

Minutes of the meeting of Riverina Water County Council held at 91 Hammond Avenue, Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 18 December 2019 at 10:38 am

Present Clr .P.Bourke, Clr. P.Funnell, Clr. V.Keenan, Clr. T.Koschel, Clr .D.Meyer OAM, Clr. T.Quinn, Clr. G.Verdon, Clr. Y. Braid OAM and Clr. G.Conkey OAM.

General Manager Andrew Crakanthorp, Director of Engineering Bede Spannagle, Manager Corporate Services Emily Tonacia, Manager Projects Greg Vidler, Manager Human Resources & Governance Simon Thomson, Community Engagement Officer Josh Lang, Minute Secretary Kerrie Fawcett were in attendance.

Acknowledgment of Country

Motion of Appreciation

The Chairperson congratulated Tamarin Taylor and team on the great work on building this new meeting room, a lot of in-house work done from staff with a variety of skills.

Presentation to Kerrie Fawcett on the occasion of commencement of leave prior to retirement after 45 years service

19/165 Resolved on the motion of Clr. Keenan and Koschel that Council place on record its appreciation to Ms Kerrie Fawcett for her dedication and commitment to Council during her outstanding tenure with Council

Declaration of pecuniary & non-pecuniary interest

Clr. Funnell declared a non-pecuniary interest during discussion on the proposed purchase of Water Licence – Mid-Murrumbidgee Groundwater – Wagga Wagga Aluvial. Cr Funnell left the room during debate on the matter

Clr. Koschell declared a non-pecuniary interest during discussion on the Investment Report due to his employment in the banking sector. Cr Koschewl remained in the chamber for discussion on the matter.

Confirmation of minutes

19/166 The minutes of the meeting of 30 October 2019 having been circulated and read by Members, were taken as being **confirmed** on the motion of Clrs Meyer OAM and Keenan.

Carried

Correspondence

Local Government: NSW Weekly Circulars: previously forwarded to Councillors by Constituent Councils

Staff Consultative Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of meeting held 28th November 2019

Work Health & Safety Committee: Forwarding a copy of Minutes of meeting held 11th December 2019

- 19/167** **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Funnell and Koschel that the correspondence be received.

Carried

General Manager's Report

Financial statements – list of investments

- 19/168** **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Conkey OAM and Bourke that the report detailing Council's external investments for the months of October and November 2019 be received.

Carried

Minutes of Audit & Risk Committee Meetings held 18 September 2019 and 20 November 2019

- 19/169** **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Braid OAM and Meyer OAM that the Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee be received and noted.

Carried

Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Charter

- 19/170** **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Keenan and Funnell that Council adopt the attached interim Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) Charter as presented in this report, noting that this will be amended as necessary once the Office of Local Government Guidelines are finalised.

Carried

Risk Appetite Matrix and Statements

- 19/171** **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Funnell and Koschel that Council review the proposed risk appetite matrix and associated statements as proposed by the Executive Team and approve their adoption.

Carried

Workshop Operational Plan 2020/2021

19/172 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Meyer OAM and Quinn that Council hold a workshop to discuss key aspects of the 2020/2021 Operational Plan, following Council's February 2020 Meeting.

Carried

Time Payment Options for the Riverina Water County Council Development Servicing Plan 2013

19/173 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Funnell and Keenan that Council work in partnership with Wagga Wagga City Council in preparing a report to both Councils that present options for time payment plans for both Council's respective Developer Contributions Plans.

Carried

Extension on Drought Relief Assistance

19/174 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Quinn and Keenan that Council extend the drought relief assistance until 31 December 2020 at which time Council will consider further drought assistance should conditions remain unchanged or worsen.

Carried

Lost Time Injury Statistics 2019/20

19/175 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Braid OAM and Meyer OAM that the quarterly statistics report on Lost Time Injuries for the 2019 / 2020 financial year to date be received and noted.

