



**Extraordinary Council Meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

**BUSINESS PAPER**

Commencing at 9:15am.

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1. **APOLOGIES**
  
  2. **DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST**
  
  3. **MAYOR'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2016 – SEPTEMBER 2018 (CR MATTHEW HANNAN)**
  
  4. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2016 – SEPTEMBER 2018 (ROWAN PERKINS)**
  
  5. **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**
  
  6. **ELECTION OF MAYOR**
  
  7. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**
  
  8. **DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES**

Items requiring Council Resolution

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**3. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**AUTHOR: MAYOR**

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME: Good government**

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: 2.2 Ensure effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting**

**RECOMMENDATION: - that the Mayor's report for the period October 2016 until September 2018 be noted.**

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**REPORT:**

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Berrigan Shire for 2018.

Firstly I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors, General Manager and staff for your support throughout the last two years. Being your Mayor is something that I don't take for granted and continue to enjoy working through our communities.

The last two years seem to have been a busy period for the Berrigan Shire Council, where we have been able to attract a lot of external funding allowing us to take many of our community and infrastructure projects forward.

The position of Mayor is one where you are continually learning. Early in my first term, being able to attend the Mayors weekend, professional training in Albury, one on one sessions with a public speaking coach and also attending leadership and community engagement seminars have all assisted me in my role.

I would like to acknowledge our fellow Councillor Bernard Curtin who passed away whilst still serving his community. Bernard was a champion for the health profession and strongly represented his community throughout his journey as a Councillor and Mayor.

In paying respect to Bernard, I'd also like to welcome Roger Reynoldson to Council. I look forward to working alongside Roger and my fellow Councillors in continuing to represent our communities.

Many projects have started and have been completed over the last two years. The joint venture with Moira continues to remain strong after working together on the Queensland Fruit Fly Project. This was a successful project will need to continue ensuring our communities are protected from fruit fly.

**Items requiring Council Resolution**

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Also working together with the Cobram Barooga Business and Tourism Group and bringing sports based tourism to our area as well as conferences and corporate groups.

The Council are continuing to develop the Tocumwal Aerodrome. With now up to 30 blocks having been developed, this is attracting professional people from the aviation industry to our area. The area is also attracting businesses which in return will help sustain the aerodrome into the future.

The Tocumwal Foreshore Redevelopment is the biggest and most exciting project the Council has been involved in throughout my time as a Councillor. This development will bring Tocumwal and the greater shire right into prominence as a tourist destination along the Murray, while providing economic activities and opportunities for businesses to start up and continue to grow.

In Barooga, the Adventure Playground is an exciting project that the Barooga community are fully supportive of. This project along with their town entry program, will allow Barooga to showcase their town and attract visitors from across the border.

In Berrigan, the addition of the Bendigo Bank has had a positive impact on the community. When the NAB decided to withdraw their facility, the Berrigan community rallied behind each other and with some hard work they were able to secure the community bank in the Council's offices. The way Council was prepared to embrace this change has sustained a face to face banking service in Berrigan.

In Finley, the last of the asbestos blocks have been rehabilitated. This will allow the community of Finley to move on from this and encourage new housing development. The development of Railway Park and the adjacent toilets are also having a positive effect.

Council has again supported many events throughout the Shire including the ever growing Show 'n' Shine events to rodeos, sporting and social events that all bring many visitors to our area all year round.

The Live, Work and Invest program and short videos that Council rolled out were a credit to all involved. We need to continue to promote our area as a place that you can Live, Work and Invest in while raising a family.

The biggest challenge we will meet moving forward will be around the ongoing drought. The flow on effects into our towns, volunteer organisations are yet to be measured. We have strong resilient communities that will need support throughout this period and Council will endeavour to play its part where it best can.

**Items requiring Council Resolution**

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To our volunteers, I'd like to thank you for all of your efforts. Our communities do not work unless we have a healthy amount of people willing to give up their time to support many of the volunteer organisations within our Shire.

Finally, we live in a great part of this country and at times there are many challenges that present themselves, however with the willingness to work together for the right outcomes, the Berrigan Shire will continue to provide for its residents, grow and thrive.

Cr Matthew Hannan  
MAYOR

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Items requiring Council Resolution

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**4. GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**AUTHOR:** General Manager (Rowan Perkins)

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME:** Good government

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:** 2.2 Ensure effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting

**RECOMMENDATION:** - that the General Manager's report for the period October 2016 until September 2018 be noted.

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**REPORT:**

This report reflects the half way point of the Council's four year term. The current Council has adapted or evolved into a balanced unit that continues to effectively balance the challenges of Council life.

In reflecting upon the last two years of the Council's term, the unfortunate passing of our good friend and colleague Bernard Curtin could not be left unmentioned. Bernard's inquisitive and interested nature was a highlight of many meetings and his tenures as both Mayor and Deputy Mayor allowed him to constantly let everyone know how good Berrigan Shire Council is. Vale Bernard.

Bernard's passing obviously created the need for a by-election that saw (now) Cr Roger Reynoldson elected continuing a family trend of community representation at the Council level.

Not only is this the Council mid-term period, it also reflects the continuing push by the State Government in its reform of local government. While the pace of that change appears to have abated the formation of Joint Organisations across the State is a significant milestone in that renewed philosophy. After much debate the Council is now a member of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) which includes many members of the soon to be wound up Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC). RAMJO is designed to not only carry on the good work of RAMROC but to also foster better, stronger relations with other State agencies. The success or otherwise of this new structure will be judged at a later point.

In terms of the Council itself, its strong financial position coupled with a significant boost from the State has seen both the continuation of long term projects and the development of new projects that would have taken quite a bit longer to realise had it not been for the additional State funding.

RESOLUTION

**Items requiring Council Resolution**

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The Town Entry Improvement program has now reached the point where planning processes in all four towns is basically complete. Implementation works are well underway at Tocumwal and Finley and have commenced at Berrigan and Barooga.

The additional planning work at Tocumwal that saw a co-ordinated Tocumwal Foreshore Master Plan developed to co-ordinate with the Town Entry Improvement Plan was rewarded with the securing of State funding for a large proportion of the works at the Foreshore.

Grant funding provided under the Stronger Country Communities Round 1 program has also largely funded a new skate park at Finley, replacement netball courts at Berrigan, stage 1 of an adventure park at Barooga Foreshore, extension of the Tocumwal library and extension of the walking track network, also at Tocumwal. These projects are now at various stages of implementation.

The Council has also applied for funding from the Stronger Country Communities Round 2 program for major funding of replacement of the Berrigan War Memorial Swimming Pool amenities building, improvements to lighting and an electronic scoreboard at Berrigan Sportsground, stage 2 of the adventure playground at Barooga Foreshore, replacement netball change room facilities, canteen, toilets and other smaller improvements at Tocumwal Recreation Reserve and an automated watering system at Finley Golf Club. The results of this round's application has not been announced at the time of writing.

Additional grant funding also saw the finalisation of the upgraded Finley Truck Wash and has been approved for the upgrade of Strathvale Road, Berrigan.

The Council has continued to use its economic development reserve funds to develop and subdivide land at Tocumwal Aerodrome and residential land at Finley. These projects have seen 28 lots developed at the aerodrome with 20 lots sold and 20 lots developed at Finley with 18 lots sold. The use of reserve funds for these projects allows them to be completed out of budget and with no high level of pressure to sell should sales take longer than expected.

While the Council has a lengthy practise of not filling voids left by the withdrawal of government or commercial services it did agree to take on responsibility for a Bendigo Bank agency when the last bank withdrew its services from Berrigan. Operation of the agency has proved challenging and it is still a long way from reaching a break even position.

With the Council taking on a new service it was disappointing to see the Council's involvement in the Early Intervention service cease as a part of the

**Items requiring Council Resolution**

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roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. There are real concerns with ability of families to access new services and, again, only time will tell whether better results are achieved for them in the medium to long term.

The past two years has seen significant staff turnover, that while seeing good outcomes achieved, has proven to be a significant distraction at times. 14 staff also participated in a leadership skills development program which created a great deal of positive change in the way the operations of the Council are conducted and results of which are already obvious. I thank the Council for its commitment to the delivery of this program.

In hindsight the last two year term has been a very successful one with good outcomes and good progress with longer term strategic projects.

These results would not have been achieved without the co-operation and commitment of the Council to whom I extend my thanks and appreciation.

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

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Items requiring Council Resolution

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**5. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

**AUTHOR:** General Manager

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME:** Good government

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:** 2.2 Ensure effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting

**RECOMMENDATION:** - that any ballot required to fill the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor be a secret ballot conducted under the preferential system.

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**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 Regulations provide the basis for the Election of Mayor by Councillors.

A Nomination Form as required by the Regulations 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 nominate 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 "A"**.



Items requiring Council Resolution

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**6. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

**AUTHOR:** General Manager

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME:** Good government

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:** 2.2 Ensure effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting

**RECOMMENDATION:** - that the Election for the position of Mayor of Berrigan Shire for two years ending September, 2020 be conducted.

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**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.

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**Items requiring Council Resolution**

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**7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

**AUTHOR:** General Manager

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME:** Good government

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:** 2.2 Ensure effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting

**RECOMMENDATION:** - that the Election for the position of Deputy Mayor of Berrigan Shire for the period ending September 2020 be conducted.

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**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.

The above recommendation reflects the status quo whereby the Deputy Mayor has been elected for a two year term. The Council can, of course, elect the Deputy Mayor a shorter period or elect not to have a Deputy Mayor.

Items requiring Council Resolution

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**8. DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES**

**AUTHOR:** General Manager

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME:** Good government

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:** 2.2 Ensure effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting

**RECOMMENDATION:** - that the Council nominates representatives to the various Committees.

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**REPORT:**

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

1. **Technical Services**  
All Councillors with a quorum of 2.
2. **Corporate Services**  
All Councillors with a quorum of 2.
3. **Business and Economic Development**  
Crs. J Bruce, C Jones, J Taylor, R Bodey, with a quorum of 2.
4. **Barooga Advancement Group**  
Crs. J Taylor and J Bruce
5. **Tocumwal Swimming Pool Committee of Management**  
Crs. C Jones and D Glanville.
6. **Finley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management**  
Crs. J Taylor and M Hannan
7. **Finley Showground and Sporting Complex Committee of Management**  
Cr. D Morris
8. **Finley War Memorial Swimming Pool Committee of Management**  
Cr M Hannan
9. **Risk Management Committee**  
Mayor

RESOLUTION

**Items requiring Council Resolution**

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**10. Tocumwal Aerodrome Users Group**

Cr C Jones as the Chairperson.

**11. Youth Development Committee**

Crs. D Glanville (Chair) and J Taylor

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

**1. Central Murray County Council**

Crs J Bruce and C Jones were elected as the Council's delegates for a 4 year term from September 2016.

**2. Delegates to Murray Darling Association.**

Crs. R Bodey and C Jones.

**3. Rural Fire Service District Liaison Committee**

Crs. B Curtin and Director Corporate Services and Cr M Hannan as alternate delegate.

**4. Bush Fire Management Committee**

Crs. B Curtin, M Hannan and Director Technical Services.

*Note: It was resolved at the Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 that the Council appoint Cr Morris as its delegate and Cr Bruce as the alternate delegate.*

**5. RAMJO**

Mayor, General Manager (designated positions).

**6. Public Libraries New South Wales (PLNSW)**

Cr D Glanville

**7. Western Joint Regional Planning Panel**

Cr R Bodey and B Curtin (alternate)

*Note: It was resolved at the Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 that the Council appoint Cr Taylor and Cr Morris its delegates and Cr Glanville as an alternate delegate.*