecuniary interests are private or personal interests the council official has that do not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Act. These commonly arise out of family, or personal relationships, or involvement in sporting, social or other cultural groups and associations and may include an interest of a financial nature.

4.11 The political views of a councillor do not constitute a private interest.

Managing non-pecuniary conflict of interests

4.12 Where you have a non-pecuniary interest that conflicts with your public duty, you must disclose the interest fully and in writing, even if the conflict is not significant. You must do this as soon as practicable.

4.13 If a disclosure is made at a council or committee meeting, both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes. This disclosure constitutes disclosure in writing for the purposes of clause 4.12.

4.14 How you manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interests will depend on whether or not it is significant.

4.15 As a general rule, a non-pecuniary conflict of interests will be significant where a matter does not raise a pecuniary interest but it involves:

- a) a relationship between a council official and another person that is particularly close, for example, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle,



aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child of the person or of the person's spouse, current or former spouse or partner, de facto or other person living in the same household

- b) other relationships that are particularly close, such as friendships and business relationships. Closeness is defined by the nature of the friendship or business relationship, the frequency of contact and the duration of the friendship or relationship
- c) an affiliation between the council official and an organisation, sporting body, club, corporation or association that is particularly strong.

4.16 If you are a council official, other than a member of staff of council, and you have disclosed that a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interests exists, you must manage it in one of two ways:

- a) remove the source of the conflict, by relinquishing or divesting the interest that creates the conflict, or reallocating the conflicting duties to another council official
- b) have no involvement in the matter, by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as if the provisions in section 451(2) of the Act apply

4.17 If you determine that a non-pecuniary conflict of interests is less than significant and does not require further action, you must provide an explanation of why you consider that the conflict does not require further action in the circumstances.

4.18 If you are a member of staff of council, the decision on which option should be taken to manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interests must be made in consultation with your manager.

4.19 Despite clause 4.16(b), a councillor who has disclosed that a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interests exists may participate in a decision to delegate council's decision-making role to council staff **through the general manager**, or appoint another person or body to make the decision in accordance with the law. This applies whether or not council would be deprived of a quorum if one or more councillors were to manage their conflict of interests by not voting on a matter in accordance with clause 4.16(b) above.

Reportable political donations

4.20 Councillors should note that matters before council involving political or campaign donors may give rise to a non-pecuniary conflict of interests.

4.21 Where a councillor has received or knowingly benefitted from a reportable political donation:

- a) made by a major political donor in the previous four years, and
- b) where the major political donor has a matter before council,

then the councillor must declare a non-pecuniary conflict of interests, disclose the nature of the interest, and manage the conflict of interests in accordance with clause 4.16(b).



4.22 For the purposes of this Part:

- a) a “reportable political donation” is a “reportable political donation” for the purposes of section 86 of the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981*,
- b) a “major political donor” is a “major political donor” for the purposes of section 84 of the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981*.

4.23 Councillors should note that political **donations** below \$1,000, or political donations to a registered political party or group by which a councillor is endorsed, may still give rise to a non-pecuniary conflict of interests. Councillors should determine whether or not such conflicts are significant and take the appropriate action to manage them.

4.24 **If a councillor has received or knowingly benefitted from a reportable political donation** of the kind referred to in clause 4.21, that councillor is not prevented from participating in a decision to delegate council’s decision-making role to council staff **through the general manager** or appointing another person or body to make the decision in accordance with the law (see clause 4.19 above).

Loss of quorum as a result of compliance with this Part

4.25 Where a majority of councillors are precluded under this Part from consideration of a matter the council or committee must resolve to delegate consideration of the matter in question to another person.

4.26 Where a majority of councillors are precluded under this Part from consideration of a matter and the matter in question concerns the exercise of a function that may not be delegated under section 377 of the Act, the councillors may apply in writing to the Chief Executive to be exempted from complying with a requirement under this Part relating to the management of a non-pecuniary conflict of interests.

4.27 The Chief Executive will only exempt a councillor from complying with a requirement under this Part where:

- a) compliance by councillors with a requirement under the Part in relation to a matter will result in the loss of a quorum, and
- b) the matter relates to the exercise of a function of the council that may not be delegated under section 377 of the Act.

4.28 Where the Chief Executive exempts a councillor from complying with a requirement under this Part, the councillor must still disclose any interests they have in the matter the exemption applies to in accordance with the requirements of this Part.

4.29 A councillor, who would otherwise be precluded from participating in the consideration of a matter under this Part because they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interests in the matter, is permitted to participate in consideration of the matter, if:

- a) the matter is a proposal relating to

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..... General Manager Mayor



- i) the making of a principal environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, or
- ii) the amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument where the amendment, alteration or repeal applies to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, and
- b) the non-pecuniary conflict of interests arises only because of an interest that a person has in that person's principal place of residence, and**
- c) the councillor declares any interest they have in the matter that would otherwise have precluded their participation in consideration of the matter under this Part.

Other business or employment

4.30 If you are a member of staff of council considering outside employment or contract work that relates to the business of the council or that might conflict with your council duties, you must notify and seek the approval of the general manager in writing. (*section 353*)

4.31 As a member of staff, you must ensure that any outside employment or business you engage in will not:

- a) conflict with your official duties
- b) involve using confidential information or council resources obtained through your work with the council
- c) require you to work while on council duty
- d) discredit or disadvantage the council.

Personal dealings with council

4.32 You may have reason to deal with your council in your personal capacity (for example, as a ratepayer, recipient of a council service or applicant for a consent granted by council). You must not expect or request preferential treatment in relation to any matter in which you have a private interest because of your position. You must avoid any action that could lead members of the public to believe that you are seeking preferential treatment.

PART 5 PERSONAL BENEFIT

For the purposes of this section, a reference to a gift or benefit does not include a political donation or contribution to an election fund that is subject to the provisions of the relevant election funding legislation.

Gifts and benefits

5.1 You must avoid situations giving rise to the appearance that a person or body, through the provision of gifts, benefits or hospitality of any kind, is attempting to secure favourable treatment from you or from the council.

5.2 You must take all reasonable steps to ensure that your immediate family members do not receive gifts or benefits that give rise to the appearance of being an attempt



to secure favourable treatment. Immediate family members ordinarily include parents, spouses, children and siblings.

Token gifts and benefits

5.3 Generally speaking, token gifts and benefits include:

- a) free or subsidised meals, beverages or refreshments provided in conjunction with:
 - i) the discussion of official business
 - ii) council work related events such as training, education sessions, workshops
 - iii) conferences
 - iv) council functions or events
 - v) social functions organised by groups, such as council committees and community organisations
- b) invitations to and attendance at local social, cultural or sporting events
- c) gifts of single bottles of reasonably priced alcohol to individual council officials at end of year functions, public occasions or in recognition of work done (such as providing a lecture/training session/address)
- d) ties, scarves, coasters, tie pins, diaries, chocolates or flowers
- e) prizes of token value.

Gifts and benefits of value

5.4 Notwithstanding clause 5.3, gifts and benefits that have more than a token value include, but are not limited to, tickets to major sporting events (such as state or international cricket matches or matches in other national sporting codes (including the NRL, AFL, FFA, NBL)), corporate hospitality at a corporate facility at major sporting events, discounted products for personal use, the frequent use of facilities such as gyms, use of holiday homes, free or discounted travel.

How are offers of gifts and benefits to be dealt with?

5.5 You must not:

- a) seek or accept a bribe or other improper inducement
- b) seek gifts or benefits of any kind
- c) accept any gift or benefit that may create a sense of obligation on your part or may be perceived to be intended or likely to influence you in carrying out your public duty
- d) accept any gift or benefit of more than token value
- e) accept an offer of cash or a **cash-like gift**, regardless of the amount.

5.6 For the purposes of clause 5.5(e), a “cash-like gift” includes but is not limited to gift vouchers, credit cards, debit cards with credit on them, prepayments such as phone or internal credit, memberships or entitlements to discounts.

5.7 Where you receive a gift or benefit of more than token value that cannot reasonably be refused or returned, this must be disclosed promptly to your supervisor, the Mayor or the general manager. The recipient, supervisor, Mayor or general manager must ensure that any gifts or benefits of more than token value that are received are recorded in a Gifts Register. The gift or benefit must be

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..... General Manager Mayor



surrendered to council, unless the nature of the gift or benefit makes this impractical.

Improper and undue influence

5.8 You must not use your position to influence other council officials in the performance of their public or professional duties to obtain a private benefit for yourself or for somebody else. A councillor will not be in breach of this clause where they seek to influence other council officials through the appropriate exercise of their representative functions.

5.9 You must not take advantage (or seek to take advantage) of your status or position with or of functions you perform for council in order to obtain a private benefit for yourself or for any other person or body.

PART 6 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Obligations of councillors and administrators

6.1 Each council is a body **politic**. The councillors or administrator/s are the governing body of the council. The governing body has the responsibility of directing and controlling the affairs of the council in accordance with the Act and is responsible for policy determinations, for example, those relating to **workforce** policy.

6.2 Councillors or administrators must not:

- a) direct council staff other than by giving appropriate direction to the general manager in the performance of council's functions by way of council or committee resolution, or by the Mayor or administrator exercising their power under section 226 of the Act (*section 352*)
- b) in any public or private forum, direct or influence or attempt to direct or influence, any other member of the staff of the council or a delegate of the council in the exercise of the functions of the member or delegate (*Schedule 6A of the Act*)
- c) contact a member of the staff of the council on council related business unless in accordance with the policy and procedures governing the interaction of councillors and council staff that have been authorised by the council and the general manager
- d) contact or issue instructions to any of council's contractors or tenderers, including council's legal advisers, unless by the Mayor or administrator exercising their power under section 226 of the Act. **This does not apply to council's external auditors or the Chair of council's audit committee who may be provided with any information by individual councillors reasonably necessary for the external auditor or audit committee to effectively perform their functions.**



Obligations of staff

- 6.3 The general manager is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the council's organisation and for ensuring the implementation of the decisions of the council without delay.
- 6.4 Members of staff of council must:
- a) give their attention to the business of council while on duty
 - b) ensure that their work is carried out efficiently, economically and effectively
 - c) carry out lawful directions given by any person having authority to give such directions
 - d) give effect to the lawful decisions, policies, and procedures of the council, whether or not the staff member agrees with or approves of them
 - e) ensure that any participation in political activities outside the service of the council does not conflict with the performance of their official duties.

Obligations during meetings

- 6.5 You must act in accordance with council's Code of Meeting Practice, if council has adopted one, and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* during council and committee meetings.
- 6.6 You must show respect to the chair, other council officials and any members of the public present during council and committee meetings or other formal proceedings of the council.

