



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 26 July 2023

at

3:05pm

at Walcha Council Chambers

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

PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors MA Berry, KW Ferrier, NF Hicks, AC Pointing and A Reilly.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Phillip Hood – Interim General Manager, Mr AS Butler – Director Infrastructure & Development and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Pointing that the Leave of Absence from Clr Kermode, due to family reasons, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2023:

2 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2023, 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

Nil.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

5.1 Mayoral Minute – Vale Clr Greg Schaefer

WO/2023/01377

It was with great sadness that Councillors learned of the passing of Clr Greg Schaefer at his property “Ellendonan” yesterday. Greg was a passionate Councillor since being first elected in December 2021 and represented his community with honesty and integrity. His quick mind and rational in debate added much to better outcomes for our community. He will long be remembered for extensive community work outside Council including involvement in breeding and competing with horses while encouraging and tutoring others who wanted to participate. His volunteer work around the Sports Club, liquor accord, event hospitality and show ground is what small communities are based on.

Greg’s vision forged over many years to bring a new industry to Walcha, in the form of renewable energy, with the aim to make us a more sustainable region is yet to be realised, but his input will inform the path ahead.

Greg gave many hours to the RFS including weeks leading his brigade and fighting the 2019 bushfires. This is tiring work, both mentally and physically and gives an insight into calibre of Greg as he backed up every day. He also became involved in the administration side to make the process smoother. His local knowledge and commitment to fire control will leave a hole that will be difficult to fill.

During Council Meetings his anecdotes and historical snippets were informative and witty and all Councillors will miss these light moments.



As a community, Walcha, will be poorer for the loss of Greg. To his brothers Murray and John and their families Council offers our sincerest sympathies in this trying time. Vale "Schaefer".

Clr Eric Noakes
Mayor of Walcha

3 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes that the Mayoral Minute as read and submitted is **ADOPTED** by Council.

A minute silence was observed in honour of our colleague, friend and Councillor, Gregory Dewar McRae Schaefer.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

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

6.1 Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors Membership WO/2023/01270

5 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Pointing that Council **APPROVE** continued membership of Walcha Council to the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors.

6.2 Community & Business Risk Survey Results WO/2023/01309

6 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Ferrier that Council **NOTE** the Report and results of the Disaster Risk Surveys.

6.3 Arts Advisory Committee Funding WO/2023/01304

7 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Hicks that Council **CREATE** an Art Fund reserve that is restricted for investment in public art and can accumulate funds over time.

6.4 Update from the Disaster Risk Reduction Program WO/2023/01308

8 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that Council **NOTE** the report and the progress against the Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Grant.



6.5 Long Term Financial Plan Update – 2024 Adopted Budget Values

WO/2023/01314

9 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Pointing that Council **NOTE** the updated Long Term Financial Plan SCENARIO 2 (Special Rate Variation) to include the 2024 adopted budget values.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1 Notice of Motion # 28 – Request that the Australia Day Committee become a Section 355 Committee of Council

WO/2023/01269

10 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Hicks that Council tasks the Interim General Manager to develop an Instrument of Delegation for the Australia Day Committee as a proposed 355 committee that would then need to be formally approved by Council by resolution under Section 377(1) of the *Local Government Act*.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2023/01060

11 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Ferrier that items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.2 Infrastructure & Development

WO/2023/01296

12 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Pointing that items included in the Infrastructure & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.3 Corporate & Community

WO/2023/01181

13 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that items included in the Corporate & Community Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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



10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20 June 2023 at Council Chambers WO/2023/01271

**10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting held at Uralla Shire Council on Monday 26 June 2023.
WO/2023/01177**

**10.3 Minutes of the Walcha Council Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday 26 June 2023 at Walcha Preschool
WO/2023/01112**

**10.4 Minutes of the Walcha Council Capital Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 July 2023 at Council Chambers
WINT/2023/0337**

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

15 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Pointing that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Delegate Reports as presented.

**11.1 Minutes of the New England Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting held at the Armidale Fire Control Centre on Tuesday 21 February 2023
WI/2023/05064**

**11.2 Minutes of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council Meeting held at Armidale Office on Tuesday 27 June 2023
WI/2023/08083**

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

13A Referral to Closed Council – Award Tenders:

- 1. W22/110 Winning Specified Material; and**
- 2. W23/142 Off Creek Storage Package 8 – Metal Fabrication**

16 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Berry that:

1. in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A 2(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matters of Award Tenders:



- a) W22/110 Winning Specified Material; and
 - b) W23/142 Off Creek Storage Package 8 – Metal Fabrication
- be **REFERRED** to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
2. For the reason above, Council **RESOLVE INTO** Closed Council and the press and the public be excluded.

17 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Berry.

PRESENT: Present and IN Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of the press and the public.

The Chairman publicly declared the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Closed Council.

3.1 Award Tender W22/110 Winning Specified Material

WINT/2023/03395

CC003/20232024 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Hicks that Council AWARD Tender Number W22/110 – Winning Specified Material for the lump sum of \$83,750 plus an additional rate of \$15/ton (Blast & Crush), \$14/ton (Rip & Crush) and \$4/ton (Rip & Push) GST exclusive with an upper fee limit of \$600,000 to iQuarry.

3.2 Award Tender W23/142 – Walcha Off Creek Storage Package 8 – Metal Fabrication

WINT/2023/03391

CC004/20232024 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Berry that Council AWARD Tender Number W23/142 Walcha Off Creek Storage Package 8 – Metal Fabrication to Inverell Fabrication for the lump sum of \$710,000 GST inclusive.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:10PM.