



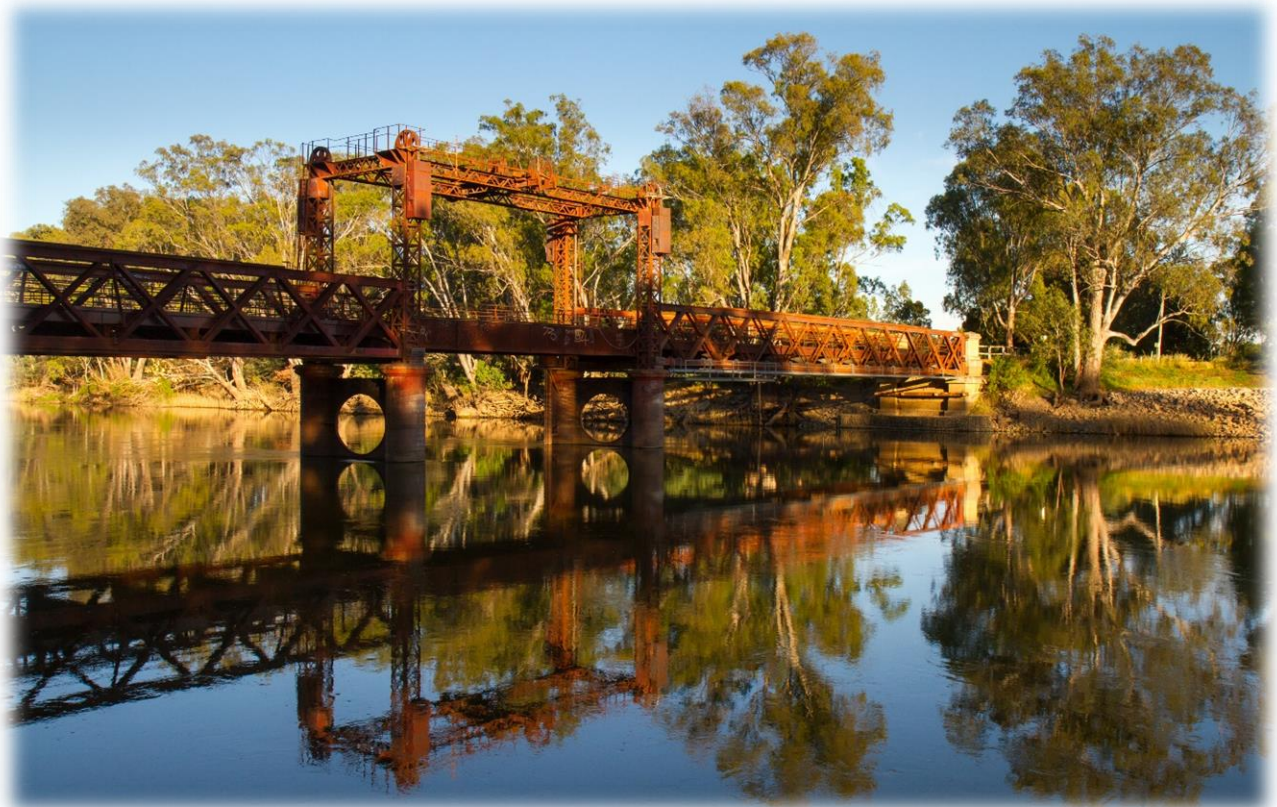
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Wednesday 16 September 2020

at 11:00am

Council Chambers

56 Chanter Street, Berrigan



Agenda

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Berrigan will be held in the **Council Chambers**, Berrigan, on **Wednesday 16 September, 2020** when the following business will be submitted:-

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No business, other than that on the Agenda, may be dealt with at this meeting unless admitted by the Mayor.

ROWAN PERKINS
GENERAL MANAGER



Council Meeting

Wednesday 16 September, 2020

BUSINESS PAPER

This meeting is being webcast and those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

1. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Daryll Morris

2. DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTERESTS

3. ITEMS FOR RESOLUTION

Council Meeting

16 September 2020

3.1 Mayor's Report for the Period October 2018 – September 2020

Report by: Mayor, Cr Matthew Hannan

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

Recommendation:

That the Mayor's report for the period October 2018 until September 2020 be noted.

Report:

It's been an absolute pleasure to have been the Mayor of the Berrigan Shire for the past two years. Being able to represent our communities and advocate on your behalf is something that I respect and it is an honour.

Many aspects of being the Mayor bring enjoyment, and none more so than being able to acknowledge our hard-working volunteers. As we all know, many of our facilities, events, and organisations don't and wouldn't operate without volunteers, and I take this opportunity to thank you all personally.

Australia Day is another privilege that I am able to be involved with. Being able to welcome new citizens to our country and our Shire through our Citizenship Ceremonies is a highlight each year.

The Finley School of Arts saw their much-needed upgrades completed and are extremely happy with the result.

The Tocumwal Aerodrome has seen the last of its developed blocks sold. This development has been a real positive result and has already seen lots of activity created in and around the airport. The first Air Show was also showcased at the Aerodrome attracting over 5000 people.

