

Richmond  
Valley  
Council



# **MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council Meeting  
18 October 2022**

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**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO  
ON TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022 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

**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 & Mayor) and Simon Breeze (IT Support Coordinator).

## **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**

**Ms Jill Lyons** addressed Council in relation to Item 14.1 North Coast Alternative Waste Treatment EIO process.

Ms Lyons submitted four questions to Council regarding this matter. The questions and the responses are provided at Appendix A.

The Mayor thanked Ms Lyons for her attendance and address to the meeting.

**Ms Liz Stops** addressed Council in relation to Item 14.1 North Coast Alternative Waste Treatment EIO process and expressed concern.

Ms Stops submitted four questions to Council regarding this matter. The questions and the responses are provided at Appendix A.

The Mayor thanked Ms Stops for her attendance and address to the meeting.

A full recording of the public addresses to the meeting are available at:

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

**4 APOLOGIES**

Nil

**5 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 20 SEPTEMBER 2022****RESOLUTION 181022/1**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 September 2022.

**CARRIED****7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Nil

**8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

**9 PETITIONS**

Nil

**10 NOTICE OF MOTION****10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR PATRICK DEEGAN; WASTE MANAGEMENT**

A Motion was put to the meeting and was lost.

In Favour: Crs Patrick Deegan and Debra McGillanAgainst: Crs Robert Mustow, Stephen Morrissey, Sam Cornish, Robert Hayes and Sandra Humphrys**LOST 2/5**

That Council:

- Notes that the NSW Environment Protection Authority held a community consultation process, via its website, from late February to late March this year, into the inclusion of the Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct as an allowable location for Thermal Waste to Energy.
- Acknowledges that this consultation coincided with catastrophic flooding in the Richmond Valley, meaning most local residents were unable to participate in or were even unaware that this consultation was taking place.
- Acknowledges that while there is currently no development application for a Waste to

Energy facility in the Richmond Valley, Council has been actively pursuing investments in the Waste to Energy sector in the Richmond Valley since 2018 and in April this year Council called for expressions of interest for Alternate Waste Solutions on behalf of eight other North Coast Councils.

- Commits to undertaking community consultation to seek the community's views on the inclusion of the Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct as one of the four identified locations for Thermal Waste to Energy in NSW as part of the consultation process for the precinct's master plan.
- At the November Councillor Information Session, a workshop be held to discuss the format and process for this consultation.

## **11 MAYOR'S REPORT**

### **11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 13 SEPTEMBER - 12 OCTOBER 2022**

#### **RESOLUTION 181022/2**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 13 September – 12 October 2022.

**CARRIED**

## **12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**

Nil

## **13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**

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

#### **RESOLUTION 181022/3**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That items 15.1 and 15.2, identified be determined without debate.

**CARRIED**

**14 GENERAL MANAGER****14.1 NORTH COAST ALTERNATIVE WASTE TREATMENT EOI PROCESS****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Councils on the North Coast have been exploring opportunities for alternative waste treatment for the past five years. Local and regional landfills are approaching capacity and councils face increasing environmental challenges and rising costs in managing these facilities.

In 2020 a group of 12 North Coast councils, supported by the Department of Regional NSW, worked together to conduct a stocktake of regional waste types and quantities and prepare the North Coast Region Waste Investment Report. This report highlighted the need to develop alternative waste treatment infrastructure to divert residual waste from landfill.

Following on from the Report, nine of the councils agreed to undertake an Expression of Interest process, as a market-sounding exercise. While the process did not commit any of the councils to a particular course, it aimed to provide a better understanding of the range of technologies available and whether there would be market interest in establishing alternative waste treatment facilities on the North Coast. The EOI attracted strong interest and has confirmed that, should the councils wish to pursue any of the options, there are viable alternatives to continued reliance on landfill.

**RESOLUTION 181022/4**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the Alternative Waste Treatment Expressions of Interest process and the broad range of responses received;
2. Continues to work with North Coast councils to explore future options for waste management and reduce reliance on landfill to improve economic and environmental outcomes for our community and the region.

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

Against: Cr Patrick Deegan

**CARRIED 6/1**

**15 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES****15.1 CHILD SAFE SCHEME****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has obligations under State legislation to ensure child safety and wellbeing. Additional mandatory requirements have recently been introduced through the NSW Child Safe Scheme. These requirements apply to Councillors, staff and volunteers within the organisation. The first step in Council's implementation of the scheme is to adopt a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy. A draft policy has been prepared for Council's consideration.

**RESOLUTION 181022/5**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council:

1. Notes its responsibilities under the NSW Child Safe Scheme
2. Adopts the draft Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.

**CARRIED**

**15.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the status and performance of its cash and investment portfolio in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* s.625, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.212, Australian Accounting Standard (AASB 9) and Council's Investment Policy.

The value of Council's cash and investments at 30 September 2022 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$18,326,518	\$38,000,000	\$4,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$14,327,757	\$77,404,665

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 30 September 2022 was negative (2.05%) which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for September of 0.15%, which is Council's benchmark.

**RESOLUTION 181022/6**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing the performance of its cash and investments for the month of September 2022.

**CARRIED**



### 15.3 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/2022

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's draft financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 have been prepared and subjected to external audit by the Audit Office of New South Wales. A copy of the draft financial statements and draft auditor's report have been provided separately to Councillors for information.

Council's external auditor, the Audit Office of New South Wales has advised that its representative firm, Thomas, Noble and Russell will be attending the Ordinary Meeting of Council 15 November 2022 and will provide a presentation on the 2021/2022 financial statements and the final audit report.

Council achieved a surplus from continuing operations of \$19.987 million for the 2021/2022 financial year, compared to a surplus of \$10.086 million in the previous year. Council recorded a loss before capital grants and contributions of \$5.595 million for 2021/2022, compared to a loss of \$2.407 million for the 2020/2021 financial year. The decrease in this result for 2021/2022 is reflective of additional expenditure incurred due to Council's response to the flood disaster and waste clean-up, noting that this expenditure is claimable under Natural Disaster Funding which will be received in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Total revenue increased to \$101.857 million, from \$71.633 million in 2020/2021. The main factor contributing to this was an increase in grants and contributions of \$28.169 million as a result of the flood disaster, as well as significant infrastructure grants.

Council received \$25.582 million in capital grants and contributions during 2021/2022, an increase of \$13.089 million from the previous year. The main increases were in natural disaster funding as well as funding for Casino Showground and Casino Swimming Pool upgrade.

Total operating expenditure was \$81.870 million, an increase from \$61.547 million in the previous year. The main changes included an increase in materials and services of \$17.051 million and net loss from the disposal of assets of \$1.369 million.

Council's total cash, cash equivalents and investments increased by \$16.876 million to \$78,652 million as at 30 June 2022.

Council has achieved improvements in four out of nine of its key performance measures, with all but four of the ratios meeting or exceeding the industry benchmark. A notable improvement was in Council's building and infrastructure renewal ratio from 86.64% to 125.26%. Other improvements included Council's operating performance ratio, improving from -4.10% to -2.80% (benchmark >0.00%), and asset maintenance ratio, improving from 129.63% to 162.32% (benchmark > 100%). Results of the other key performance measures are detailed in the report.

#### RESOLUTION 181022/7

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Adopts the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and special schedules for the year ended 30 June 2022.
2. Certifies the following in respect of the general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022:
  - (a) Council's general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:
    - (i) The *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and the regulations made thereunder, and

- (ii) The Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and
  - (iii) The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
- (b) The general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements present fairly Council's financial position and operating result for the year ended 30 June 2022 and:
- (i) The reports are in accordance with Council's accounting and other records;
  - (ii) The signatories to this statement being the Mayor, a Councillor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer are not aware of anything that would make the financial statements false or misleading in any way;
3. Fixes Tuesday 15 November 2022 as the date for the meeting to present the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 to the public, invites submissions in writing and provides appropriate public notice of this meeting.
4. Adopts the restricted assets (reserves) schedule as detailed in this report.

