



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 25 October 2023

at

3.10pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr PE Hood – General Manager, Mr AS Butler – Director Infrastructure & Development, Mr CC Martin – Director Corporate & Community and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Clr Ferrier was absent at the start of the Meeting due to illness. He did not submit a Leave of Absence.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023:

68 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Berry that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2023 copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

[Update on Question on Notice – Mooraback & Winterbourne Bridges Condition – Cllr Reilly:](#)

Director Infrastructure & Development advised that these bridges are inspected monthly by the Rural Roads Coordinator

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

69 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes and Kermode that the Mayoral Minute as read and submitted be **ADOPTED** by Council.

With the progression of renewable energy projects within the Walcha LGA and the wider communities, I propose that Walcha Council lobbies that the funds raised through compensation from the Biodiversity Offset Scheme be made available for revegetation projects within their local LGA, and if necessary are expanded into the relevant Renewable Energy Zone. One of the negative outcomes of building and maintaining large wind farm and solar developments is the major impact on the native flora and fauna.

The New South Wales biodiversity offsets policy states, "That biodiversity offsets provide benefits to biodiversity to compensate for adverse impacts or actions". The policy further states that "like-for-like" offsets should be a priority. This is taken to mean that the best place to expend these funds is close to where the impacts are incurred. Whilst it also states that carbon credits are not a legal requirement of this policy, the benefits in reforestation to counteract the rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would be an added bonus. Much of the farming land in rural Australia has been heavily impacted by land clearing and dieback of native vegetation. Coupled with the effects of climate change and



an emerging variable weather pattern there has been very little opportunity for natural reforestation to occur on large tracks of land.

The funds from the biodiversity offsets could be administered by the Local Land Service (LLS) and Landcare groups to assist farmers, Councils and community groups in planting tree corridors that not only improved the biodiversity of their farms, but could also link LGA's together for both protection of flora and fauna. The overall, and long-term impact of this move would see rural land, and its management improved for decades to come.

An added benefit of such a program would be the utilisation of the funds to benefit the broader community, starting at an LGA level and when implemented on a larger scale would expand to benefit the eighteen bio regions of NSW.

Clr Eric Noakes
Mayor of Walcha

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

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

6.1 Introduction to Level 2 Water Restrictions WO/2023/01985

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

1. **CONTINUE** to apply the current adopted Drought Management Plan until the new Off Creek Storage Dam is commissioned and the Plan is updated; and
2. **IMPLEMENT** Level 2 Water Restrictions effective immediately.

6.2 Purchase 15T Rubber Tracked Excavator and Mulcher Head Attachment WO/2023/01987

72 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Hicks that Council **APPROVE** the purchase of a 15T rubber tracked excavator, including the purchase of an appropriate mulching head attachment, that will be funded from the existing approved plant replacement budget.



6.3 Arrangements for Christmas for Council Staff **WO/2023/01986**

- 73 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Pointing that Council:
1. **ALLOW** the combined Staff Christmas Party to be held during working hours on Thursday 21 December 2023 from 12:30pm;
 2. A **DONATION** of \$3,500 be made towards the cost of the Function.

6.4 Allocation of Community Grants & Donations to Applicants **WO/2023/01984**

- 74 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that Council:
1. **ADVISE** all applicants of Council's decision as per the Community Grants & Donations Policy; and
 2. **ALLOCATE** the following funds to each applicant:
 - a) Walcha & District Historical Society Inc - \$3,355
 - b) Niangala Memorial Hall - \$500
 - c) Woolbrook Hall & Park Committee - \$500
 - d) St Patricks Primary School - \$2,440 – FREE entry to Pool for 61 Students
 - e) Walcha Central School - \$250 – HSC Scholarship
 - f) Niangala Public School - \$320 – FREE entry to Pool for 8 Students for Learn to Swim Program
 - g) Walcha Community Centre - \$500
 - h) Walcha Flippers Swimming Club - \$1,200 – assist with Swimming Clinic
 - i) Walcha District Tennis Association - \$800 – assist with Tennis Clinic

6.5 Walcha Australia Day Advisory Committee Community Membership **WO/2023/01997**

- 75 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that Council:
- 1) **APPOINT** the following people as community members of the Walcha Australia Day Advisory Committee:
 - Don Murchie
 - Coral Westfold
 - Margaret Wellings
 - Linda Ballard
 - Lloyd Levingston
 - 2) **APPOINT** Mayor Noakes as the Councillor representative of the Walcha Australia Day Advisory Committee

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2023/01990

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

Clr Ferrier entered the Chambers at 3:46pm.

9.2 Infrastructure & Development

WO/2023/01996

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

9.3 Corporate & Community

WO/2023/01954

78 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Ferrier that the items included in the Corporate & Community Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

10.1 Minutes of the Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at the Council Chambers.

WO/2023/01969

3.4 Town Signage

That the proposed signage for Derby Street upgrade work be reviewed with the Tourism Advisory and Arts Advisory Committee's before decisions are made and consider upgrading current welcome to Walcha signs in English and Dunghutti language.

There was no **Mover** so therefore the **Motion LAPSED**.



4.2 Information around Naming of Bridges, Gardens

80 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Hicks that Council **CONSIDER** adding some background information at the site for the reason behind the naming of certain sites, such as Shirley Davison Bridge, Blue Hogan Bridge and Beverley Betts Rose Garden.

10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 October 2023 at the Council Chambers. WO/2023/01967

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

81 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Delegate Reports as presented.

11.1 Minutes of the Walcha Community Consultative Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at the Council Chambers. WI/2023/11295

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

13A Referral to Closed Council – Tender for Gravel Resheeting

WO/2023/01998

82 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Kermode that, in accordance with the provisions of:

1. Section 10A (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the matters of Tender for Gravel Resheeting W23/81 be **REFERRED** to be discussed in Closed Council for the reason that the report relates 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 public be excluded.

83 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier.

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.

13.1 Tender for Gravel Resheeting W23/81

WINT/2023/04651

CC18/20232024 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Hicks that Council **REJECT ALL** Tenders for Tender No.: W23/81 – Gravel Resheeting – Construction only and enter into negotiations with the preferred tenderer OK Earthmoving for a reduced scope of work.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:25PM.