I don't want to dwell on the current COVID-19 pandemic, but it must be acknowledged that things have had to change and that some things we have learnt during this period will hold our Council in good stead moving forward.

We had our first Zoom Council meeting in late April and this was something that became the new normal during the first lockdown. Zoom meetings has enabled us to keep connected as a Council, performing our civic duty and also allowing us to be involved in broader discussions at both State and Federal levels.

Berrigan Shire, like a lot of other areas, has seen record levels of funding injected into our communities allowing us to continue to stimulate both the local economy and the national economy. The community is already using many projects, with others due to start or are already in progress.

The Tocumwal Splash Park and the Barooga Adventure Playground have both attracted many visitors to our region along with providing residents throughout the shire a space to enjoy with family and friends.

Upgrades to the Tocumwal Library, streetscape works in Berrigan and Barooga along with new town entry signage are other examples of infrastructure projects that have been completed.

Drought Communities Funding has seen Council provide many projects for our towns that have been completed or are nearing completion. Some of these include the Berrigan War Memorial Swimming Pool and the Finley War Memorial Swimming Pool. Other projects funded through this stream of funding include irrigation works at the Finley Golf Club, CBD improvements in both Finley and Berrigan, Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome Museum and Lions Park in Barooga.

Berrigan Shire again hosted a Bush Bursary student, Kathleen McPhie in January. Kathleen was able to experience all medical and veterinarian aspects that our shire has to offer.

A new and exciting event that was able to go ahead prior to the COVID lockdown included the Taste It Food Festival in Tocumwal. This was a great success and we look forward to it returning post COVID.

Unfortunately, other events have had to cancel due to this pandemic and will have a significant impact on our local economies. Strawberry Fields and the Berrigan Cup which are two of our most notable events couldn't proceed this year. I recognise that events play a significant role in our tourism strategy, and we look forward to most events able to return in 2021 in some shape or form.

Local sport was also affected during the winter months, and this has highlighted issues with being involved in cross border competitions.

The Council continues to play a leading role within the community, showing this through supporting the Barooga Sporties Health and Fitness for the next two years along with Moira Shire Council to ensure this facility continues to operate.

A shining light has been the positive start to our cropping season. With the agriculture businesses and farming community experiencing much-needed rainfall, the expectation is that this season will be one that has been coming for a long time.

RAMJO (Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation) is made up of 11 Councils and represents over 150,000 people across the region in which Berrigan Shire is a voting member. They have recently released its water position paper and I encourage those that haven't read it yet to take the time to source it out and read it.

The suspension of NSW Local Government elections has extended this Council term by 12 months, and elections will now be held in September 2021.

Finally, with uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we all must stick together, support our local businesses as much as possible so that all are ready to rebound once we can return to a new normal.

Stay safe.



CR MATTHEW HANNAN

MAYOR

Council Meeting**16 September 2020****3.2 General Manager's Report for the Period October 2018 – September 2020**

Report by: General Manager, Rowan Perkins

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

Recommendation:

That the General Manager's report for the period October 2018 until September 2020 be noted.

Report:

The last two years have been both successful and somewhat tumultuous. Indeed, this report would have, in normal circumstances been presented to a new Council elected on 12th September 2020.

The recent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has seen the 2020 Council elections deferred until September 2021. While this deferral has changed the plans for some elected members I commend them for committing to seeing their now extended term through to September 2021.

This extended term has been accompanied by changes to the Code of Meeting Practice, restrictions on visitors attending Council meeting and, of course, the advent of "Zoom" meetings and the like.

While some of the above changes have worked well it is of concern that meetings and interactions with the public are somewhat more constrained than they previously were.

The Council has, again seen significant grant income received and many projects planned or completed over the past two years. These grant inflows have seen many projects developed that both the community and the Council could have dreamt of. While this has been a great outcome for the community it does have a considerable impact on the Council's ability to complete its own routine works and to operate to the standards expected of it. While these impacts are acknowledged they are, nonetheless, good problems in the overall outlook.

While not wanting to single out any particular project, the issues encountered in delivering the Tocumwal Foreshore revitalization project cannot be ignored particularly those around the new building. While the planning aspect of this have now moved on to the delivery phase the real issues around community consultation for those projects that have long delivery

timeframes remains a concern. While that concern remains it must be noted that this was the Council's highest priority for its current term and to all intents this has been delivered.

Another notable change for this Council's term has been the successful inception of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organization (RAMJO) as required by the State. Whilst largely representing the former RAMROC Councils has a clearer focus and is progressing well with pursuing its strategic priorities. The Council has been actively involved in developing its Water Position Paper which has now been adopted and appears to have good support from most other stakeholders.

The Council continues to effectively manage its critical assets and is well advanced with the expansion of the Barooga Water Treatment Plant and replacement of the Finley Water Treatment Plant. These projects will both take some time to actually deliver however they will both leave their respective communities with reliable water supplies that will take them well into the future.

