

Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
17 August 2021**

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**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT VIA ZOOM MEETING
ON TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST 2021 AT 5.10PM**

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), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor), Simon Breeze (IT Support Officer).

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 PUBLIC ACCESS AND QUESTION TIME

Nil

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 MAYORAL MINUTES

5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - ROUS FUTURE WATER PROJECT

RESOLUTION 170821/1

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council:

1. Notes the resolution of the Rous County Council 21 July 2021 Extraordinary Meeting regarding the Future Water Project;
2. Writes to Rous County Council expressing its concern with the decision;
3. Notes that the Dunoan Dam proposal was identified in the draft Far North Coast Regional

Water Strategy as an option for further consideration;

4. Seeks support from the Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Water the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, to complete the detailed cultural heritage and biodiversity assessments associated with the proposed Dunoon Dam, in consultation with relevant Traditional Custodians, prior to finalisation of the Regional Water Strategy;
5. Supports the calls by our local member Chris Gulaptis MP and the Parliamentary Secretary for Water Infrastructure, Sam Farroway MLC for an independent study to investigate water storage and security, flood mitigation, river health and water quality in the area serviced by Rous County Council.
6. Requests the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP and the Minister for Water, the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP undertake a review of the Rous Water Integrated Water Cycle Management planning process to determine if Rous County Council has:
 - a) Complied with its legislative responsibilities, specifically in regard to community consultation and its decision making processes on behalf of its constituent Councils;
 - b) Appropriately addressed water security risk management within its area of operations.

CARRIED

Note: The Mayor confirmed that Councillors would receive a copy of the draft letters, prior to distribution, which will include raising the issue of projected increased population growth and the requirement for additional water supply for our region.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2021

RESOLUTION 170821/2

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 July 2021.

CARRIED

6.2 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES 3 AUGUST 2021

RESOLUTION 170821/3

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council receives and notes the Minutes of the Internal Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 3 August 2021.

CARRIED

7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Robert Mustow referred to questions asked at the 20 July Ordinary meeting by Councillor Daniel Simpson, in relation to Part 1 of the question; the Development Application for the New Italy Complex (24-hour service station and restaurant) and enquired about the public meeting held onsite.

Cr Simpson advised that he attended the meeting with 40-50 other persons present.

Due to Covid restrictions with travel, the proponents/consultants answered any questions via zoom which created some challenges, however the meeting was well run and issues were addressed.

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT

11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCES 14 JUNE - 12 JULY 2021

RESOLUTION 170821/4

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report from 13 July – 9 August 2021.

CARRIED

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS

12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT SUBMITTED TO AUGUST 2021 ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLUTION 170821/5

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Robert Mustow

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report for the month of July 2021.

CARRIED

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**

Nil

14 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS**14.1 DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT 1 JANUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021.****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council adopted the revised 2017/2022 Delivery Program in June 2021. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* the General Manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the Council reporting on the progress of all principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program at least every six months. This report relates to and provides information about the achievements of the targeted outcomes prescribed in the Delivery Program.

The report is presented in a traffic light indicator format and provides commentary on the progress of all Delivery Program actions and milestones and progress against the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) performance measures for each community objective within the four priority areas of the CSP. The report represents the results at the end of year four of the Delivery Program.

A dashboard has been provided to summarise Council's overall performance in meeting its four-year targets. The number of completed traffic lights (93%) demonstrates a solid performance for this period of the extended five-year program.

RESOLUTION 170821/6

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receives and notes the Progress Report on the Delivery Program for 1 January to 30 June 2021.

CARRIED

Note: The Mayor noted the 93% completion rate for the delivery program and asked the General Manager to congratulate staff on achieving this positive result, under the current difficult conditions.

14.2 RAPPVILLE SEWERAGE SCHEME UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the aftermath of the 2019 bushfires, Council developed a Recovery Plan to highlight ways that Rappville could 'build back better'. A sewerage scheme for Rappville formed part of this Recovery Plan, and through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF), funding of \$3M was secured to deliver this project.

Community consultation has been a critical element of the project thus far with the results of a recent survey showing support for the scheme and a preference for Option A2: a Centralised Treatment Plant – Pressure Sewer System (Oxidation Pond Irrigation). Public Works cost estimates reveal a likely budget shortfall to achieve delivery of the desired sewerage scheme option, so consideration needs to be given to Councils risk appetite for executing a funding agreement.

