

Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Extraordinary Council Meeting
29 June 2023**

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**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON THURSDAY, 29 JUNE 2023 AT 6PM**

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 Patrick Deegan, Cr Debra McGillan (arrived 6.02pm)

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Angela Jones (Director Community Service Delivery), Ryan Gaiter (Director Organisational Services), Ben Zeller (Director Projects & Business Development), Jenna Hazelwood (Chief of Staff), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor), Lewis Martin (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.

2.1 PUBLIC ACCESS

RESOLUTION 290623/1

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council includes Public Access on the Agenda at this Extraordinary meeting.

CARRIED

The Mayor welcomed the Public Access speakers

Ms Pat Bastow, addressed Council on behalf of herself and Mr Ern Bright, in relation to 5.1 Draft Community Strategic Plan 2040 and Draft Delivery Program 2023-25.

Ms Bastow raised concerns regarding energy from waste facilities and potential impacts on human health and the environment. She called for Council to oppose energy from waste facilities in the Richmond Valley.

Ms Bastow also outlined her support for the railtrail, however raised concerns with the maintenance of drains and pipes along the rail corridor.

Ms Jill Lyons, addressed Council in relation to 5.1 Draft Community Strategic Plan 2040 and Draft Delivery Program 2023-25.

Ms Lyons congratulated Council on the Draft Plan, however raised concerns regarding Energy from Waste issues. She suggested Council should meet with the Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator group (RARVI) to work together for a positive future.

Mrs Maree Beek, Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator (RARVI) addressed Council in relation to 5.1 Draft Community Strategic Plan 2040 and Draft Delivery Program 2023-25.

Mrs Beek noted that Council had no commitment to building an energy from waste facility, but raised concerns regarding potential impacts on the Valley, should an energy from waste proposal come to fruition in the future.

She advocated for the Plan to be amended to include the statement, that "Richmond Valley Council has a commitment neither to build nor support the building of an energy from waste facility".

Dr Jurriaan Beek, addressed Council in relation to 5.1 Draft Community Strategic Plan 2040 and Draft Delivery Program 2023-25.

Dr Beek raised concerns regarding energy from waste facilities and potential impacts on human health. He advocated for Council to not set up such a facility and to maintain the pristine nature of the area.

The Mayor thanked all speakers for their attendance and addresses to the meeting.

A full recording of the public address segment is available at:

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/council-meetings/council-meeting-videos/>

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 GENERAL MANAGER**5.1 DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2040 AND DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM 2023-25****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Richmond Valley Council has been developing its new Community Strategic Plan and supporting documents since October 2022, following delays due to the Covid pandemic and Northern Rivers floods. The draft documents were placed on public exhibition for the required 28-day period and a total of 66 community submissions were received in relation to the CSP. No submissions were received in relation to the Delivery Program. This report addresses the key issues raised in the community submissions and presents the final plans for Council's endorsement.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Debra McGillan

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council:

1. Notes the public exhibition of the Draft Community Strategic Plan and Draft Delivery Program for the required 28-day period.
2. Notes community feedback in response to the exhibition and the issues raised in the 66 submissions received.
3. Endorses the Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic Plan, as presented
4. Adopts the 2023-25 Delivery Program, as presented.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Patrick Deegan

Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

That Council:

1. Notes the public exhibition of the Draft Community Strategic Plan and Draft Delivery Program for the required 28-day period.
2. Notes community feedback in response to the exhibition and the issues raised in the 66 submissions received.
3. Amends the Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic Plan, to oppose Energy from Waste within the Richmond Valley.
4. Adopts the 2023-25 Delivery Program, as presented.

The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

In Favour: Crs Patrick Deegan and Debra McGillan

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

LOST 2/5

The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

RESOLUTION 290623/2

Moved: Cr Debra McGillan

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council:

1. Notes the public exhibition of the Draft Community Strategic Plan and Draft Delivery Program for the required 28-day period.
2. Notes community feedback in response to the exhibition and the issues raised in the 66 submissions received.
3. Endorses the Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic Plan, as presented
4. Adopts the 2023-25 Delivery Program, as presented.

CARRIED

In Favour: Crs Robert Mustow, Stephen Morrissey, Sam Cornish, Robert Hayes, Sandra Humphrys, Patrick Deegan and Debra McGillan

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/01

6 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

6.1 DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023/2024 (INCLUDING DRAFT FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2023/2027), DRAFT REVENUE POLICY 2023/2024 AND DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/2033

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its Ordinary Meeting on 16 May 2023, Council resolved to place the Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates), Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan on public exhibition.

This report provides information regarding public submissions received by Council during the exhibition period and details minor amendments that have been made to the Draft Financial Estimates.

RESOLUTION 290623/3

Moved: Cr Sam Cornish

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That

1. Council adopts the Draft Operational Plan 2023/2024 (including Financial Estimates 2023/2027), Revenue Policy 2023/2024 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2023/2033 the subject of this report.
2. In respect to the general land rates contained in the 2023/2024 Draft Revenue Policy, Council in accordance with Sections 535 and 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* makes the following General Rates for the 2023/2024 financial year:

Residential	\$310.00	24.91%	\$0.00332
Rural Residential (sub-category)	\$310.00	28.17%	\$0.00232
Business	\$360.00	9.66%	\$0.01104
Farmland	\$360.00	17.94%	\$0.00259

3. In relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council makes and imposes the maximum charge for interest, as determined by the Minister for Local Government and in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as follows:
 - (i) for the 2023/2024 financial year; 9.0% per annum
4. In respect of annual charges and user charges for Waste Management, Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Management Service Charges, in accordance with Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes these charges as detailed in the 2023/2024 Draft Revenue Policy to apply to the 2023/2024 financial year.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 7pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Richmond Valley Council held on 18 July 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON