



Council Meeting

Wednesday, 17th September, 2014

EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS PAPER

Commencing at 9:00am.

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR
OTHER INTEREST**
3. **MAYOR'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER
2013 – SEPTEMBER 2014 (CR.BERNARD CURTIN)**
4. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
OCTOBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2014 (ROWAN
PERKINS)**
5. **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**
6. **ELECTION OF MAYOR**
7. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**
8. **EVENTS COMMITTEE**
9. **DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES**

Items requiring Council Resolution

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 2013 until September 2014 be noted.

REPORT:

The Council has now reached the half way mark of its four year term and in the preceding two years much has been achieved. Our vision as a Shire together with the Communities Strategic Plan continues to be a framework for measuring our achievements.

Council has and continues to address drainage issues that were emphasised in the late Summer/Autumn a couple of years ago. Considerable expenditure has been directed to drainage improvement with extensive work being done around the Finley Township with attention also been given to the areas of Berrigan that the referred to downpour caused an unacceptable situation.

In addition to drainage, Council has and is addressing the standard of our road network, which, I believe; our Staff have worked in a dedicated manner that has continued to lift the standard of our road network.

Council regards the standard of our Recreation Reserves as most important to our Communities. These Reserves in each of our towns are used consistently right through the year. In February of this year, we were delighted to witness the completion of the Sporting Pavilion at the Barooga Recreation Reserve. This together with refurbishing the existing Change Rooms has given a boost to the Barooga Community to attract District and Regional sporting activities. Likewise, the Council committed its support to the Finley Recreation Reserve financially and making a successful recommendation to the Federal Government for their financial support.

As has been reported throughout the year, the Federal Government's Budget will have a detrimental effect on Councils by pausing the indexing of the Federal Assistance Grants over the next four years. This simply means that services are expected to be maintained at present day costs over the next

Items requiring Council Resolution

four years which, I believe, will be impossible to deliver. Add to this the Energy Supplier increasing the Street Lighting Programme by some ninety five per cent, makes the maintaining of services extremely difficult. Ratepayers can be assured that Council will do their utmost to contain costs and continue to offer a satisfactory level of service.

I thank my fellow Councillors for their support and co-operation during the past twelve months and also thank the staff of the Council for their support over that time.

Cr Bernard Curtin
MAYOR

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Items requiring Council Resolution

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 2013 until September 2014 be noted.

REPORT:

This year's report effectively reflects the half way term of the current Council's four year term. The Council has from my perspective continued to work effectively and as a team that has a variety of strengths and passions.

The Council's operating environment is often strongly influenced or in fact dictated by others and this obviously affects its ability to it strategic directions and the needs and wants of the community or community sectors. In a general sense the operating environment is positive however the ability of others to hamper the community's aspirations and development continues to be regularly experienced.

While flooding has not occurred since February 2012 response to that and previous floods continues to demand the attention and resources of the Council. With previous works at the downstream end of the Finley stormwater drainage system completed the Council has focussed on creating additional storm water detention capacity at the upstream end to reduce the effect of rural runoff entering the town drainage system. These works in the vicinity of Loco Dam are now basically complete with commissioning and beautification works still required to complete the actual process.

At Tocumwal, works have commenced to upgrade the capacity of the storm water pumping capacity to increase outflows over the levee system. Again, this is to mitigate the impact of rural overland inflows in the the town drainage system.

To accelerate the completion of the Council's overall package of drainage improvements it has applied to the State Government for a loan interest subsidy as a part of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme. If approved the Council has committed to borrow \$1.623m for those priority drainage works.

Items requiring Council Resolution

At the time of writing approval of the Council's application had not been received.

Two of the Council's most significant capital projects were completed, or largely so, in the last year.

Firstly the Barooga Recreation Reserve additional facilities were completed. This facility is primary aimed at attracting significant sporting events to the Reserve. This project was accompanied by renovation of the existing facilities.

Secondly the replacement facilities at Finley Recreation Reserve recently achieved practical completion.

Both of these projects were partnerships between the Council and the community with Finley also including the Federal Government and the AFL.

These projects complete the Council's program of upgrading key Recreation Reserve facilities and complement those also completed at Berrigan and Tocumwal.

The Council's next long term project is the enhancement of its town entries. Funding of \$100,000 has been committed each year into the future will Tocumwal and Finley entrances the first priorities. A consultation process has commenced to develop plans for these improvements.

