

Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Extraordinary Council Meeting
7 April 2020**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	3
2	PRAYER	3
3	APOLOGIES	3
4	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	3
5	GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORTS	4
5.1	Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) community and Economic Resilience Package.....	4
5.2	Drought Assistance Funding	5

**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 2020 AT 5PM**

Please note: these minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council Meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.

PRESENT: Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Sam Cornish, Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Jill Lyons, Cr Daniel Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Angela Jones (Director Infrastructure & Environment), Scott Walters (Manager Information and Technology Services), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor).

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country by reading the following statement on behalf of Council:

"Richmond Valley Council recognises the people of the Bundjalung Nations as Custodians and Traditional Owners of this land and we value and appreciate the continuing cultural connection to lands, their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region in the past, present and future."

2 PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil.

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS**5.1 RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE PACKAGE****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) crisis and subsequent public health orders implemented by the NSW Government are placing enormous strain on communities and businesses.

This report outlines Richmond Valley Council's COVID-19 Community and Economic Resilience Package which was developed to provide assistance to community and businesses while minimising the risk to Council's financial sustainability, leaving a significant burden for current and future ratepayers.

The package will be delivered in two phases, Initial Response and Strategic Recovery Actions and will cost Council approximately \$142,000 through a number of initiatives including a zero interest rate on fees and charges until 30 September 2020.

The package will be supported by a communications plan which will wrap all of these initiatives together and promote them to our local community ensuring the maximum benefit is achieved.

RESOLUTION 070420/1

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council: -

1. Adopts the Community and Economic Resilience Package, as set out in this report and in Annexure A, and authorises the General Manager to implement the necessary actions to deliver this package to our community.
2. Adopts a zero interest rate for overdue rates and charges for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.

CARRIED

5.2 DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FUNDING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The original drought communities' program was designed to deliver benefits in targeted drought affected regions of Australia. The Australian Government provided funding of \$35 million over four years, commencing in 2015-2016. The Government announced it would extend the program and renamed it the drought communities program extension. This has resulted in our local government area being added to the list of eligible councils and becoming eligible for funding in the amount of \$1 million dollars. The program is being administered through the business grants hub via the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council

1. Approve the projects identified in the following table and outlined in this report in relation to funding provided under the Drought Communities Program extension;

	Amount	Program of Works
Water filling stations	\$100,000	Designated bulk water filling stations across the local government area to assist residents and bulk water carriers
Community Hall upgrades program	\$100,000	Provide a grant program for community halls across the Valley to enhance their facilities and improve their resilience
Casino Showground Upgrades	\$420,000	Day stall and sand warm up area to provide facilities to showground users including pony club, camping infrastructure including an RV short stay area
Paddock to Plate Project	\$95,000	Agritourism experience to showcase producers
Tourism Facilities Road Access Improvement	\$285,000	Improve rural road access for tourism venues to assist in stimulating economic growth
Total	\$1,000,000	

2. That application be made in accordance with the drought community guidelines via the business grants hub.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Mustow

That the Drought Assistance Funding report be deferred.

The amendment was put to the vote.

In Favour: Cr Daniel Simpson

Against: Crs Robert Mustow, Stephen Morrissey, Sam Cornish, Robert Hayes, Sandra Humphrys and Jill Lyons

The amendment was lost 1/6

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION 070420/2

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council

1. Approve the projects identified in the following table and outlined in this report in relation to funding provided under the Drought Communities Program extension;

	Amount	Program of Works
Water filling stations	\$100,000	Designated bulk water filling stations across the local government area to assist residents and bulk water carriers
Community Hall upgrades program	\$100,000	Provide a grant program for community halls across the Valley to enhance their facilities and improve their resilience
Casino Showground Upgrades	\$420,000	Day stall and sand warm up area to provide facilities to showground users including pony club, camping infrastructure including an RV short stay area
Paddock to Plate Project	\$95,000	Agritourism experience to showcase producers
Tourism Facilities Road Access Improvement	\$285,000	Improve rural road access for tourism venues to assist in stimulating economic growth
Total	\$1,000,000	

2. That application be made in accordance with the drought community guidelines via the business grants hub.

CARRIED

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Richmond Valley Council held on 21 April 2020.

The Meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

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CHAIRPERSON