Carried

Council Meeting Schedule 2020

19/176 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Koschel and Funnell that Council endorse the schedule of Council meeting dates for 2020 as follows:

Wednesday 26 February
Wednesday 22 April in Urana
Wednesday 24 June
Wednesday 26 August
Wednesday 28 October
Wednesday 16 December

Carried

Customer Water Usage and Attitudes Survey

19/177 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Meyer OAM and Braid OAM that the Board receive and note the report on the preliminary results of the customer water usage and attitudes survey, noting a comprehensive analysis will be provided at the February meeting

Carried

Voluntary Water Conservation Measures

A motion was moved by Clrs Keenan and Meyer OAM that the

- a) Board note the information in the report and note that the General Manager and Director Engineering are delegated authority to implement and revoke water restrictions by virtue of the provisions of Policy 2.6 – Water Restrictions Policy.
- b) Make provision in the 2020/21 Delivery Plan to commence a review of the 2012 Drought Management Plan and 2012 Demand Management Plan.
- c) Receive a further report on amending the Water Restriction Policy at the April 2020 meeting which will be informed by the results of the Water Conservation Survey Presentation at the February meeting of the Board.

An amendment was moved by Clrs Conkey and Keenan that the

- a) Board note the information in the report.
- b) Board encourage the General Manager and Director Engineering to implement Level 1 water restrictions given the prevailing weather conditions across NSW

The amendment on being put, was LOST

19/178 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Keenan and Meyer OAM that the

- a) Board note the information in the report and note that the General Manager and Director Engineering are delegated authority to implement and revoke water restrictions by virtue of the provisions of Policy 2.6 – Water Restrictions Policy.
- b) Make provision in the 2020/21 Delivery Plan to commence a review of the 2012 Drought Management Plan and 2012 Demand Management Plan.
- c) Receive a further report on amending the Water Restriction Policy at the April 2020 meeting which will be informed by the results of the Water Conservation Survey Presentation at the February meeting of the Board.

Carried

Request to support South Wagga Rotary Nepalese Project

19/179 Resolved on the motion of Clrs Bourke and Quinn OAM that Council provide sponsorship of \$5,000 to the South Wagga Rotary Club for the construction of classroom buildings in Sindhuli as part of its annual donations program and outlined in this report and supporting letter.

Carried

Adoption of Policy 1.25 - Donation Policy

19/180 Resolved on the motion of Clrs Keenan and Quinn that Council:

- a) notes that there were three submissions received during the exhibition period for the draft Policy 1.25 Donations Policy
- b) adopt Policy 1.25 Donations Policy
- c) add a fourth category to the Policy in Section 2.3, that being "Water Conservation"

Carried

Draft Policy 2.4 Deferred Payments for Rural Extensions

19/181 Resolved on the motion of Clrs Funnell and Koschel that the report be noted, that further work on the policy be undertaken to reflect the comments made by Councillors during the debate regarding the removal of the minimum amount of \$10,000 and also improving the ability of rural customers to see financial support from Council.

Carried

Council Resolution Sheet

19/182 Resolved on the motion of Clrs Keenan and Conkey that the information be noted.

Carried

Director of Engineering Report

Works Report covering October 2019

19/183 Resolved on the motion of Clrs Koschel and Bourke that Director of Engineering's report for October 2019 be received.

Carried

Works Report covering November 2019

19/184 Resolved on the motion of Clrs Koschel and Bourke that Director of Engineering's report for November 2019 be received.

Carried

Report to Council for the Wagga Wagga City Council proposed acquisition of easement for Levee Bank and Public Access at Riverina Water's site 89-91 Hammond Avenue (Lot 2 DP 540063)

19/185 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Quinn and Braid OAM that Council note the recent letter of offer from Wagga Wagga City Council in the above matter and accept the terms of acquisition and authorise the General Manager to sign the necessary documents associated with the easement acquisition.

Carried

Contract W195 – Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Progress Report

19/186 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Conkey OAM and Meyer OAM that Council consider the report "Contract w195 – Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Progress Report", whilst the meeting is closed to the public, as it concerns litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege as prescribed by Section 10A(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Carried

Tender W246 Supply Brodersen Remote Telemetry Units & 4RF Digital Radios

19/187 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Conkey OAM and Meyer OAM that Council consider the report "Tender W246 Supply Brodersen Remote Telemetry Units & 4RF Digital Radios", whilst the meeting is closed to the public, as it relates to commercial information the disclosure of which would prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, as prescribed by Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Carried

Proposed purchase of water licence – Mid Murrumbidgee Ground water – Wagga Wagga Alluvial

19/188 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Conkey OAM and Meyer OAM that Council consider the report "Proposed purchase of water licence – Mid Murrumbidgee Groundwater – Wagga Wagga Alluvial", whilst the meeting is closed to the public, as it relates to commercial information the disclosure of which would prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, as prescribed by Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Questions and statements

19/189 Clr Quinn: Wished all a very happy and pleasant Christmas to Board and Staff.

19/190 Clr. Meyer OAM: Referred to the new typeprint, hard to read and asked if agenda item could be displayed on screen.

General Manager: Will start in February 2020.

19/191 Clr. Conkey OAM: Encouraged the Chairperson to promote the need for conservation of water at every possible opportunity with media outlets. Also requested information on other Council policies which contain delegations to the general manager which prevent the Council from making decisions in relation to that policy.

19/192 Clr. Funnell: Wished all a happy Christmas and pleasant break, and for support during the year. He congratulated the Chairman who does great job representing Council.

19/193 Clr. Keenan: Happy and safe Christmas, pleased with new board room to be used for training and multi-purpose use. Suggesting consideration be given to naming the room eg Pat Brassil, acknowledging his contribution to Council. Thank you for working together this year.

19/194 Clr. Bourke: Echo same sentiments around the table. Great working with everyone, thanks for the year and all the best.

19/195 Clr. Braid OAM: Mentioned the same, great Christmas to you and all your families. Great time at Board Meetings, thank you for lovely past years.

19/196 Director of Engineering: Merry Christmas and also pleased that the hearing loop in the meeting room has allowed Cr Meyer to hear all conversations.

19/197 Chairperson: Welcomed both Simon Thomson and Josh Lang to the board meetings.

Has been a very successful year and thanked board members for putting Riverina Water first. There are challenges going forward. Highly skilled and competent staff. Thanked Andrew and Bede, big turnaround, wished board members and staff a happy Christmas.

Resolution to move into closed council

19/198 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs. Funnell and Keenan now resolve itself into Closed Council to consider business identified.

Carried

Council closed its meeting to the public at 12.30 pm

Pursuant to section 10A(4), the public were invited to make representations to the Council meeting before any part of the meeting is closed, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

No members of the public were present or made representations.

Closed Council

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Contract W195 – Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Progress Report Electricity supply contract

19/199 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs Funnell and Conkey OAM that Council receive and note the progress report for Contract W195- Water Treatment Plant.

Carried

Clr. Funnell left meeting 12.38 pm

Proposed Purchase of Water Licence – Mid Murrumbidgee Groundwater – Wagga Wagga Alluvial

19/200 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs. Quinn and Meyer OAM that Council authorise the General Manager to negotiate the purchase and execute the permanent sale of the 200ML water licence in the Mid Murrumbidgee Groundwater-Wagga Wagga Alluvial in the amount of \$300,000. Further that funding for any negotiated purchase be included in the December quarterly review.

Carried

Clr. Funnell returned to meeting 12.40 pm

Tender W246 Supply Brodersen Remote Telemetry Units & 4RF Digital Radios

19/201 **Resolved** on the motion of Clrs. Koschel and Meyer OAM that Riverina Water accepts the Tender W246 from Alliance Automations Pty Ltd for \$251,738.00 (including GST)

Carried

Open Council

19/202 **Resolved** on the motion of Ctrs. Keenan and Bourke that Council move out of Closed Council and into Open Council.

Decisions Read Aloud

The General Manager read aloud the decisions of the Council made whilst the meeting was closed to the public.

The Meeting concluded at 12:45 pm