Inappropriate interactions

- 6.7 You must not engage in any of the following inappropriate interactions:
- a) Councillors and administrators approaching staff and staff organisations to discuss individual or operational staff matters other than broader workforce policy issues.
 - b) Council staff approaching councillors and administrators to discuss individual or operational staff matters other than broader workforce policy issues.
 - c) Council staff refusing to give information that is available to other councillors to a particular councillor.
 - d) Councillors and administrators who have lodged a development application with council, discussing the matter with council staff in staff-only areas of the council.
 - e) Councillors and administrators being overbearing or threatening to council staff.
 - f) Councillors and administrators making personal attacks on council staff in a public forum.
 - g) Councillors and administrators directing or pressuring council staff in the performance of their work, or recommendations they should make.
 - h) Council staff providing ad hoc advice to councillors and administrators without recording or documenting the interaction as they would if the advice was provided to a member of the community.



- i) Council staff meeting with **applicants or objectors** alone AND outside office hours to discuss applications or proposals.
- j) Councillors attending on-site inspection meetings with lawyers and/or consultants engaged by council associated with current or proposed legal proceedings unless permitted to do so by council's general manager or, in the case of the Mayor or administrator, exercising their power under section 226 of the Act.

PART 7 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COUNCIL RESOURCES

Councillor and administrator access to information

7.1 The general manager and public officer are responsible for ensuring that members of the public, councillors and administrators can gain access to the documents available under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

7.2 The general manager must provide councillors and administrators with information sufficient to enable them to carry out their civic office functions.

7.3 Members of staff of council must provide full and timely information to councillors and administrators sufficient to enable them to carry out their civic office functions and in accordance with council procedures.

7.4 Members of staff of council who provide any information to a particular councillor in the performance of their civic duties must also make it available to any other councillor who requests it and in accordance with council procedures.

7.5 Councillors and administrators who have a private (as distinct from civic) interest in a document of council have the same rights of access as any member of the public.

Councillors and administrators to properly examine and consider information

7.6 Councillors and administrators must properly examine and consider all the information provided to them relating to matters that they are dealing with to enable them to make a decision on the matter in accordance with council's charter.

Refusal of access to documents

7.7 Where the general manager and public officer determine to refuse access to a document sought by a councillor or administrator they must act reasonably. In reaching this decision they must take into account whether or not the document sought is required for the councillor or administrator to perform their civic duty (see clause 7.2). The general manager or public officer must state the reasons for the decision if access is refused.

Use of certain council information

7.8 In regard to information obtained in your capacity as a council official, you must:

- a) only access council information needed for council business
- b) not use that council information for private purposes

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..... General Manager Mayor



- c) not seek or obtain, either directly or indirectly, any financial benefit or other improper advantage for yourself, or any other person or body, from any information to which you have by virtue of your office or position with council
- d) only release council information in accordance with established council policies and procedures and in compliance with relevant legislation.

Use and security of confidential information

7.9 You must maintain the integrity and security of confidential documents or information in your possession, or for which you are responsible.

7.10 In addition to your general obligations relating to the use of council information, you must:

- a) protect confidential information
- b) only release confidential information if you have authority to do so
- c) only use confidential information for the purpose it is intended to be used
- d) not use confidential information gained through your official position for the purpose of securing a private benefit for yourself or for any other person
- e) not use confidential information with the intention to cause harm or detriment to your council or any other person or body
- f) not disclose any information discussed during a confidential session of a council meeting.

Personal information

7.11 When dealing with personal information you must comply with:

- a) *the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- b) *the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*
- c) the Information Protection Principles and Health Privacy Principles
- d) council's privacy management plan
- e) the Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government

Use of council resources

7.12 You must use council resources ethically, effectively, efficiently and carefully in the course of your official duties, and must not use them for private purposes (except when supplied as part of a contract of employment) unless this use is lawfully authorised and proper payment is made where appropriate.

7.13 Union delegates and consultative committee members may have reasonable access to council resources for the purposes of carrying out their industrial responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- a) the representation of members with respect to disciplinary matters
- b) the representation of employees with respect to grievances and disputes
- c) functions associated with the role of the local consultative committee.



- 7.14 You must be scrupulous in your use of council property, including intellectual property, official services and facilities, and must not permit their misuse by any other person or body.
- 7.15 You must avoid any action or situation that could create the appearance that council property, official services or public facilities are being improperly used for your benefit or the benefit of any other person or body.
- 7.16 You must not use council resources, property or facilities for the purpose of assisting your election campaign or the election campaign of others unless the resources, property or facilities are otherwise available for use or hire by the public and any publicly advertised fee is paid for use of the resources, property or facility.
- 7.17 You must not use council letterhead, council crests and other information that could give the appearance it is official council material for:
 - a) the purpose of assisting your election campaign or the election campaign of others, or
 - b) for other non-official purposes.
- 7.18 You must not convert any property of the council to your own use unless properly authorised.
- 7.19 You must not use council's computer resources to search for, access, download or communicate any material of an offensive, obscene, pornographic, threatening, abusive or defamatory nature.

Councillor access to council buildings

- 7.20 Councillors and administrators are entitled to have access to the council chamber, committee room, mayor's office (subject to availability), councillors' rooms, and public areas of council's buildings during normal business hours and for meetings. Councillors and administrators needing access to these facilities at other times must obtain authority from the general manager.
- 7.21 Councillors and administrators must not enter staff-only areas of council buildings without the approval of the general manager (or delegate) or as provided in the procedures governing the interaction of councillors and council staff.
- 7.22 Councillors and administrators must ensure that when they are within a staff area they avoid giving rise to the appearance that they may improperly influence council staff decisions.

PART 8 MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THIS CODE

- 8.1 You must not conduct yourself in a manner that is likely to undermine confidence in the integrity of this code or its administration.

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..... General Manager Mayor



Complaints made for an improper purpose

- 8.2 You must not make a complaint or cause a complaint to be made under this code for an improper purpose.
- 8.3 For the purposes of clause 8.2, a complaint is made for an improper purpose where it is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith, or where it otherwise lacks merit and has been made substantially for one or more of the following purposes:
- a) to intimidate or harass another council official
 - b) to damage another council official's reputation
 - c) to obtain a political advantage
 - d) to influence a council official in the exercise of their official functions or to prevent or disrupt the exercise of those functions
 - e) to influence the council in the exercise of its functions or to prevent or disrupt the exercise of those functions
 - f) to avoid disciplinary action under this code
 - g) to take reprisal action against a person for making a complaint under this code except as may be otherwise specifically permitted under this code
 - h) to take reprisal action against a person for exercising a function prescribed under the procedures for the administration of this code except as may be otherwise specifically permitted under this code
 - i) to prevent or disrupt the effective administration of this code.

Detrimental action

- 8.4 You must not take detrimental action or cause detrimental action to be taken against a person substantially in reprisal for a complaint they have made under this code except as may be otherwise specifically permitted under this code.
- 8.5 You must not take detrimental action or cause detrimental action to be taken against a person substantially in reprisal for any function they have exercised under this code except as may be otherwise specifically permitted under this code.
- 8.6 For the purposes of clauses 8.4 and 8.5 detrimental action is an action causing, comprising or involving any of the following:
- a) injury, damage or loss
 - b) intimidation or harassment
 - c) discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to employment
 - d) dismissal from, or prejudice in, employment
 - e) disciplinary proceedings.

Compliance with requirements under this code

- 8.7 You must not engage in conduct that is calculated to impede or disrupt the consideration of a matter under this code.
- 8.8 You must comply with a reasonable and lawful request made by a person exercising a function under this code.



- 8.9 You must comply with a practice ruling made by the **Office** of Local Government.
- 8.10 Where you are a councillor or the general manager, you must comply with any council resolution requiring you to take action as a result of a breach of this code.

Disclosure of information about the consideration of a matter under this code

- 8.11 You must report breaches of this code in accordance with the reporting requirements under this code.
- 8.12 You must not make allegations of suspected breaches of this code at council meetings or in other public forums.
- 8.13 You must not disclose information about the consideration of a matter under this code except for the purposes of seeking legal advice unless the disclosure is otherwise permitted under this code.

Complaints alleging a breach of this part

- 8.14 Complaints alleging a breach of this Part (Part 8) by a councillor, the general manager or an administrator are to be made to the **Office** of Local Government.
- 8.15 Complaints alleging a breach of this Part by other council officials are to be made to the general manager.



PART 9 DEFINITIONS

In the Model Code of Conduct the following definitions apply:

the Act	the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .
act of disorder	see the definition in clause 256 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
administrator	an administrator of a council appointed under the Act other than an administrator appointed under section 66
Chief Executive	Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet
committee	a council committee
conflict of interests	a conflict of interests exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your public duty
council committee	a committee established by resolution of Council
“council committee member”	a person other than a councillor or member of staff of a council who is a member of a council committee
council official	includes councillors, members of staff of council, administrators, council committee members, conduct reviewers and delegates of council
councillor	a person elected or appointed to civic office and includes a Mayor
delegate of council	a person (other than a councillor or member of staff of a council) or body, and the individual members of that body, to whom a function of the council is delegated.
Designated person	see the definition in section 441 of the Act
Election campaign	includes council, State and Federal election campaigns
personal information	information or an opinion about a person whose identity is apparent, or can be ascertained from the information or opinion
the Regulation	the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i>

the term “you” used in the Model Code of Conduct refers to council officials.

The phrase, “this code” used in the Model Code of Conduct refers also to the procedures for the administration of the Model Code of Conduct prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

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..... General Manager Mayor



Ref: WO/2016/00104

Title: Management Review Report
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Item 9:

Management Review Reports

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Librarian's Report:

No report is available.

Librarian

2. Listing of Bank Balances for the Month of December 2015 & January 2016

The Cash Book for each Fund has been reconciled with the appropriate Bank Pass sheets for the Month of December 2015 and January 2016 and the Reconciliations have been entered in the Cash Book.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>December 2015</u>		
General	\$3,031,294.36	\$1,877,607.90
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>January 2016</u>		
General	\$1,847,958.75	\$1,729,036.21
Interest Earned (YTD)	\$ 32,470.36	\$ 21,969.84

The current Interest Rate on the General Fund held with the National Australia Bank is 3.00%.

3. Investments (Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, Clause 19 (3) (A) For December 2015 & January 2016

Please see the following Report for the investments placed in December 2015 and January 2016.

Overdraft Limit

An Overdraft Limit of \$200,000 has been arranged with the National Australia Bank. When utilised an Overdraft Interest Rate of 10.32% applies.