RESOLUTION 170821/7

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council

1. Notes the update on the Rappville Sewerage Scheme;
2. Authorises the General Manager to execute the grant funding agreement with Public Works Assurance and Regional NSW for the Rappville Sewerage Scheme project, noting a potential shortfall between the grant amount and the projected capital cost of the project, which if realised will require funding from the Sewer Fund as set out in this report;
3. Notes the results of the Rappville Sewerage Scheme community survey and the 68% positive response rate for a sewerage scheme in Rappville.

CARRIED

14.3 CASINO SHOWGROUND PRECINCT PROJECT UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has secured \$9.2M in funding for the upgrade of the Casino Showground Precinct. A Masterplan was adopted for the Showground and most elements will be delivered under this funding by the required date of 30 June 2023. Features such as the grass and sand track upgrade, the day stalls and the truck and float parking area will be managed internally by our own works crews and directly appointed contractors. The remaining inclusions will form part of a Design and Construct Tender process, made necessary by unsuccessful negotiations with design only contractors failing to meet budget expectations for the design element of the project.

RESOLUTION 170821/8

Moved: Cr Daniel Simpson

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of negotiations for Tender VP242344 – Detailed Design of Casino Showground Precinct which has not resulted in a suitable design contractor being engaged;
2. Notes that a Design and Construct tender process for the Casino Showground Precinct project is now being pursued;

3. Notes that a future report on this tender process will be provided for Council's consideration.

CARRIED

15 FINANCIAL REPORTS

15.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - JULY 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the status and performance of its investment portfolio in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* s.625, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl.212, Australian Accounting Standard (AASB 9) and Council's Investment Policy.

The value of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 July 2021 is shown below:

| Bank Accounts | Term Deposits | Floating Rate Notes | TCorp IM Funds | Total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| \$16,501,440 | \$21,000,000 | \$4,750,390 | \$15,605,440 | \$57,857,270 |

The weighted average rate of return on Council's investments for July 2021 was 5.85% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for July of 0.00%, which is Council's benchmark.

RESOLUTION 170821/9

Moved: Cr Jill Lyons

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing investment performance for the month of July 2021.

CARRIED

Question on Notice:

Cr Jill Lyons sought further information, requesting an itemised breakdown from T-corp on non-fossil fuel investments.

The General Manager advised that the information would be requested from T-corp, and that a review of Council's Investment policy would be undertaken by the in-coming Council in early 2022.

16 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

17 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

RESOLUTION 170821/10

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

Recommended that the following reports submitted for information be received and noted.

CARRIED

17.1 NRLX STATISTICS AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**RESOLUTION 170821/11**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council receives and notes the NRLX Statistics and Financial Performance Report as at 30 June 2021.

CARRIED

17.2 RICHMOND-UPPER CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**RESOLUTION 170821/12**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council receives and notes the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library 2020/2021 Annual Report which highlights the important services provided across the Richmond Valley and Kyogle areas.

CARRIED

The Mayor commended the report and the excellent service provided to the community by the library and asked the General Manager to pass on Council's congratulations to library staff.

17.3 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - JULY 2021**RESOLUTION 170821/13**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of July 2021.

CARRIED

17.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2021 TO 31 JULY 2021**RESOLUTION 170821/14**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 July 2021.

CARRIED

17.5 CORRESPONDENCE - TRANSPORT FOR NSW REGARDING EVANS HEAD BREAK WALL**RESOLUTION 170821/15**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council receives and notes the correspondence received from the Minister for Transport and Roads regarding the maintenance of the Evans Head Break walls.

CARRIED

Question on Notice:

Cr Daniel Simpson referred to the Transport for NSW response letter and enquired about previous contractual arrangements with RMS, now TfNSW for maintenance of the breakwall.

The General Manager advised that there had been an agreement for repairs on a “as needs basis”, with RMS covering the costs of Richmond Valley Council underaking the works. Council would be seeking an ongoing contractual maintenance program with TfNSW, following upgrading of the breakwall, to ensure an appropriate level of service was provided in future. As identified in the letter, State government funding is available and staff will continue to pursue this opportunity, to enable the required repairs.

18 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

19 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

Cr Robert Mustow asked the following question:

What is Richmond Valley Council's waste water testing regime in relation to the current COVID situation?

The General Manager advised that NSW Health manages the program working with relevant authorities in NSW, to determine an appropriate testing regime for sewerage treatment facilities, based on risk. Councils take samples which are then forwarded to Sydney for examination. Richmond Valley samples have been taken (11th and 17th August) from the Casino sewerage treatment plant, and Council is currently awaiting these results. As yet, NSW Health has not requested testing at other treatment plants in the local government area. This is just one of the methods the NSW Government is using to respond to the COVID situation. NSW Health will communicate the results of the sewerage testing to the public via its website.

The Meeting closed at 6.20 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 September 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON