



# TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

of the **Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council** held in the **Council Chambers**,  
**4th Floor Ray Walsh House, 437 Peel Street, Tamworth**

**23 MARCH 2021**

**PAUL BENNETT**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

# ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held in the Council Chambers, 4th Floor Ray  
Walsh House, 437 Peel Street, Tamworth  
**TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021 at 6:30PM**

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**PRESENT:** Cr Col Murray (Mayor), Cr Phil Betts, Cr Charles Impey, Cr Glenn Inglis, Cr Jim Maxwell, Cr Mark Rodda, Cr Helen Tickle, Cr Russell Webb and Cr Juanita Wilson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The General Manager, Director Planning and Compliance, Director Growth and Prosperity, Director Regional Services, Director Water and Waste and Acting Director Corporate and Governance/Executive Manager Strategy and Performance.

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**1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Nil

**3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

**MOTION**

**Moved Cr Webb/Cr Inglis**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 9 March 2021, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

**61/21 RESOLVED**

**4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Cr Mark Rodda declared a conflict of interest in Item 8.1 “Draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy” of the Business Paper, for the reason that he is employed by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment. Cr Rodda further stated that it was a less than significant non pecuniary interest and that he would remain in the Chamber and participate in the debate.

Cr Helen Tickle declared a conflict of interest in Item 8.2 “Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee – General Meeting – 10 February 2021 and 3 March 2021” of the Business Paper, for the reason that she is an owner of property in White Street. Cr Tickle further stated that it was a less than significant non pecuniary interest and that she would remain in the Chamber and participate in the debate.

**5 MAYORAL MINUTE**

Nil

**6 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

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## **OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**

Nil

### **8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

#### **8.1 DRAFT NAMOI REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY**

**DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE**  
**AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director Water and Waste**

#### **MOTION**

#### **Moved Cr Webb/Cr Betts**

That in relation to the report "Draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy", Council:

- (i) receive and note the report; and
- (ii) agree to lodge a submission to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) which includes the following points:
  - the NSW Government and DPIE are to be congratulated on the draft strategy as it is the first comprehensive attempt to look at the issues involving water management in the Namoi and seek solutions;
  - Council considers that the definitions for water security and reliability need to be the same when talking about water security from a regional water strategy and from an Integrated Water Cycle Management perspective. It is untenable for water security to be estimated based on different models which could yield different answers for the same centre;
  - the possibility that a centre may run out of water on occasion is not possible for a centre the size of Tamworth. The inability to allow a centre to run out of water must be taken into account when considering water security;
  - for a growing centre, water security should not just be assessed based on present demand, but also into the future when growth will place further demand on supplies;
  - Council supports the Dungowan Dam and Pipeline project as a key component in securing Tamworth's water supply into the future;
  - Council agrees that much further work is required to better understand groundwater including the linkages between surface and alluvial water;
  - Council believes groundwater users should contribute to the cost of the storage where one of the reasons for releasing water from the storage is for aquifer recharge;
  - as part of the consideration of changes to present water sharing rules, consideration needs to be given to the lack of incentives for a centre to save water if the water saved is sold to another customer;
  - the Peel Valley is relatively unique when considering the percentage of entitlement from Chaffey Dam held for town water. As a result, there may need to be solutions developed that are unique to the Peel Valley;
  - whilst Council supports making water available for the environment, the present 3ML per day releases from Chaffey Dam, regardless of downstream conditions, should be reconsidered. Council has previously suggested the 3ML per day

release could be stored in the dam and released as part of a block release which will ensure sufficient water is released to address any environmental concerns identified;

- at Split Rock Dam during the most recent drought, the excessive losses experienced to get water to Manilla, given the relatively small volumes of water required, suggests that the 13GL cut off was insufficient and this amount should therefore be reconsidered;
- Council supports the investigation and roll out of recycled water options, but the issue of what to do with the wastewater from the treatment systems presently on the market is a considerable deterrent for inland centres, and the strategy should include further research into the treatment processes available for recycled water;
- Option 11, which suggests the creation of a critical human needs water license, needs careful consideration because in Tamworth, where approximately 50% of the water is used for commercial purposes, there is a real risk that people may have water to drink but no job because their employer has been closed down;
- food processing to meet the objective of critical human need by placing a weighting factor on the value proposition of sustaining food production;
- the operation of the Chaffey Dam to Tamworth pipeline remain operational at all times;
- that the Keepit Dam to Tamworth pipeline be considered; and
- Option 38, the voluntary conversion of licenses, should include investigation of the buyback of sleeper licenses in the Peel and if that were undertaken, what, if any, benefits that would produce in terms of increased water security.

62/21 **RESOLVED**

## **8.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE – GENERAL MEETING – 10 FEBRUARY 2021 AND 3 MARCH 2021**

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES  
**AUTHOR:** Murray Russell, Business Improvement Review - Regional Services

### **MOTION**

#### **Moved Cr Impey/Cr Wilson**

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee – General Meeting – 10 February 2021 and 3 March 2021”, Council:

- (i) approve the installation of a parallel parking zone on Carthage Street, between White Street and the driveway of 123 Carthage Street, East Tamworth;
- (ii) approve the installation of the following at White Street and Carthage Street intersection:
  - centre and edge line marking on both White Street approaches and the south bound Carthage Street approach;
  - kerb blisters on each corner and the Carthage Street approaches; and
  - centre line marking on Carthage Street between White Street and Fitzroy Street East Tamworth;

- (iii) approve the installation of:
  - level crossing signs and line marking on Gunnedah Road, Dampier Street and Evans Street as per the attached plans; and
  - smart signs on Jewry Street (prior to Dampier Street) for southbound traffic, Gunnedah Road (west of Dampier Street) for eastbound traffic turning into Dampier Street, and Gunnedah Road (east of Dampier Street) for westbound traffic turning into Dampier Street;
- (iv) approve the construction of the Riverside Shared Path, from O'Connell Street, Taminda to the Solander Drive, West Tamworth car park as per the attached plan;
- (v) approve the closure of Carter Street, Solander Drive at Riverside, Locks Lane and No.1 Oval access road Tamworth on 1 August 2021, from 6:00am to 2:00pm, for the Annual Tamworth Running Festival;
- (vi) approve the installation of line marking on Campbell Road as per the attached plan;
- (vii) approve the installation of a “Keep Left” sign on the southern Murray Street approach to Napier Street intersection; and
- (viii) approve the installation of a pedestrian refuge and blisters on Peel Street, and crossing blisters on Macquarie Street, adjacent to the Tamworth Skate Park.

**63/21 RESOLVED**

### **8.3 REGULAR UPDATE ON DROUGHT RESPONSE AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY**

**DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE**  
**AUTHOR: Louise Cadell, Sustainability Officer - Water**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved Cr Inglis/Cr Wilson**

That in relation to the report “Regular Update on Drought Response and Water Sustainability”, Council receive and note the report.

**64/21 RESOLVED**

## **9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE**

### **9.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**  
**AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved Cr Inglis/Cr Rodda**

That in relation to the report “Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the Minutes of the meeting held 16 February 2021;
- (ii) accept the Annual Report presented by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee; and

- (iii) approve the Tamworth Regional Council Internal Audit Charter.

**65/21 RESOLVED**

### **9.2 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS FEBRUARY 2021**

**DIRECTORATE:** CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE  
**AUTHOR:** Sherrill Young, Manager Financial Services

#### **MOTION**

**Moved Cr Inglis/Cr Webb**

That in relation to the report “Council Investments February 2021”, Council receive and note the report.

**66/21 RESOLVED**

### **9.3 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE DEBT RECOVERY POLICY**

**DIRECTORATE:** CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE  
**AUTHOR:** Sherrill Young, Manager Financial Services

#### **MOTION**

**Moved Cr Wilson/Cr Maxwell**

That in relation to the report “Review and Update of Debt Recovery Policy”, Council:

- (i) approve the policy in principle before placing it on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for public comment; and
- (ii) request a further report to Council following the review period to consider any public comments received.

**67/21 RESOLVED**

### **9.4 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020/2021 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2021**

**DIRECTORATE:** CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE  
**AUTHOR:** Sherrill Young, Manager Financial Services  
**Reference:** Item 9.3 to Ordinary Council 23 June 2020 - Minute No 173/20

#### **MOTION**

**Moved Cr Wilson/Cr Impey**

That in relation to the report “Annual Operational Plan 2020/2021 Budget Variation Report – February 2021”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget included in the attached Annexure.

**68/21 RESOLVED**



## 9.5 DRAFT CIVIC FUNCTIONS POLICY

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
**AUTHOR:** Jason Collins, Executive Manager - Strategy and Performance

### MOTION

#### Moved Cr Inglis/Cr Betts

That in relation to the report “Draft Civic Functions Policy”, Council:

- (i) endorse the Draft Civic Functions Policy, removing the name of the Mayor, and advertise the proposed policy for a period of 28 days for public comments prior to formal adoption by Council; and
- (ii) request a further report following the review period to consider any public comments on the policy prior to formal adoption by Council.

**69/21 RESOLVED**

## 9.6 2021 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MOTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
**AUTHOR:** Jason Collins, Executive Manager - Strategy and Performance

**Reference:** Item 9.2 to Ordinary Council 9 February 2021 - Minute No 12/21

### MOTION

#### Moved Cr Wilson/Cr Betts

That in relation to the report “2021 National General Assembly of Local Government – Motions for Submission”, Council authorise the following motions to be submitted:

- (i) that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to make appropriate representations to the Federal Government Health Minister to ensure the current review of the National Medical Workforce Strategy, and in particular how a “District of Workforce Shortage” is determined when allocating Medicare Provider Numbers, provides flexibility and opportunities for Medical Practitioners and Specialists to relocate to regional and rural communities so that they are not disadvantaged in the delivery of adequate and essential medical services;
- (ii) that the National General Assembly calls on the Federal and State Governments to invest additional resources into the CSIRO and other research organisations to further improve available water purification technology, and then commit funding to establish water purification plants to help improve water security for communities; and
- (iii) that the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to investigate the failings of the National Broadband Network in rural and regional Australia and the exorbitant cost of connection for some businesses and residents;
- (iv) save and except in relation to the Summary of Key Arguments in Item (iii) that the wording “Places such as Binnaway, Mendooran and Baradine” be removed

prior to submission to the NGA.

**70/21 RESOLVED**

## **10 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **10.1 ACQUISITIONS TO THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL GALLERY COLLECTION 2020**

**DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND PROSPERITY**  
**AUTHOR: Bridget Guthrie, Director Tamworth Regional Gallery and Museums**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved Cr Webb/Cr Inglis**

That in relation to the report “Acquisitions to the Tamworth Regional Gallery Collection 2020”, Council formally accept the identified artworks into the visual art collection, and the donors be formally thanked for their important contribution.

**71/21 RESOLVED**

## **11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL**

At 7.45pm, the Chairperson offered the opportunity to members of the public to make representations as to whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

The General Manager advised the Chairperson that no written public submissions or representations had been received as to whether or not part of the Meeting should be closed to the public. The Chairperson asked any members of the Council whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved Cr Maxwell/Cr Webb**

That the confidential reports as listed be considered in a Meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

**72/21 RESOLVED**

### **11.1 TENDER T038/2021 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LANDFILL COMPACTOR**

**DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES**  
**AUTHOR: George Shearman, Manager Plant, Fleet and Building Services**  
**2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

## 11.2 TENDER T134/2020 - UPGRADE OF SWAN STREET SEWAGE PUMPING STATION

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE

**AUTHOR:** Jack Watkins, Projects and Services Engineer

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

## 12 CLOSED COUNCIL REPORTS

### 12.1 TENDER T038/2021 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LANDFILL COMPACTOR

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES

**AUTHOR:** George Shearman, Manager Plant, Fleet and Building Services

#### MOTION

Moved Cr Webb/Cr Inglis

That in relation to the report "Tender T038/2021 - Supply and Delivery of Landfill Compactor", Council award the tender to Tutt Bryant Equipment Pty Ltd, ABN: 89 094 476 141, for the supply and delivery of one Bomag BC772RB-2 (XY option) for a changeover of \$811,008.18 (excluding GST).

73/21 RESOLVED

### 12.2 TENDER T134/2020 - UPGRADE OF SWAN STREET SEWAGE PUMPING STATION

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE

**AUTHOR:** Jack Watkins, Projects and Services Engineer

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

#### MOTION

Moved Cr Betts/Cr Impey

That in relation to the report "Tender T134/2020 – Upgrade of Swan Street Sewage Pumping Station", Council accept the tender submitted by KCE for the lump sum contract price amount of \$545,602 (GST exclusive).

74/21 RESOLVED

## 13 RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

### MOTION

Moved Cr Maxwell/Cr Impey

That Council move into Open Council.

**75/21 RESOLVED**

At 7.48pm the meeting moved back into Open Council.

In accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice, Section 14.21, the Chairperson provided a summary of the resolutions passed in Closed Council.

**Closure:** There being no further business the Ordinary Meeting of Council concluded at 7.49pm.

Cr Col Murray, Chairperson

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

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