Jack O'Hara
GENERAL MANAGER

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

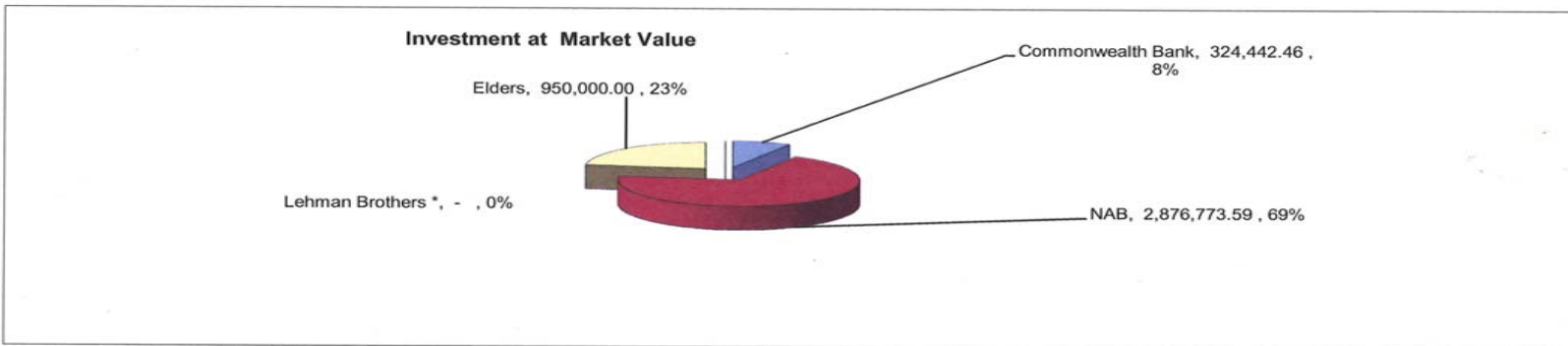
..... General Manager Mayor



REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 31/12/2015

Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Rate	Est. Interest	YTD Interest	Amount Invested	YTD Redemption	Est. Market Value At 31/12/15	Estimated Loss CDO and FRN	Actual Loss CDO and FRN	MV % of Portfolio
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit	17/05/2015	240	17-Jan-16	3.05%	6506.63	0.00	324,442.46	-	324,442.46	0.00	0.00	7.82%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	17/09/2015	180	17-Mar-16	2.95%	13882.96	4290.42	954,290.42	-	954,290.42	0.00	0.00	22.99%
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	28/08/2015	180	28-Feb-16	2.85%	13352.05	14839.52	950,000.00	-	950,000.00	0.00	0.00	22.88%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	5/12/2015	183	05-Jun-16	2.90%	13812.74	2778.09	950,000.00	-	950,000.00	0.00	0.00	22.88%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	9/09/2015	180	09-Mar-16	2.90%	13907.84	6904.55	972,483.17	-	972,483.17	0.00	0.00	23.43%
						61,462	28812.58	4,151,216.05	-	4,151,216.05	0.00	0.00	100.00%
Lehman Brothers													
Morgan Stanley	CDO	Prior to 30/06/2009	365	20/06/2015	4.20%	-	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00%
						-	-	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00%
grand totals						28,812.58	28,812.58	4,163,216.05	12,000.00	4,151,216.05	0.00	0.00	100.00%

Capital Value of Portfolio	4,163,216.05
Redeemed Value of Portfolio	12,000.00
Market Value of Portfolio 31/12/15	4,151,216.05
Estimated Profit/(Loss) 31/12/15	0.00



Responsible accounting Officers Certification Local Government (General) Regulation 2005- Paragraph 212
 The investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Walcha Council's Investment Policy

Signed Rosemary Strobel (Responsible Accounting Officer)

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

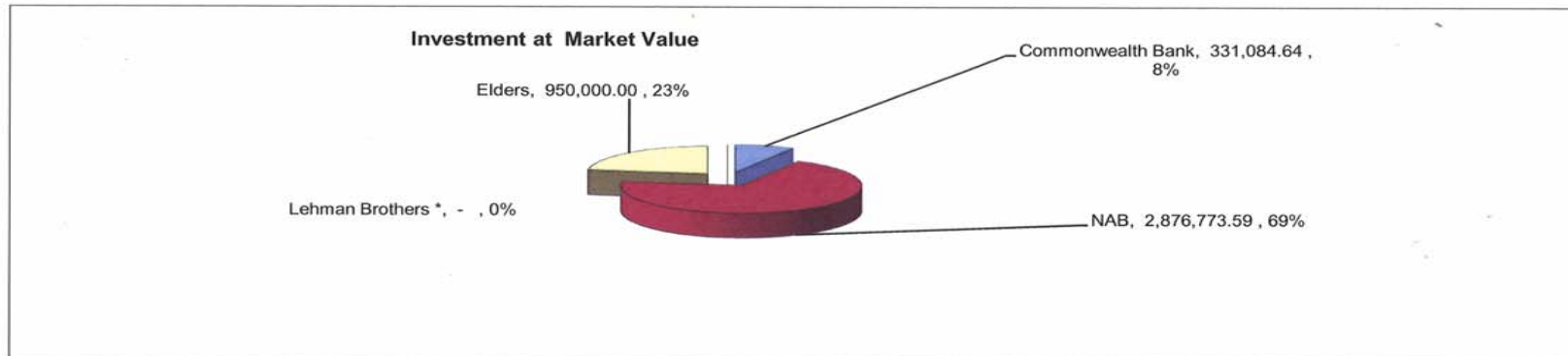
..... General Manager Mayor



REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 31/01/2016

Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Rate	Est. Interest	YTD Interest	Amount Invested	YTD Redemption	Est. Market Value At 31/01/16	Estimated Loss CDO and FRN	Actual Loss CDO and FRN	MV % of Portfolio
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit	17/01/2016	240	17-Sep-16	2.80%	6095.59	6642.18	331,084.64	-	331,084.64	0.00		7.96%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	17/09/2015	180	17-Mar-16	2.95%	13882.96	4290.42	954,290.42	-	954,290.42	0.00		22.95%
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	28/08/2015	180	28-Feb-16	2.85%	13352.05	14839.52	950,000.00	-	950,000.00	0.00		22.85%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	5/12/2015	183	05-Jun-16	2.90%	13812.74	2778.09	950,000.00	-	950,000.00	0.00		22.85%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	9/09/2015	180	09-Mar-16	2.90%	13907.84	6904.55	972,483.17	-	972,483.17	0.00		23.39%
						61,051	35454.76	4,157,858.23	-	4,157,858.23	0.00		100.00%
Lehman Brothers		Prior to											
Morgan Stanley	CDO	30/06/2009	365	20/06/2015	4.20%	-	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	0.00		0.00%
						-	-	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00%
grand totals							35,454.76	4,169,858.23	12,000.00	4,157,858.23	0.00	0.00	100.00%

Capital Value of Portfolio	4,169,858.23
Redeemed Value of Portfolio	12,000.00
Market Value of Portfolio 31/01/16	4,157,858.23
Estimated Profit/(Loss) 31/01/16	0.00



Responsible accounting Officers Certification Local Government (General) Regulation 2005- Paragraph 212

The investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Walcha Council's Investment Policy

Signed Rosemary Strobel (Responsible Accounting Officer)

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



4. Work, Health & Safety

December 2015 Council recorded **NO** incidents within the workplace.
During the month of January 2016 Council recorded the following incidents within the workplace:

1 x Vehicle Incident – no injuries were sustained and only minor damage to the windscreen of the vehicle was recorded – Incident occurred 19 January 2016.

In December Loretta Blanch was awarded a Scholarship for \$2,800 from StateCover to complete her Diploma of Work Health and Safety to enable Walcha to remain a safe working environment. Also in December Walcha Council was lucky enough to win a \$10,000 WH&S Voucher to spend on a WH&S initiative, the Risk Coordinator is investigating the rollout of Ergonomic Furniture throughout the office. During January an audit of the First Aid Kits was commenced to ensure that Walcha Council remains compliant with the provision of First Aid in the workplace.

5. Tourism Report

January/February 2016

New Walcha Brochure

It has been a long time in the making however the final draft has been approved and is about to be sent off to the printers. This is exciting having a more up to date and upmarket brochure to promote our town and district.

New Walcha Tourism Website

Alternation have begun work on upgrading our website, I have had a look at the layout of it in its early stages and it looks fabulous. It is expected to be at an operational stage as early as this Friday.

Visitor Information Centre Meetings

We have introduced quarterly meetings for the tourism volunteers and staff. This will be a great opportunity to keep the communication lines open, inform people of changes or new items and will serve generally as a forum for any questions that need to be answered or information that needs to be passed on. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 February at the Visitor Information Centre.

Visitor Numbers

Each month we submit statistics to AVIC Aurora Research. Walk in numbers for January 2016 were up by 100 from the same period last year and telephone enquiries had doubled.

Country Music Festival visitors

Reportedly (*I was on holidays for this period*) there was a terrific buzz in town during the Country Music Festival as people stopped in Walcha on their way to or from the Festival in Tamworth. We had lots of visitors to the Information Centre.

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..... General Manager Mayor



The Mikado – Easter Sunday 27 March

The Mikado promotion is going well with several newspapers picking up the story from the first media release Lisa sent out (including a full page spread in the Northern Daily Leader). Posters and flyers are being circulated around Walcha and surrounding towns and advertising is booked in upcoming publications. Opera North West are holding their opera the weekend after ours with Teddy Tahu Rhodes as special guest and have done widespread promotion already. We are hopeful that our event will be more inviting due to the reasonably priced tickets and the fact it is an event for the whole family (free for kids under 12), and having Langford Homestead as the location will also hopefully be a big drawcard.

Events

Walcha Farmers Markets – Saturday 16 January 2016 - Was a little quieter in January is always quiet with a lot of people away on holidays. This January was no different however there was still good attendance from “regulars” that enjoyed the morning. The live music has proven to be very popular, often showcasing local talent.

Walcha Cup and Races – Friday - Saturday 5 – 6 February 2016 - Were remarkably well run and saw many locals and visitors from out of town supporting the event.

Golden Gate Rodeo - Saturday 9 January 2016 – Is always a popular event and was again well supported this year. We had a few enquiries specific to the Rodeo from people out of town planning to come to Walcha especially for the event.

Golden Gate Campdraft – Thursday - Sunday 14 - 17 January 2016 – One of the strongest Campdraft events in NSW due to it’s close proximity in time and location to the Tamworth finals, the Golden Gate Campdraft was again a success with large competitor entries and good crowds here to watch them for the whole four days.

Susie Crawford
Walcha Tourism Manager



ENGINEERING SERVICES

6. Wages & Overtime Summary

Pay Period	Week Ending	Overtime Hours	Amount (\$)
25	13/12/2015	116.75	6,000.59
26&28	20/12/2015 & 03/01/2016	53.50	2,432.03
27	27/12/2015	62.50	3,264.67
29	10/01/2016	48.25	2,556.24
30	17/01/2016	80.00	3,884.76
31	24/01/2016	59.00	2,890.03
32	31/01/2016	64.00	3,310.58
TOTAL		484.00	\$24,338.90

7. Water Matters

Level 2 – introduced January 2016 – Targe Usage 190 – 230 Litres / Person / Day

Water usage for the month of December 2015 was as follows:

- ❖ Monthly Usage – 16.3 Megalitres (5 week month)
- ❖ Daily Usage – 517 Kilolitres
- ❖ Usage per person per day – 309 Litres

Water usage for the month of January 2016 was as follows:

- ❖ Monthly Usage – 12.23 Megalitres (4 week month)
- ❖ Daily Usage – 395 Kilolitres
- ❖ Usage per person per day – 295 Litres

8. Shire Roads Maintenance

The following maintenance activities occurred during the period from 11 December 2015 – 11 February 2016:

Gravel Surface:

The following roads received maintenance grading during this period:

- ❖ Ohio North Road
- ❖ Kangaroo Flat Road
- ❖ Mooraback Road
- ❖ Clonmel Road
- ❖ Bloomfield's Road
- ❖ Englefield Road

Gravel Re-Sheeting:

Gravel re-sheeting has begun on Brackendale Road.