The last twelve months also saw the completion of the review of NSW Local Government by the Independent Local Government Review Panel. The Panel's final Report made a significant number of recommendations for the future a great majority of which have generally been supported on an industry wide sector. The Council awaits the NSW Government's response to the Reports' recommendations.

As a part of the Local Government Independent Review Panels investigations, it engaged TCorp to review the sustainability of NSW Councils. In the case of Berrigan Shire Council the TCorp review found that the Council was "moderately sustainable" and that its asset backlog was 3.3%. By comparison this was a good result for the Council.

A significant milestone was achieved this year with the adoption and approval of the Council's new Local Environmental Plan. This was the third attempt to achieve this outcome over many years. The new Plan has catered for the future development of the Shire area and has addressed many of the Council's and the community's aspirations.

The past year has also seen the Council adopt usage of social media in an attempt to expand engagement with the community. While it is early days in

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Items requiring Council Resolution

this foray, the results have been positive and have, at times, provided a useful was to provide immediate feedback to the community in times of emergency.

The Council has continued with its efforts to maximize the value of the Tocumwal Intermodal. While pursuit of the master plan for the area has been difficult because of the competing priorities of the multitude of stakeholders, the Council has focused on the areas that it controls. This focus has seen the redevelopment of Silo Road submitted for funding under the NSW "Fixing Country Roads" and the Council resolving to submit road and rail improvements for consideration under the Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program.

Following significant changes to the local tourism industry operating environment and new initiatives developed by the Murray Regional Tourism Board the Council has adopted a new tourism strategy. The focus of the strategy is primarily upon industry development and product development and will see the Council enhancing tourism infrastructure and amenity and facilitating development of new opportunities and skill development for the local tourist industry.

Finally, I could not leave the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan unmentioned. The implementation of this Plan continues to raise significant issues for the communities of the Shire whether they tourism or agriculturally focused. The complete lack of regard for communities by the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder is deplorable and is characterized by creating an impression of consultation and listening whilst in reality ignoring the legitimate needs of communities, and indeed the environment at times, and proceeding with reckless abandon.

In hindsight the year has been a relatively successful one with good outcomes and longer term strategic projects such as drainage works, the adoption of the new Local Environmental Plan and the completion of the Barooga and Finley Recreation Reserve 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 goals could not be delivered.

Rowan Perkins

GENERAL MANAGER

Items requiring Council Resolution

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.

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.

RESOLUTION

Items requiring Council Resolution

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 the twelve months ending September, 2015 be conducted.

REPORT:

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

Items requiring Council Resolution

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 2015 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:

1. The Councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the Deputy Mayor.
The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term
2. 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.
3. 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.

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Items requiring Council Resolution

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.

REPORT:

At the 18th September, 2013 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, D Morris and B Curtin with a quorum of 2.
4. **Consultative Committee**
Crs. B Curtin and C. Jones
5. **Barooga Advancement Group**
Crs. A O'Neill and C. Jones
6. **Tocumwal Swimming Pool Committee of Management**
Crs. C Jones and D Glanville.
7. **Finley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management**
Crs. B Hill and M Hannan
8. **Finley Showground and Sporting Complex Committee of Management**
Crs. B Hill (Chair)
9. **Risk Management Committee**
Mayor

Items requiring Council Resolution

10. Youth Development Committee

Crs. B Hill and M Hannan

Also, that the following Councillors be nominated as Delegates to regional organisations.

1. Central Murray County Council

Crs B Hill and C Jones were elected as the Council's delegates for a 4 year term from September 2012.

2. Delegates to Murray Darling Association.

Crs. B Curtin and C Jones.

3. Rural Fire Service District Liaison Committee

Crs. B Curtin and Director Corporate Services and Cr A O'Neill as alternate delegate.

4. Bush Fire Management Committee

Crs. B Curtin and A O'Neill and Director Technical Services.

6. RAMROC

Mayor, General Manager (designated positions).

7. Inland Rail Alliance

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager to attend meetings.

8. Narrandera to Tocumwal Railway Working Party

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager.

9. Finley Tidy Towns Committee of Management

Cr B Hill

10. Tocumwal Aerodrome Users Group

Cr A Jones as the Chairperson.

11. Public Libraries New South Wales (PLNSW)

Cr D Glanville

12. Western Joint Regional Planning Panel

Cr A O'Neill and B Curtin (alternate)

13. Tocumwal Aerodrome Business & Economic Development

Cr A Jones

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