**CARRIED**

## **16 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **16.1 CASINO WATER SECURITY STUDY**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Richmond Valley Council has been investigating future water supply options for Casino over the past 10 years and has recently completed a Water Supply Scoping Study to consider future water security and the potential impacts of climate change. The study concluded that, over a 30-year horizon, Casino could experience water supply shortfalls in dry periods. It recommended a number of options to improve water security, which will require further investigation to determine feasibility and cost-benefit. It is now proposed that Council proceeds to a more detailed analysis of the options.

#### **RESOLUTION 181022/8**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council:

1. Notes the completion of the Casino Water Supply Scoping Study and the support received from Phase 1 of the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program to undertake this work
2. Commits to further investigation of the water security options identified in the Scoping Study through a detailed options analysis
3. Writes to the administrators of the Safe and Secure Water Program, reaffirming Council's commitment to this project and seeking funding support under Phase 2 of the program
4. Notes that community consultation will be undertaken on the Casino Water Supply Project following completion of the options analysis.

**CARRIED**

**17 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Nil

**18 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION****RESOLUTION 181022/9**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

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

**CARRIED****19.1 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2022****RESOLUTION 181022/10**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 July – 30 September 2022.

**CARRIED****19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022****RESOLUTION 181022/11**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of September 2022.

**CARRIED****19.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022****RESOLUTION 181022/12**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022.

**CARRIED**

**19.4 CORRESPONDENCE - DRAFT NORTH COAST REGIONAL PLAN AND NSW FLOOD INQUIRY****RESOLUTION 181022/13**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey  
Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

That Council receives and notes the correspondence regarding:

1. Draft North Coast Regional Plan – letter to Member for Clarence and the Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes; and
2. NSW Independent Flood Inquiry – letter to the NSW Premier.

**CARRIED**

**19.5 OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS OF TENDER VP308256 - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT AMENITIES BUILDING AT CASINO SHOWGROUND****RESOLUTION 181022/14**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey  
Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

That Council receives and notes the report on the outcome of negotiations on Tender VP308256 – Design and Construct Amenities Building at Casino Showground.

**CARRIED**

**19.6 OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS OF TENDER VP277869 - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT WILLOX BRIDGE REPLACEMENT****RESOLUTION 181022/15**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey  
Seconded: Cr Debra McGillan

That Council receives and notes the report on the Outcome of Negotiations of Tender VP277869 – Design and Construct Willox Bridge Replacement.

**CARRIED**

**20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****20.1 RESPONSE TO QUESTION: CR ROBERT HAYES - CASINO'S FUTURE WATER SECURITY**

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Robert Hayes:

**Question**

Can a report come back to Council detailing the effect that the Northern Cooperative Meat Company (NCCMC) (now known as Casino Food Co-Op) has on the long-term water security of the town water supply in Casino?

Can the report:

- Outline the contractual arrangements that are in place between Council and the NCMC and how ratepayers are financially impacted by this agreement;
- Include a desktop study as to the result, if the NCMC was not drawing water from Casino's water supply; and
- Discuss any other options that are available to the NCMC for its future water supply

## Response

### 1. Contractual arrangements and financial impacts

In July 2012 Richmond Valley Council executed an agreement to supply water at a discounted rate to the Northern Cooperative Meat Company (NCMC), now the Casino Food Co-op. The terms of the agreement are commercial in confidence, but it essentially commits Council to supply discounted water, as long as the Co-op agrees to purchase a minimum amount each year and does not to develop its own water supply.

The financial impact of this arrangement is different for every ratepayer. As Council's water fund needs to break even, and set aside reserve funds for future capital works, each year's water charges are calculated on this basis. If one ratepayer has a set price lower than the rest, the charge to the other ratepayers would need to be higher to cover the difference.

The Casino Food Co-op currently pays \$1.06 for each kilolitre of water it uses. Other manufacturing businesses pay \$2.88 per kl and residential customers pay between \$2.88 and \$4.38 per kl, depending on how much water they use.

### 2. Outcomes if the NCMC was not drawing water from Casino's supply

The 2022 Casino Water Supply Scoping Study has confirmed that the Richmond River is currently the only viable water source available to Casino, and therefore the only viable source for the Co-op. If the Co-op ceased to draw water from the town supply, it would still need to extract some 900 ML from the river each year to support its operations, so water security for the township would not improve.

In terms of financial impacts, the costs to produce water are largely fixed costs, therefore do not decrease with reduced consumption. Council would still need to provide a pumping station to draw water from the river, a water treatment plant, reservoirs and water mains – and ultimately pay to replace this infrastructure – regardless of whether the Co-op was connected to the system. The Co-op currently pays a Water Access Charge (in addition its consumption charges) to contribute to the long-term cost of replacing this infrastructure.

Water treatment and chemical costs for the Casino Water Treatment plant last financial year were \$509,004. If these costs were halved (the Co-op currently consumes some 47% of total water supplied) Council would see a reduction in costs of just over \$250,000. If the Co-op stopped purchasing its water through Council, based on last year, RVC would lose approximately \$730,000 in income. Subtracting the production savings of \$250,000, Council would have a negative impact on Water Fund of approximately \$480,000 per annum. There would also be additional loss of the Access Charges currently paid by the Co-op if it was wholly independent of Council's water supply network. These charges amount to \$25,800 per year.

### 3. Future water supply options for NCMC

If the Co-op wished to operate independently of Council's water supply, it would need to secure an alternative water source and build its own water treatment plant, storage and reticulation system for the site. This option would come at considerable cost and require licensing and approvals to extract water from the Richmond River and build and operate a water treatment plant.

To have a wholly independent water supply:

- The Co-op would need to obtain a Water Access Licence to extract water from the Richmond River (assuming it could first acquire sufficient water allocation under the Water Sharing Plan).
- It would then need to obtain approval to construct inlet works to pump the water out of the river. The Co-op would be regulated by the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) to ensure it was complying with its Water Access Licence.
- Having obtained a licence, the Co-op would then have to obtain approval to construct and operate a water treatment plant. This would be addressed under the Water Industries Competition Act, which is administered by IPART. The estimated cost of construction works is \$15-20m.
- Having constructed and commissioned the treatment plant, the Co-op would then need to develop and implement a Drinking Water Quality Management System (which is regulated by NSW Health) and employ suitably qualified technicians to operate the plant in accordance with these requirements.

**RESOLUTION 181022/16**

Moved: Cr Robert Hayes

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That the response to the question regarding Casino's future water security, raised by Cr Robert Hayes be received and noted.

**CARRIED**

**21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)****21.1 QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER MEETING CR ROBERT HAYES; DISCOUNTED WATER**

Can the General Manager bring a report back to the November Council meeting with a full cost assessment related to the discounted water supplied to the Northern Cooperative Meat Company, explaining the possible effect it has on the water rates of all the ratepayers across Richmond Valley Council.

I would like to see the report based around a scale of discounted rates from the existing rate of \$1.06 per kl, \$1.44 per kl, \$2.16 per kl, in comparison with the current manufacturers business rate of \$2.88 per kl.

## 22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

### 22.1 Proposed Purchase of Industrial Land Development

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (c) and (d)(ii) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

The General Manager reported that no written representations had been received in respect of the items listed for consideration in Closed Council.

The Chair called for representations from the gallery.

There were no verbal representations from the gallery in respect to this item.

The Chair advised that under section 10A *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public are to be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be discussed is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10(2) as outlined above.

### RESOLUTION 181022/17

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That:

1. Council resolved to enter Closed Council to consider the business identified in Item 22.1, together with any late reported tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis the business to be discussed is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10(2) as outlined above.
3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) *Local Government Act 1993*.

**CARRIED**

Council closed its meeting at 7.09 pm.

The Open Council meeting resumed at 7.16pm.

The resolutions of the Closed Council meeting were read by the General Manager.

**23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL****22.1 Proposed Purchase of Industrial Land Development**

That:

1. Council authorises the General Manager to proceed with the purchase of land suitable for development into an industrial subdivision for \$2.2 million including GST as set out in this report.
2. The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

The Meeting closed at 7.17 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 November 2022.

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**



**Appendix A – General Manager Response to Public Access Questions**

**Ms Jill Lyons** asked the following questions during Council's Public Access session:-

1. Would landfill in the form of toxic ash from a waste-to-energy incinerator be the responsibility of RVC or would all of the Councils involved be responsible?
2. Should RVC be contracted to provide a certain tonnage of waste to a w2e incinerator would that commitment be shared by the whole group of councils or would it be the sole responsibility of RVC?
3. Could Council please provide the evidence and references that demonstrate NSW superior emissions standards? For instance, a table comparing exact emissions standards in equivalent metrics.
4. Does Council concede that the \$82.50 per tonne levy waiver for a waste-to-energy incinerator unfairly weights the decision-making process towards that option for the Councils involved?

The General Manager provided the following responses;

1. Should a proposal be received, the management of any by-products from the facility would be addressed through development consent conditions, determined under the State Significant Development provisions of the EP&A Act.
2. Contractual arrangements between any future facility and client councils would be a matter for the proponent to negotiate. As with all contracts, RVC would seek to obtain the best value outcome for the community.
3. Reference is made to the 'NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer Energy from Waste Report, May 2020 Table 1: Air emission limits for EFW facilities in the USA, the EU and NSW'.
4. The waste levy was introduced to discourage continued use of landfills, as they provide very poor environmental outcomes, and encourage further exploration of Alternative Waste Technology. Energy from Waste is included as part of the Circular Economy in the NSW Waste Strategy. The financial arrangements of any option is a matter for each council to determine, based on its own evaluation of best value for its community.

**Ms Liz Stops** asked the following questions during Council's Public Access session:-

1. Could Council please elaborate on the sentence "A wide range of technologies was addressed, including various forms of thermal treatment, energy from waste, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, and material recovery facilities" which is on page 11 of the agenda, and detail what each of the options entails.
2. Did the 'material recovery' options only include recycling and reusing or were gas phase chemical reduction and biological treatment of the waste to render it nontoxic for landfill purposes considered?
3. If more comprehensive recycling methods and other treatments for materials that are currently not recyclable or reusable were developed what would be the implications for RVC should those materials no longer be appropriate as feedstock for a waste-to-energy incinerator?

4. Does the new superior NSW waste-to-energy emissions standards include provisions or a plan for addressing operation other than normal operating conditions (OTNOC) bypass events for maintenance etc? If the answer is yes, please provide evidence or a reference.

The General Manager provided the following responses;

1. In line with the procurement requirements, details of individual proposals submitted to the EOI are commercial in confidence.
2. Council is unable to respond to questions on ‘gas phase chemical reduction & biological treatment of waste’ without further explanation of the process.  
The EOI was for all forms of AWT. Details of individual proposals submitted to the EOI are commercial in confidence.
3. RVC completely supports increasing recycling and the reprocessing of recovered materials. We are exploring several ways of increasing our recycling rates and encouraging reprocessing businesses to the area.  
Any contract will not preclude the option for future recovery of materials that are not currently recoverable. They are referred to as waste arising contracts.
4. This is a matter for the EPA, which is responsible for regulation of Energy from Waste Facilities in NSW and it would require that any facility meets the conditions of their EPA licence at all times.