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Bridge Works:

Glen Morrison Road Bridge repairs are complete (5099 – Wirrabilla).

Bridge Side Tracks:

The Flags Niangala Road Bridge (4985) bypass track is completed.

The Lakes Road Bridge (5258) bypass track is complete.

Vegetation Maintenance:

- ❖ Moona , Niangala, Emu Creek, Wollun, Winterbourne, Aberbaldie and Brackendale Roads have been sprayed for saplings.
- ❖ Aberbaldie, Niangala, Emu Creek, Winterbourne, Bergen have had shoulder slashing completed.
- ❖ Bridge approaches on rural sealed roads have had vegetation maintenance undertaken.

Culvert Cleaning:

Culvert cleaning was undertaken on the Lakes Road.

Pothole Patching:

Pothole patching occurred on Scrubby Gully, Ruby Hills, Glen Morrison, Winterbourne and Niangala Roads.

Guide Post Maintenance:

Guide post maintenance occurred on Aberbaldie and Brackendale Roads.

State Highway 11:

- ❖ The Oxley Highway Reseal Program is complete.
- ❖ The “Nowendoc Rehabilitation” adjacent to the Brackendale Road turnoff on the Oxley Highway is all but complete. Tensioning the wire rope safety barrier is all that remains for this project.
- ❖ Maintenance:
 - ◆ Pothole patching.
 - ◆ Repairing road edges.
 - ◆ Vegetation maintenance.
 - ◆ Servicing rest areas.

Regional Roads:

- ❖ The “Yerrawun” rehabilitation requires guard rail to be installed, limited availability of staff has led this works to be postponed.
- ❖ The Regional Roads reseal program has been completed.
- ❖ Maintenance:
 - ◆ Pothole patching.
 - ◆ Vegetation maintenance.
 - ◆ Shoulder patching.

Works In Town:

- ❖ Tree, garden & park maintenance.
- ❖ Sporting grounds maintenance.
- ❖ Pool maintenance is ongoing during the season.

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- ❖ The pool shade sail project has been completed.

Proposed Works for the Coming Period:

Shire Roads:

- ❖ Further vegetation maintenance on sealed roads will be completed, including spraying and shoulder slashing.
- ❖ Bypass tracks for the bridge replacement program will continue to be progressively installed.
- ❖ Bridge load limit signage will be progressively installed.
- ❖ The continuation of the Bridge Rehabilitation Program, which includes two bridges - Glen Morrison (5010) and Mooraback (5414) are scheduled for late February.

State Highway 11:

- ❖ The “segment 3200 widening” project is scheduled to begin on 15 February. This project will include constructing 1m shoulders down the Walcha Road hill and two culver replacements. This project is likely to be followed by a high friction seal covering the entire length of the Walcha Road hill.
- ❖ Heavy patching program is scheduled for early March and will take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

Regional Roads:

- ❖ Maintenance:
 - ◆ Crack Sealing
 - ◆ Shoulder patching
 - ◆ Pothole Patching
 - ◆ Vegetation Maintenance

Works In Town:

- ❖ Tree, garden & park maintenance.
- ❖ Sporting grounds maintenance.
- ❖ Pool Operations.
- ❖ Undertake surveys for the Jamieson Street Rehabilitation.

Dylan Reeves
Works Manager



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

9. Development

Development Approvals and Refusals for December 2015 & January 2016

Information is being provided on development approvals and refusals for the months of December 2015 and January 2016. The following data details the development approvals issued by Council and private certifiers for the entire Local Government Area. A listing of development applications outstanding with a status has also been provided.

Development Applications

Approvals:

DA No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Determined	Determination
10.2015.20	Storage shed / builders workshop	116N Towers St, Walcha	Mr R J Latham	10/12/2015	Granted (under delegation)
10.2015.30	Single new dwelling	Littlemoor, Brackendale Rd, Nowendoc	Ms N F Hicks	7/12/2015	Granted (under delegation)
10.2015.32	Garage	110W Apsley St, Walcha	Miss S M Lockyer	18/01/2016	Granted (under delegation)
10.2015.33	Single new dwelling	11261 Thunderbolts Way, Walcha	Mr M P Provost	27/01/2016	Granted (under delegation)
10.2015.34	Single new dwelling	Chinnocks Rd, Walcha	Walcha Property Group Pty Ltd	4/01/2016	Granted (under delegation)

Monthly Estimated Value of Approvals: \$1,128,000.00

Refusals:

DA No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Determined	Determination
Nil					

Development Applications Outstanding

DA No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Status
10.2015.31	Subdivision of land	217N Uralla Rd, Walcha	J P Sweeney	Under assessment
10.2015.35	Change of Use	37W Fitzroy St, Walcha	Mrs S Bruce	Under assessment
				Total: 2

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Construction Certificates

Approvals:

CC No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Determined	Determination
11.2015.20	Single new dwelling	Chinnocks Rd, Walcha	Walcha Property Group Pty Ltd	4/01/2016	Issued

Issued by Private Certifier

CC No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Determined	Determination
11.2015.21	Single dwelling alterations & additions	3061 Niangala Rd, Walcha	New England Building Consultants	15/12/2015	Issued
11.2015.22	Storage shed / builders workshop	116N Towers St, Walcha	New England Building Consultants	15/12/2015	Issued

Monthly Estimated Value of Approvals: \$633,640.00

Construction Certificates Outstanding

CC No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Status
Nil				
				Total: 0

Complying Development Applications

Approvals:

CDC No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Determined	Determination
18.2015.7	Pre-fabricated modular dwelling	9S Lagoon St, Walcha	Mr M Watson	10/12/2015	Granted (under delegation)
18.2015.8	Garage	108E Hill St, Walcha	Mr M M Madden	23/12/2015	Granted (under delegation)

Issued by Private Certifier

Nil

Monthly Estimated Value of Approvals: \$449,900.00

Complying Development Applications Outstanding

CDC No.	Description	Location	Applicant	Status
Nil				
				Total: 0

s149 Planning Certificates

Section 149 Certificates are issued under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, it provides information on the relevant planning regulations which

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apply to any particular piece of land It is compulsory for every property sold to be accompanied by a s149 Planning Certificate.

Section 149 Planning Certificates Completed 2015/2016	
	Number
July	11
August	6
September	21
October	8
November	14
December	11
January	5

S149 Planning Certificates Completed – Comparative Data	
	Number
2013/2014	91
2014/2015	126
2015/2016 (YTD)	76

10. Environment

Environmental & Public Health Complaints

Council performs a number of regulatory functions to control and manage matters of public health and environmental concern to the community, some of these include:

- *Companion Animals Act 1998* e.g. dogs not under effective control & nuisance dogs (barking),
- *Local Government Act 1993* e.g. overgrown land, and
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* e.g. dumping of rubbish.
- *Food Act 2003* e.g. hygiene and handling

For information purposes a summary of the number of complaints received is provided.

Environmental Services Complaints December 2015 and January 2016		
Barking dogs	5	
Dog attacks	1	
Roaming dogs	1	
Other animal	1	

Tree Management Applications

A Tree Preservation Order exists over the town of Walcha to promote the retention of trees and tree cover and to conserve as far as is practical the existing pattern of vegetation,

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for information purposes a summary of the tree management applications lodged with Council is provided.

Tree Management Applications 2015/2016				
	Approved – Delegation	Approved – Council	Refused	Undetermined
July	1	0	0	2
August	0	0	0	4
September	3	0	0	1
October	0	0	0	1
November	2	0	1	1
December	1	0	0	3
January	2	0	0	1

11. Public Health

Immunisation Clinic

Free Immunisation Clinics are held weekly at the Walcha MPS; for information purposes a summary of the number of attendances at the clinic is provided.

Immunisation Records 2015/2016	
July	3
August	3
September	1
October	7
November	2
December	1
January	6

Food Premises Surveillance

Under the Food Regulation Partnership Council is appointed as an enforcement agency under the *Food Act 2003*. As an enforcement agency Council is responsible for food surveillance within the Walcha LGA and Council is required to report our food surveillance activity to the NSW Food Authority annually.

For information purposes a summary of the food surveillance activities undertaken for the 2015/2016 as at 31 January 2016 is provided.

Food Premises Surveillance 2015/2016				
Category	Number of Premises	Inspections Conducted	Re-inspections Required	Re-inspections Conducted
High Risk	26	3	3	1
Medium Risk	7	0	0	0

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Low Risk	6	0	0	0
Mobile	2	0	0	0
Temporary	2	0	0	0

12. Animal Control

Council encourages responsible pet ownership in the community, as well as at home. Pet owners should make sure their animals don't disturb their neighbourhood and threaten or harm any other person, pets or wildlife.

Council is required to enforce the registration laws, and the other areas of pet ownership covered by the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Companion Animals Registrations 2015/2016						
	Desexed	Non desexed	Pensioner desexed	Recognised breeder	Working	Value \$
Jul	1	2	1	0	0	\$457.00
Aug	6	3	0	15	8	\$1,668.00
Sep	1	1	0	0	1	\$244.00
Oct	1	1	0	0	0	\$244.00
Nov	0	0	1	0	0	\$21.00
Dec	1	1	0	0	0	\$244.00
Jan	2	3	0	0	0	\$680.00

Companion Animals Seizures 2015/2016						
	Seized	Surrendered	Released	Rehomed	Euthanased	Stolen
Jul	3	0	3	0	0	0
Aug	5	1	3	1	1	0
Sep	1	1	0	1	0	0
Oct	2	1	1	1	0	0
Nov	1	0	1	0	0	0
Dec	2	0	2	0	0	0
Jan	6	1	5	0	1	0

13. Walcha Council Community Care

December 2015 & January 2016 Report

Groups

Women's Group and Wanderer's Group

2 December 2015 – 18 clients attended morning tea in the Community Day Centre rooms. The morning tea kicked off the groups Christmas parties for 2015 and the ladies had a fun

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morning participating in organized festive activities and lots of yummy Christmas treats. There was lots of Christmas cheer with beautiful decorations and a Christmas tree setting the scene making the morning very special.



Women's and Wanderer's Group Christmas Party

9 December 2015 – the Wanderers Group enjoyed morning tea at the Community Day Centre Rooms. The morning consisted of card making activities.

Men's Group

8 December 2015 – 17 gentlemen attended morning tea at the Community Day Centre Rooms. Like the Women's Group, the morning tea celebrated the festive period and gave those members of the group that cannot travel on outings the opportunity to attend the Christmas party.

Mixed Groups

16 December 2015 – 82 clients, volunteers and staff attended the Walcha Council Community Care Christmas Party held at the Walcha Bowling Club. Entertainment for the day was provided by Ben Crosby, Barb Dunn and Howard. It was great to see Lacey able to attend the party. Group activity volunteer, Margie Carter, lived up to her yearly

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mission and excelling herself once again, entertaining us all with one of her very creatively written poetry pieces about our year with Walcha Council Community Care. The recipients were exceptionally good sports and were thrilled again to be included in her creative writing. I thought I would share her masterpiece with you and hope you have a laugh at Margie's creative writing.

WCCC CHRISTMAS POEM 2015

SPEAKING OF TURKEYS .. with apologies to Ben and others ..

Be nice to your turkeys this Christmas
'Cos turkeys just wanna have fun
Turkeys are cool, turkeys are wicked
AND .. every turkey has a Mum
Be nice to your turkeys this Christmas
Don't eat it, keep it alive
It could be your mate, and not on your plate
Say, yo, Turkey, I'm on your side

I got lots of friends who are turkeys
And all of them fear Christmas time
They wanna enjoy it, they say humans destroyed it
And humans are out of their mind
Yeah, I got lots of friends who are turkeys
They all have a right to a life
Not to be caged up and genetically made up
By any farmer and his wife

Turkeys just wanna play poker
Turkeys just wanna hip hop
Can you imagine a nice young turkey saying
"I cannot wait for the chop."
Turkeys like getting presents, they wanna watch Christmas TV
Turkeys have brains and turkeys feel pain
In many ways, like you and me

I once knew a turkey, called .. Turkey
He said, "Margie, explain to me please
Who put the turkey in Christmas
And, what happens to Christmas trees?
I said, "I'm not too sure turkey
But, it's nothing to do with Christ Mass
Humans get greedy and waste more than need be
And business men make loads of cash

Be nice to your turkey this Christmas
Invite them inside for some greens
Let them eat cake and let them partake
In a plate of organic grown beans
Be nice to your turkey this Christmas

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And spare them the cut of the knife
Join Turkeys United and they'll be delighted
And you will make new friends for LIFE
So, Walcha, she has lots of turkeys
And lots have some friends in our house
So I reckon next year we should welcome
New friends who have turkeys, they're grouse
It's made me reach this conclusion
We should think about signing the pledge
To never eat turkey, to always be perky
And never fear life on the edge

Now then in the spirit of Christmas
(Let's hope there's no turkey for lunch!)
Let's ponder our year and all that was dear
Cos we think we're a pretty good bunch
We've gobbled a lot of egg sambos
Scones, jam and cream laden, thanks Ron
And we all can attest Mary's slices THE best
The proof, from the plates, they're all gone

Our raffles have made us some money
Thanks Alex for helping out there
To him don't say no, cos he'll never let go
As he rattles the tin in the air
The weight of the tin caused a problem
I kept it on top of our fridge
When I slammed the fridge door, it fell on the floor
It made a big noise, ridgy didge
One thousand and one hundred dollars
in coins rolling all round the place
And so if you please, there's me on my knees
Collecting it, what a disgrace

Our Women's Group got rather crafty
Won prizes again at the Show
The bags that we made were impressive
Not that we ever would crow
We went to some classes for Balance
And surprisingly, found it good fun
And some of us increased our talents
When Brain Training classes were run

Cath planned on our day trip to Hillgrove
To collect tour guide Pete on the way
When he wasn't at Armidale waiting
Our leader warn't filled with dismay
She jumped from the bus, without any fuss,
Approached each new man in the street



Excuse me, she said, and her face wasn't red
Don't suppose that YOUR name is Pete

She'd no luck as she canvassed each stranger
Though she got some odd looks now and then
Armidale Cops was just down the road
With our boss, Cath, accosting these men
As we stared in the bus things got better
When a stranger gave this reply
"I'll be your Pete if that's what you want"
With a smirk and a wink of his eye
You'll all be relieved when I tell you
Real Pete was found before long
On the phone in his office just waiting
Oblivious to anything wrong

At Mike Faulkner's, down on the river
The men had a BBQ day
The sausages all were a-sizzling
But George Lawrence, warn't getting his way
So, off home he went in a hurry
And a lovely charred billy brought back
Put his real billy tea on the fire
What could be more perfect than that
Poor Georgie, he was so excited
The billy got bumped in his haste
The sausages all dropped in the charcoal
We ate them .. they couldn't go to waste

An overnight jaunt was to Moree
A cotton gin tour was a hit
The pecan nut farm so impressive
That Herbie delved into his kit
Out with his pad and his pencil
Doing his sums on the run
Breeding cattle versus growing nuts
Which would be more fun?

The guys on the tour got excited,
The nuts on the ground were all free
Help yourselves the guide said with a nod of his head
To anything not on a tree
The men filled their pockets, bags and hats
With whatever they could find
You can be sure that when we left
Not much was left behind
Back on the bus, feeling quite chuffed
Gathering together their hoard
Over the mike Cath requested



They LEAVE THEIR NUTS ON BOARD

Be nice to your friends when it's Christmas
But also be nice through the year
Especially you two who picked on our Pete
When we went to The Pub With No Beer
They sent him off to the publican
They were laughing behind his back
To ask for the name of the fabulous beans
They had growing out the back
The publican roared with laughter
Peter looked sheepish, turned red
Beans the guy said, what rubbish
Your thinking's not right in the head
You Walcha guys don't seem too clever
Can't you see the wisteria vine
The flowers are dead, there's seed pods instead
Have you had an excess of wine

If you missed our group's trip to Nambucca
You'll have heard of the fun that we had
But you might not have heard of the breakfast
That could have turned out really bad
Baked beans on toast was our brekky
Nearly 50 folk dined on the fare
You'd think they were asking for trouble
On our bus — not exactly fresh air
For bus driving skills there's no master
That quite measures up to our man
Young Tony averted disaster
Saved the day, his ingenious plan
Yes Tony, our venerable driver
Turned a bad situation around
He called on the forces of nature
To stop our bus scraping the ground
With his microphone sought our attention
Encouraged us all to expel air
Jet propulsion then carried us over
With a blast we departed with flair

We can't have a party for Christmas
Without bringing Dougie to mind
He's our Merlot King, our wine connoisseur
And 'til lately nearly blind
They took away his licence, not a happy boy
We all took care when he was there
A-driving his new toy
And then would you believe it,
They gave his licence back



He puts it down to pecan nuts
What do you think about that
Doug is our Happy Hour leader
Just follow the crowd to his door
It's there we are blessed, cos his jokes are the best
And forever we're begging for more

Be nice to your friends who are turkeys
And speaking of turkeys I guess
I can't get away without mention
Of how I made counting a mess
I once was, officially, counter
To make sure we're all on the bus
But now I've been mortally wounded
And sacked from my job without fuss
Just because I made a mistake
I left Pat and Val behind
It wasn't as though it was for very long
I think you're all unkind.

But enough of our year, now it's Christmas
Our year at an end once again
We've had lots of fun, and a lot of things done
With us turkeys, us women and men
Be nice to your turkeys at Christmas
Remember that turkeys are folk
Don't gobble them up on Christmas Day
Don't treat them as a joke
Yes remember your turkeys this Christmas
Invite them to your Christmas meal
But not on the table, not on a plate
Remember, their feelings are real



Walcha Council Community Care Christmas Party



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..... General Manager Mayor



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Transport

December 2015 – Medical drives – 17 clients utilized the service with 27 trips.

January 2016 – Medical drives – 11 clients utilized the service with 25 trips.

Access Bus – 9 clients used the service making 47 trips during December 2015.

Access Bus – 6 clients used the service making 48 trips during January 2016.

Bus to Tamworth – 5 clients use the service on 18 December 2015.

Bus to Tamworth – 3 clients use the service on 29 January 2016.

Bus to Armidale numbers for December 2015 was as follows:

- ◆ 1 December 2015 – 8 clients – Walcha Service
- ◆ 8 December 2015 – 4 clients – Uralla Service using TCT Bus and Driver
- ◆ 15 December 2015 – 8 clients – Walcha Service
- ◆ 22 December 2015 – 3 clients – Uralla Service using TCT Bus and Driver
- ◆ 29 December 2015 – Holiday

Bus to Armidale numbers for January 2016 was as follows:

- ◆ 5 January 2016 – 5 clients – Walcha Service
- ◆ 12 January 2016 – 3 clients – Uralla Service using TCT Bus and Driver
- ◆ 19 January 2016 – 7 clients – Walcha Service
- ◆ 26 January 2016 – holiday

Meals on Wheels

9 clients received 169 meals in December 2015.

9 clients received 122 meals in January 2016.

Rural and Remote Exercise Groups

During December and January 2016 both groups have been in recess.

Meetings and Training

10 December 2015 – Dementia Support Group get together held in the Community Day Centre Rooms.

14 January 2016 – Dementia Support Group get together held in the Community Day Centre Rooms.

Feedback and Complaints

Feedback is provided from conducting a recent survey for the Nambucca Heads trip and the Mystery Uralla trip.

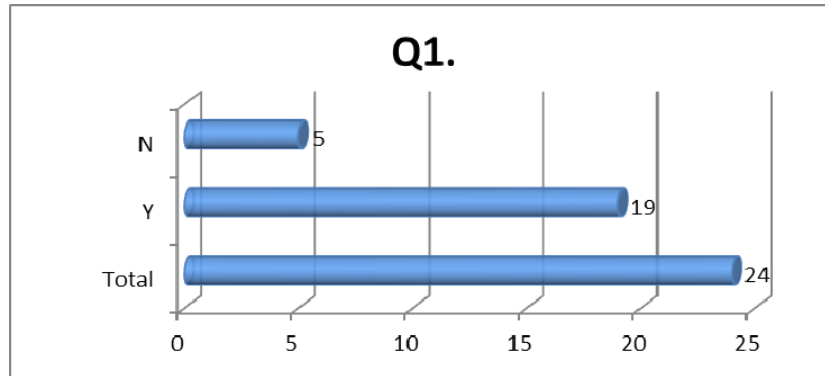
Cathy Noon
Community Care Coordinator



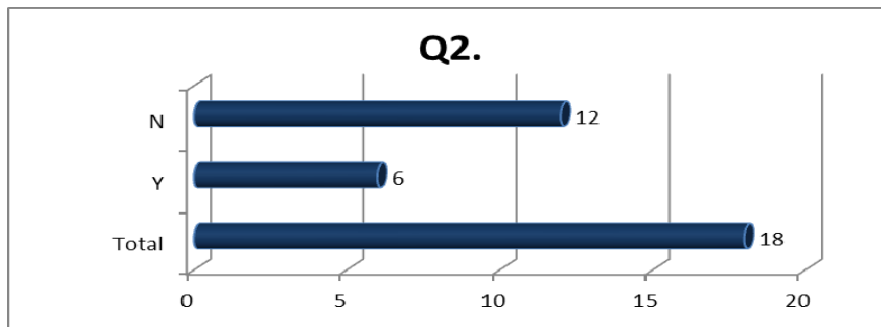
WALCHA COUNCIL COMMUNITY CARE SOCIAL SUPPORT November Trips Survey

A group of 27 people participated in the survey, with the following analysis:

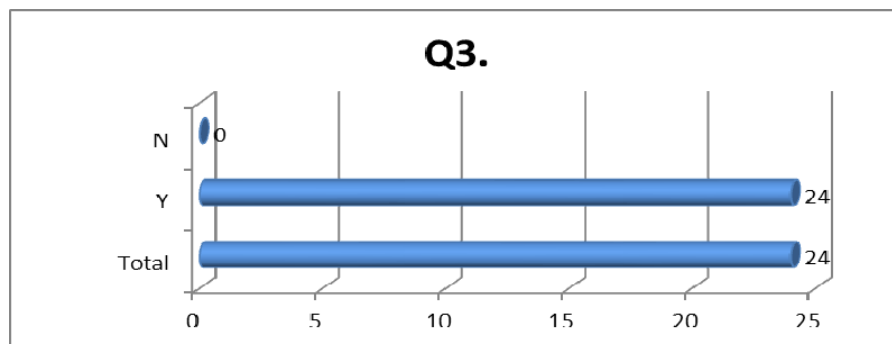
1. Did you attend the Nambucca Heads Trip?