The Council has continued to invest in staff training, particularly the leadership training which has now seen almost half of the Council's staff actively involved. I thank the Council for its commitment as it is something that is discretionary yet it is likely to help our communities and the Council itself well into the future.

I believe that the Council's, now, bi-annual Business Awards have evolved into something that the Council can be proud of. Despite only one of the new style awards processes has been completed I think we can all see the success that that event was.

Finally, the completion of the Finley School of Arts project both completed a very difficult process and delivered a facility that will meet the needs of the community for a long time.

In hindsight the last two year term has been a very successful one with good outcomes and good progress with longer term strategic projects and despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic the Council has continued to deliver on these and also its routine activities.

These results would not have been achieved without the co-operation and commitment of the Council to whom I extend my thanks and appreciation. Again, I reinforce my thanks to the commitment of those Councillors that decided to continue on into the fifth year of their term.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Council, all of the Council staff, especially the senior management team without whom the Council's goals could not be delivered.



ROWAN PERKINS
GENERAL MANAGER

Council Meeting

16 September 2020

3.3. Returning Officer's Report

Report by: General Manager, Rowan Perkins

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

Recommendation:

That any ballot required to fill the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor be a secret ballot conducted under the preferential system.

Report:

In accordance with S1 Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* the General Manager is the Returning Officer for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Schedule 7 of the Regulation provide the basis for the Election of Mayor by Councillors.

A Nomination Form as required by the Regulation is provided with the agenda and is **required to be completed prior to the Extraordinary Meeting commencing**. Nomination forms should be completed and lodged with the Returning Officer or into the Ballot Box at the Chamber entrance prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The election of the Mayor, if more than one Councillor is nominated, may be by preferential ballot or ordinary ballot or by open voting (show of hands).

No mention is made of the election of Deputy Mayor, however, if two or more candidates are nominated I suggest a similar process take place to that of the Mayor.

A nomination form for both positions is circulated with this agenda as **"Appendix 3.3-A"**.

Council Meeting

16 September 2020

3.4. Election of Mayor

Report by: General Manager, Rowan Perkins

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

Recommendation:

That the Election for the position of Mayor of Berrigan Shire be conducted

Report:

It would be appropriate to here conduct the Mayoral election in accordance with the Returning Officer's Report.

Note: that the position of Mayor is for a two year period in accordance with the Local Government Act. Obviously, while the appointment is for a two year term all Councillors go out of office immediately preceding the 2021 election, including the Mayor.

At the time of writing I have received one nomination for the position of Mayor from Cr Hannan.

Council Meeting

16 September 2020

3.5 Election of Deputy Mayor

Report by: General Manager, Rowan Perkins

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

Recommendation:

That the Election for the position of Deputy Mayor of Berrigan Shire for the period ending September 2021 be conducted:

Report:

It would be appropriate to here conduct the Deputy Mayoral election in accordance with the Returning Officer's Report.

There is no obligation for the Council to elect a Deputy Mayor, however the position provides practical support to the Mayor either because of absence or duplication.

The Local Government Act states, inter alia:

231 Deputy Mayor

1. The councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the deputy mayor.
2. The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.
3. The deputy mayor may exercise any function of the mayor at the request of the mayor or if the mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of mayor.
4. The councillors may elect a person from among their number to act as deputy mayor if the deputy mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising a function under this section, or if no deputy mayor has been elected.

At the time of writing I have received one nomination for the position of deputy Mayor from Cr Morris.

Council Meeting

16 September 2020

3.6. Delegates to Committees

Report by: General Manager, Rowan Perkins

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

Recommendation:

That the Council nominates the representatives to the various Committees

Report:

At the 21st September, 2016 Extraordinary Council Meeting the following Councillors were elected to the various Council committees:

1. **Strategy and Policy Workshop**
All Councillors
2. **Barooga Advancement Group**
Crs R Reynoldson and J Bruce
3. **Tocumwal Swimming Pool Committee of Management**
Crs C Jones and D Glanville.
4. **Finley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management**
Crs J Taylor and M Hannan
5. **Finley Showground and Sporting Complex Committee of Management**
Cr J Taylor
6. **Finley War Memorial Swimming Pool Committee of Management**
Cr M Hannan and Cr Reynoldson
7. **Risk Management Committee**
Mayor
9. **Tocumwal Aerodrome Users Group**
Cr C Jones as the Chairperson.

Also, that the following Councillors were appointed as Delegates to regional organisations.

1. **Delegates to Murray Darling Association.**

Crs R Reynoldson and C Jones and Cr R Bodey as alternate delegate.

Crs D Morris and Director Corporate Services and Cr M Hannan as alternate delegate.

2. Bush Fire Management Committee

Crs J Bruce and Director Technical Services and Cr D Morris as alternate delegate.

3. RAMJO

Mayor, General Manager (designated positions).

4. Public Libraries New South Wales (PLNSW)

Cr D Glanville

5. Western Joint Regional Planning Panel

Cr J Taylor and D Morris and Cr Glanville as alternate delegate

4. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at