2. Did you attend the Mystery Trip to Uralla?



3a. Were the places you visited up to your expectation?

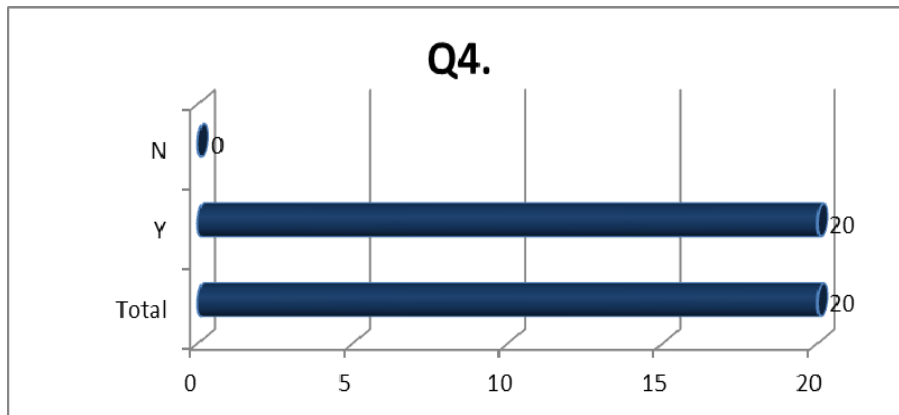


3b. If no please explain.

There were no complaints.



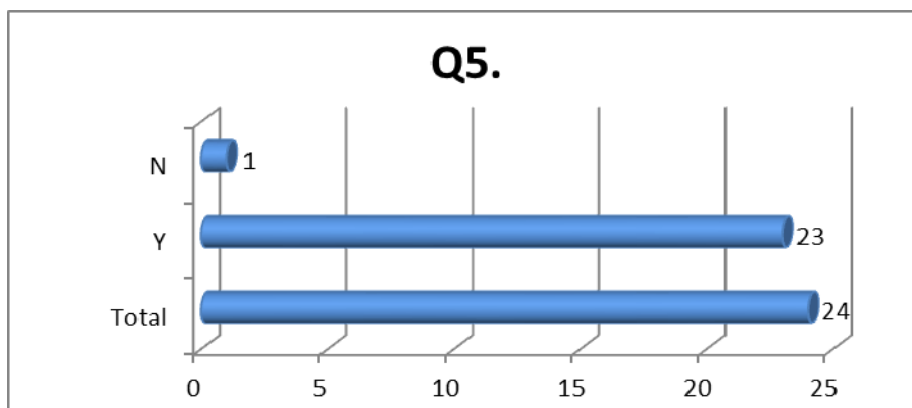
4a. Were you satisfied with the accommodation?



4b. If no please explain.

There were no complaints

5a. Were the meals to your satisfaction?



5b. If no please explain.

There were no complaints

6. What was the highlight of your trip?

Enjoyed the whole trip

Very good

Being left behind (our own fault)

Slim Dusty Centre

Good day out

Everything. Thank you

Everything was excellent

The whole trip was great

I enjoyed all the trip. It was all very enjoyable

The whole trip was great

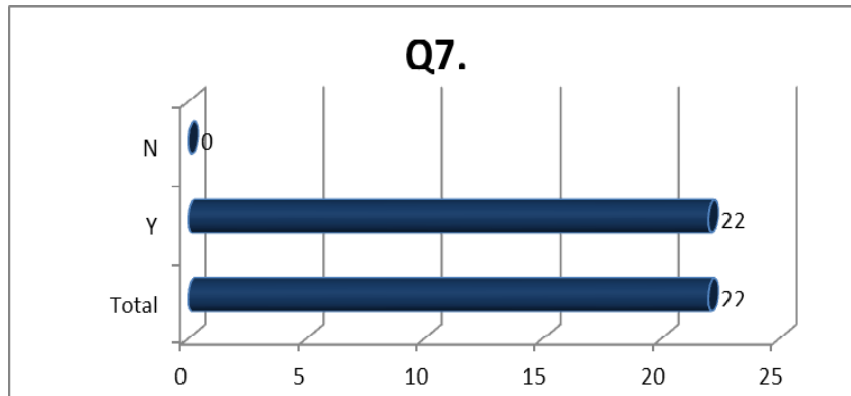
The trip was great. Everything was planned to perfection. Couldn't ask for better.

Everything was so well planned. The river cruise was very relaxing & great informative commentary.

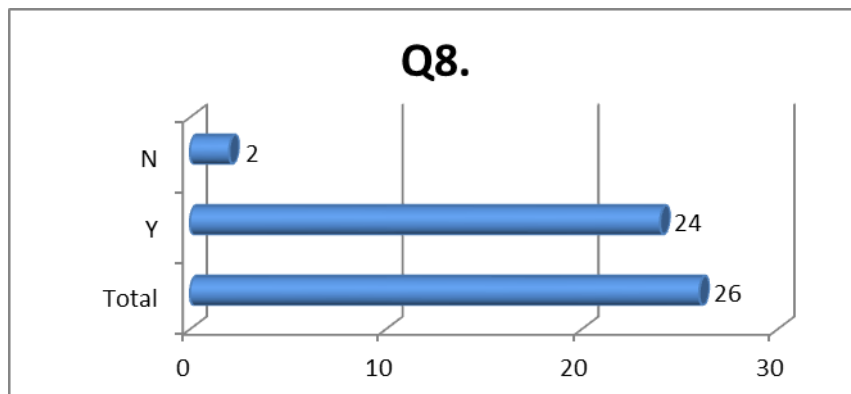


The Pub with no Beer & the Slim Dusty Centre. Couldn't fault any of the things we did.
Viewing the Slim Dusty Museum opening
The Pub with no Beer
Slim Dusty Centre, River Cruise
Opening of the Slim Dusty Centre

7. Do you think your trip was good value?



8. Was the bus comfortable?

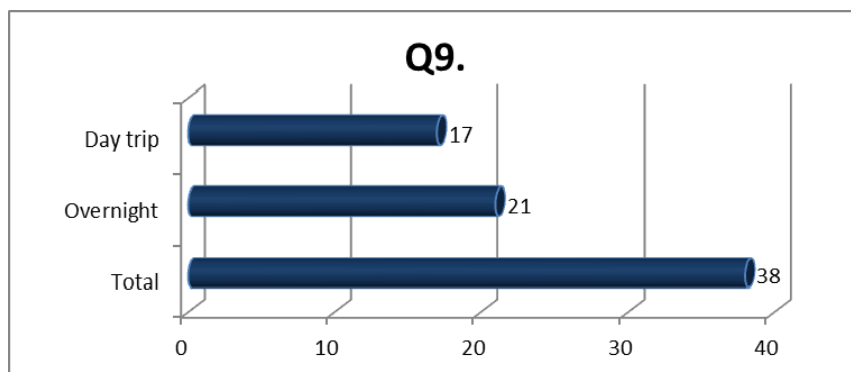


8b. If no please explain.

There were 2 complaints about the comfort of the bus.
Seat belt too tight & high.

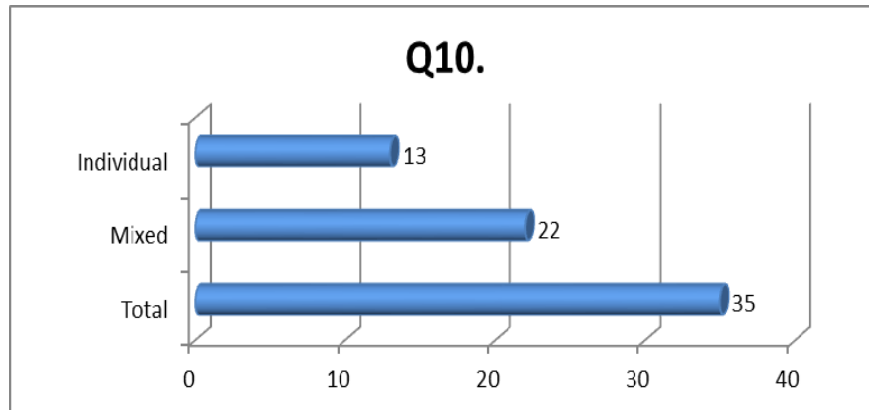
9. Do you prefer day trips or trips where an extended over night stay is organised?

Some participants preferred both options, giving a total that is beyond the number of participants.





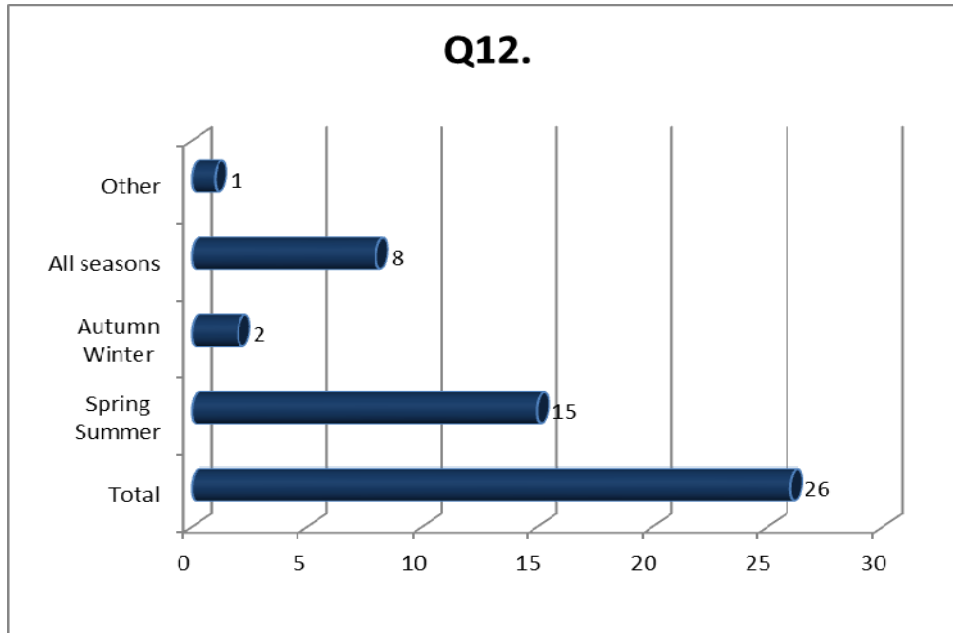
10. Do you prefer a mixed group trip or keep the trip to a Men's Group or Women's Group?



11. Do you have any ideas or suggestions for places we could visit in the future?

- Morpeth, Dorrigo
- Newcastle entertainment centre
- Morpeth
- Morpeth, Grafton Jacaranda festival
- Toowoomba
- Dubbo Zoo. Stockman's Hall of Fame. Shearers Hall of Fame

12. Do you prefer winter months or summer months to go on trips?



13. Do you have any further comments?

- Enjoyed the trip very much. Saw a couple of places I hadn't been before.
- Have a great year. Congratulations to Cathy & helper.
- Cathy & Co. do a great job.
- Lovely
- All outings are very well organised & enjoyable company.



Great

I would like to say a big thank you to all who helped & planned this great trip. What a wonderful lot of carers we have . Once again thank you.

Great

Everyone's needs were met wherever possible. A great job with the organisation of the trip.

We missed the new Buffalo Centre, has only just opened, people from there told me at the craft shop after we were home.

To the lady guides (carers) & Ron & Tony, I extend my very sincere appreciation. Thank you.

It was well organised & a lot of fun.

Yes, there [sic] are very good trips.

RECOMMENDATION: that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 13 inclusive, be NOTED by Council.

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Item 10:

Committee Reports

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor



Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

held on

Tuesday, 15 December 2015

at

12:00 pm

at

Walcha Council Community Care Day Centre Rooms

PRESENT:

Clr Kevin Ferrier (Chair), Kate Hoy, Debra Sweeney, Ron Denham, Pat Laurie, Cathy Noon (Community Care Coordinator), and Lacey Latham (Environmental Services Manager).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nil

1. APOLOGIES:

Sue Reardon, Elaine Bartholomew (ATSI Community Care Coordinator)

RESOLVED: On the motion of Hoy and Ferrier that the apologies be accepted.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2015:

RESOLVED: On the motion of Hoy and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2015, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a true record.



Committee Minu



3. BUSINESS ARISING:

- 3.1 Quota should be ok to continue delivery of Meals on Wheels in January 2016.

4. MEALS ON WHEELS

- 4.1 Numbers are still declining, there were 12 clients with 165 meals delivered in November 2015. Hoy reported Armidale / Uralla MOW has increased 300% from 650 – 2500 / month since leaving the hospital and going in-house.
- 4.2 Council will advertise towards the end of January for EOI to provide the MOW service.
- 4.3 January / February 2016 rosters have gone out.

5. COMMUNITY CARE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A report from the Community Care Coordinator was tabled and presented to the Committee as per the Council December 2015 Business Paper.

In summary, the Nambucca trip was very successful, the bus to Tamworth is being well utilised, as are the consistent numbers for the Armidale bus run; and the brain training program is complete for the year and went really well.

6. ATSI COMMUNITY CARE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Nil presented as ATSI Community Care Coordinator was an apology for the meeting.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

A full statement of income and expenditure as at 25 November 2015 was tabled and presented to the Committee by the Manager of Environmental Services.

RESOLVED: On the motion of Denham and Hoy that the Financial Report, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a true record.

8. FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINTS

- 8.1 There have been nil complaints received
- 8.2 Rural and Remote exercise group surveys were conducted, feedback included desire for increased health visits to Nowendoc, this is a little restrictive with resources, also Tuesday is the only day that suits the residents.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1 The WCCC Coordinator is investigating options to increase MOW outputs e.g. running classes.



-
- 9.2 Denham commended the time and effort the WCCC Coordinator has put into the WCCC clients and groups for the year.
 - 9.3 Sweeney advised that Australian Unity are taking over from Home Care in February 2016, changes will occur but no confirmation of impacts exactly at this stage.
 - 9.4 The Environmental Services Manager thanked everyone for their efforts throughout the year and also welcomed new members Syreene Kitchener and Pat Laurie.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, 16 February 2016. The meeting will commence at 2:00pm.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1:02pm.

CONFIRMED _____ **(Signed)**

Date: ___ / ___ / ___ **Chairperson**



Item 11:

Delegate Reports

Submitted to Council: 17 February 2016

..... General Manager Mayor

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM

PRESENT: Councillor M. Woods-Chairperson, Councillor M O'Connor, Councillor D. Heagney, Councillor A. Murat joined the meeting at 8.36 am.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Mr W. Deer, and Senior Weeds Officer Mr J Browning. NSW DPI Invasive Species Officer, Mr Phil Blackmore joined the meeting at 8.34am

APOLOGIES: Councillor M Dusting

42/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Heagney and O'Connor that the apology be accepted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2015

43/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O'Connor and Heagney that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 26th August 2015, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2015

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair advised the following:

- Referred to the release of the IPART Report on Councils' Fit for the Future proposals released by the State Government on 20 October 2015, and that there is a final 30 day consultation period for Councils to provide feedback and identify their merger preferences by 18 November 2015. Commented that this is a very interesting time for local government and the need to be mindful of the County Council and its staff.
- Provided details of attendance at the successful LGNSW Annual Conference held in Sydney from 11 – 13 October 2015. Guest speakers included the Premier the Hon. Mike Baird, the Hon. Paul Toole, Minister for Local Government and the Hon. Duncan Gay MLC, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Business sessions at the conference related to motions for consideration across a number of categories. Election of the incoming Board members was held, however there may be some challenges to this process. Overall the Conference provided a forum where delegates could collectively

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM

discuss the challenges facing local government, as well as providing an opportunity to network with peers.

- Congratulated Council's Senior Weed Officer, James Browning on being the winner of the prestigious Buerckner Award, announced at the NSW Weeds Conference held in Cooma from 12 – 15 October 2015. This award recognises an outstanding contribution towards protecting NSW from the impact of weeds. Complimented Regional Project Officer, Heather Apps on being a finalist in the Stephenson Award which recognises the outstanding contribution to planning and co-ordinating weed management programs in NSW.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

44/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that Council suspended Standing Orders for the following reason.

Discussion on the possible cessation of a County Council by NSW DPI Invasive Species Officer, Mr Phillip Blackmore.

45/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O'Connor and Murat that Council be resumed.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON (ITEM 7.1)

46/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that in the event that there is more than one Councillor nominated for each of the positions of Chairman or Deputy Chairman, then the method of election to determine the position(s) be by Ordinary Ballot **AND FURTHER THAT** the Returning Officer destroy all documentation following such elections.

The General Manager, Mr W. Deer acting as Returning Officer then called for nominations for the position of Chairperson. On receiving only one nomination that of Councillor M. Woods, the Returning Officer, declared Councillor Woods elected Chairperson for the ensuing twelve month period unopposed.

The Returning Officer then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson. On receiving only one nomination that of Councillor M. Dusting, the Returning Officer declared Councillor Dusting elected Deputy Chairperson for the ensuing twelve month period unopposed.

2. COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES (ITEM 7.2)

47/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Heagney that the Chairperson of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council, Councillor M. Woods be Council's delegate for:

- Local Government NSW
- New England Group of Councils and.
- Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Regional Weed Committee.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM

3. MEETING TIMES (ITEM 7.3.1)

48/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that Council adopt the following meeting dates for 2016.

2 February 2016	2nd Quarterly Review. Councillors Tour.
22 April 2016	3rd Quarterly Budget Review. Draft Annual Operational Plan 2016/17
22 June 2016	Adopt Annual Operational Plan and Budget 2016/17 and update 4 Year Delivery Program and 10 year Financial Plan
24 August 2016	4th Quarterly Budget Review. Refer Accounts to Audit. Pecuniary Interests Returns
26 October 2016	1st Quarterly Budget Review. Adopt Financial Statements. Election of Chairperson and Review Delegations. Payment of Expenses Policy Review. Annual Report adopted

4. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR CHAIRPERSON, COUNCILLORS AND STAFF (ITEM 7.3.2)

49/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Heagney and Murat that Council, in accordance with Section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993, reaffirm the Policy for Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities for Chairpersons, Councillors and Staff as attached to the report.

5. INTERNAL REPORTING POLICY - PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 1994 (ITEM 7.3.3)

50/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Heagney and Dusting that Council adopt Internal Reporting Policy No: 03/15, as attached to the report, which reflects the changes to the NSW Ombudsman's guidelines.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM

6. ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015 (ITEM 7.3.4)

51/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O'Connor and Heagney that:

- (1) The Annual Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2015 be received and adopted.
- (2) A copy of the Council's Annual Report 2014-15 be forwarded to constituent member Councils.

7. DRAFT NSW INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN 2015-2022 (ITEM 7.3.5)

52/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Heagney and O'Connor that:

- (1) That the report on the draft NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015 -2022 be received and noted.
- (2) That Council endorse the submission to the NSW Department of Primary Industries on the draft NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022, as circulated separately to Councillors.

8. NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS - FIT FOR THE FUTURE (ITEM 7.3.6)

53/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Heagney that the report on Fit for the Future, Joint Organisations, Emerging Directions Paper released by the NSW Office of Local Government be received and noted.

9. NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ITEM 7.3.7)

54/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that:

- (1) That Council reaffirm the New England Weeds Authority Work Health and Safety Management System incorporating Council's Work Health and Safety Policy as attached to the report.
- (2) That Council reaffirm the New England Weeds Authority Emergency Plan as attached to the report

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 (ITEM 7.3.8)

55/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that the report on the Local Government NSW Annual Report 2014/15 be received and noted.

11. FINANCIAL REPORTS 2014/2015 (ITEM 7.4.1)

56/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O'Connor and Heagney that the Financial Statements and Auditors Report for the financial year ending 30th June 2015 be received and adopted.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS (NOXIOUS PLANTS) COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARMIDALE OFFICE, 129 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM

12. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 7.4.2)

57/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that:

- (1) The report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted.
- (2) The Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

13. SEPTEMBER 2015 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW (ITEM 7.4.3)

58/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that Council adopt the September 2015 Quarterly Budget review and approve the budget variations.

14. 2015/2016 WEEDS ACTION PLAN (7.5.1)

59/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Heagney and O'Connor that Council adopt the quarterly report on the 2015/2016 Weeds Action Plan.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

15. LATE REPORT – 18th BIENNIAL NSW WEEDS CONFERENCE – COOMA NSW

60/15 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that:

- (1) The report on the 18th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference 2015 be received and noted.
- (2) Council congratulate Senior Weeds Officer, Mr J. Browning on being awarded the Buerckner Award and Regional Project Officer Mrs H. Apps on being a finalist in the Stephenson Award at the 18th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference 2015.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2 February 2016 at 8:30 am.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:30 AM



MEETING

Held at

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Thursday 4 February 2016 commencing at 9.30pm

MINUTES

-
- PRESENT:**
- Tamworth Regional Council**
Cr Col Murray, Mayor and Namoi Councils Chairperson, and Paul Bennett, General Manager
 - Narrabri Shire Council**
Cr Conrad Bolton, Mayor and Namoi Councils Deputy Chairperson and Stewart Todd, General Manager
 - Gwydir Shire Council**
Max Eastcott, General Manager
 - Gunnedah Shire Council**
Cr Owen Hasler, Mayor and Eric Groth, General Manager
 - Liverpool Plains Shire Council**
Cr Andrew Hope, Mayor and Ron Van Katwyk, Acting General Manager
 - Moree Plains Shire Council**
Cr Katrina Humphries, Mayor (by phone) and Angus Witherby, Acting General Manager (by phone)

Walcha Council

Cr Janelle Archdale, Mayor and Jack O'Hara, General Manager

Uralla Shire Council

Cr Mick Pearce, Mayor

NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet

Alison McGaffin, Regional Coordinator

Regional Development Australian Northern Inland

Russell Stewart, Chairperson and Nathan Axelsson, Executive Officer

1 REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

1.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were announced as having been received from Cr John Coulton, Mayor, Gwydir Shire Council, Lester Rodgers, General Manager, Moree Plains Shire Council and Damien Connor, General Manager, Uralla Shire Council

Declaration of Interest

Nil

1.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION

Moved Cr Bolton, Narrabri and seconded Cr Hope, Liverpool Plains

1/16

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Namoi Councils held on 27 November 2015, copies of which were circulated to all members, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

1.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

1.4 OUTSTANDING ACTION LIST 31

MOTION

Moved Cr Bolton, Narrabri and seconded Cr Hasler, Gunnedah

2/16

RESOLVED

That Outstanding Action List 31 be received and noted.

1.5 FINANCE REPORT

MOTION

Moved Cr Hasler, Gunnedah and seconded Cr Hope, Liverpool Plains

- (i) That the Namoi Councils Financial Report as at 31 December 2015 be received and noted;

- (ii) That it be noted invoices totalling \$30,432.19 have been paid during the month of January and that a further \$100,000 has been invested bringing total funds invested to \$200,000, details of which will appear in the January 2016 Financial Report to be submitted to the March 2016 Board Meeting;
- (iii) That 2014 – 2015 Annual Financial Statements be received and noted and the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Chairperson and Treasurer be authorised to sign the completed Statements
- (iv) That the advice from the Executive Officer be noted that a claim for reimbursement of Namoi Pilot Joint Organisation expenses amounting to the sum of \$95,300 from the Pilot JO Grant of \$300,000 has been lodged leaving an unexpended grant balance of \$155,000 which has been allocated to the following Board approved Pilot JO Projects yet to be completed:

Regional Freight Connectivity and Productivity Analysis -	\$ 75,000
Namoi Investment Prospectus	\$ 25,000
Video Conferencing System	\$ 55,000
	<u>\$155,000</u>

2 REGIONAL ADVOCACY

2.1 ISSUES SUBMITTED BY MEMBER COUNCILS

Cr Andrew Hope, Mayor, Liverpool Plains Shire Council requested support and representations to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure for upgrading and improvements to passenger train services to Quirindi and the wider New England North West. Cr Hope advised that a Briefing Note was being prepared by his Council identifying the passenger train services in urgent need of upgrading for submission to the next Board Meeting.

2.2 REGIONAL MEDIA ISSUES

Nil

2.3 MEDIA RELEASES ISSUED

Nil

2.4 OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION

Moved Cr Hasler, Gunnedah and seconded Cr Hope, Liverpool Plains

3/16 RESOLVED

That Outward Correspondence Items 2.4.1 be noted

2.5 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION

Moved Cr Bolton, Narrabri and seconded Cr Hasler, Gunnedah

4/16 RESOLVED

That in Inward Correspondence Item 2.5.1 to 2.5.3 be received and noted.

3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

3.1 NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet, Regional Coordinator, Alison McGaffin

The NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet Regional Coordinator, Alison McGaffin, addressed the Board in relation to the following matters and issues:

The 2016 Key Themes of the Western Region Mining Taskforce is “Skills and Jobs” and “Revenue from Mining Operations”.

A Meeting of the Western Region Mining Taskforce is scheduled for 22 February 2016 to develop a 2016 Work Plan incorporating the two Key Themes.

A Meeting of the Western Regional Leadership Group is scheduled for 17 February 2016 and it is proposed to the Executive Officer of the Namoi JO will make a brief presentation of the key 2015 Pilot JO process outcomes.

Release of the Regional Plan has been delayed and is anticipated to occur in April.

3.2 VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENTS (VPAs)

Board members discussed the current review by the Department of Planning and Environment of Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs) under s93F of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as an important planning tool to enabling Councils to obtain developer funding for public infrastructure, facilities and services to support rapid growth from mining development. Specific discussion centred around input to the review process by the Minerals Council of Australia and the Association of Mining Related Councils. Concern was expressed that it was essential the review process maintained independence and integrity, so as to avoid any fragmentation of the process and deliver the best possible outcome.

MOTION

Moved Cr Bolton, Narrabri and seconded Cr Hope, Liverpool Plains

5/16 RESOLVED

That Namoi Councils Joint Organisation make representations to the NSW Minister for Planning and Environment seeking a coordinated approach with input from all interested groups to finalisation of review of Voluntary Planning Agreements so as to avoid any fragmentation of the process and provide reforms to Planning Agreements which benefit Councils and communities experiencing rapid growth from mining development.

3.3 NAMOI COUNCILS END OF PILOT FINAL REPORT

MOTION

Moved Cr Hope, Liverpool Plains and seconded Cr Pearce, Uralla

6/16 RESOLVED

That the completion and submission of the Namoi Councils End of Pilot Final Report be noted.

4 REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PRIORITISATION

4.1 GMAC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS – MEETING 28.01.16

MOTION

Moved Cr Bolton, Narrabri and seconded Cr Archdale, Walcha

7/16 RESOLVED

Outstanding Action List 30

That Outstanding Action List 30 be received and noted.

Regional Strategic Priority:

Regional Freight Connectivity and Productivity Analysis

Sponsor: Moree Plains Shire Council

That it be noted Moree Plains Shire Council as the Project Sponsor has invited Expressions of Interest (EOI) from selected firms to undertake a Regional Freight Connectivity and Productivity Analysis which closed on 18th January 2016 and that EOIs are currently being evaluated.

Regional Strategic Priority:

Namoi Regional Investment Prospectus

Sponsor: Tamworth Regional Council

That it be noted Regional Development Australia Northern Inland is currently engaged in preparation of a first draft of the Namoi Regional Investment Prospectus and that it is intended to hold a meeting of Project Governance Group in the near future.

Regional Strategic Priority:

MR 357 Rangari Road

Sponsor: Gunnedah Shire Council

That it be noted the Cost Benefit Analysis prepared by Regional Development Australia Northern Inland identified a Benefit Cost Ratio of .40 and the Project may now be considered completed. Further, that the Project be reviewed in 12 months to establish whether there has been any change to traffic counts which may result in an increased Benefit Cost Ratio.

Namoi Councils Joint Organisation End of Pilot Final Report

That completion and submission of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation End of Pilot Final Report be noted and that the Executive Officer be requested to arrange for transfer of Pilot Grant Funding supported by expenditure acquittals to the Joint Organisation Bank Account.

Namoi Regional Infrastructure Priority Matrix

That GMAC be requested to consider future applications of the Matrix Priority tool to assist in determining Regional Infrastructure Priorities.

2016 Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Work Plan

- (i) That the Namoi Councils Board note that a 2016 Work Plan is under preparation and that GMAC will hold a strategic planning session in February to update the

Namoi Councils Strategic Plan and finalise the 2016 Work Plan for submission to the March Board Meeting;

- (ii) That Paul Bennett/Tamworth Regional Council be requested to approach Stephen Blackadder and Associates to facilitate the strategic planning session; and
- (iii) That the Executive Officer be requested to convene a meeting of the Regional Roads Working Group to progress the Regional and Local Roads Funding Model with Richard Jane/Gwydir Shire Council as the Working Group Chairperson and Stewart Todd/Narrabri Shire Council as the Project Sponsor.

Container Deposit NSW Legislation

That the Executive Officer be requested to coordinate lodgement of a Namoi Councils Joint Organisation submission on the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), with input from all member Councils, by the due date of 26 February 2016.

Electricity Supply Interruptions and Outages

That Namoi Councils advise Essential Energy as having responsibility for the NSW Electricity Network, and Origin Energy as having responsibility for electricity customer supply services, that the current round of electricity supply interruptions and outages is unacceptable to member Councils to maintain Council operations and services to the community, the absence and lack of compensation or options for alternative power supply when planned interruptions and outages occur and that a copy of each letter be supplied to State Members of Parliament for Northern Tablelands, Tamworth, Upper Hunter and Barwon.

5 NAMOI COUNCILS SHARED SERVICES

Nil

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MERGER PROPOSAL - WALCHA COUNCIL AND TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cr Janelle Archdale, Mayor, Walcha Council referred to the current merger proposal for Walcha Council and Tamworth Regional Council and requested support from Namoi Councils JO by way of a letter to the Minister for Local Government for Walcha Council to remain as an independent standalone Local Government Authority.

MOTION

Moved Cr Archdale, Walcha and seconded Cr Humphries, Moree Plains

8/16 RESOLVED

That the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation forward a "Letter of Support" to the Minister for Local Government advising that Walcha Council has been an active member of the Namoi JO and has contributed to driving new initiatives in regional strategic planning, regional leadership and advocacy, regional collaboration, resource sharing and that Walcha Council be afforded the opportunity to remain as an standalone Council and progressively work toward achieving scale and capacity.

6.2 NAMOI REGION AIR QUALITY MONITORY PROJECT

Cr Owen Hasler, Mayor, Gunnedah Shire Council provided an update of an project by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority known as the *Namoi Region Air Quality Monitoring Project* (NRAQMP) to provide community members with access to baseline ambient air quality data from existing privately owned monitoring stations located in the Namoi Region.

Ambient concentrations of particulate matter are continuously measured at four monitoring stations - Werris Creek, Breeza, Wilgai and Maules Creek – which is available in “real-time on-line” on the Office of Environment Heritage Website.

6.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA NORTHERN INLAND

The Chairperson of Regional Development Australia Northern Inland (RDANI), Russell Stewart, advised of the recent release of an RDANI initiative known as Agricultural Careers and Professions (AGCAP) which aimed at retaining Year 10 and 12 school leavers within the region to pursue careers and professions in the region’s key competitive advantage of Agriculture.

The RDANI initiative identifies the reasons school leavers relocate from the region and provides information about access to education services and facilities within the Region. The Board was advised that information on AGCAP is available on the RDANI website or via a freely available CD.

7 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT NAMOI COUNCILS BOARD MEETING

Date: Thursday 3 March 2016 commencing at 9.30am

Venue: Gunnedah Shire Council

Closure: **There being no further business, the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Meeting concluded at 11.10am**

Cr Col Murray, Namoi Councils, Chairperson

4 February 2016

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