



Council Meeting

Wednesday, 16th September, 2015

EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS PAPER

Commencing at 9:00am.

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- 1. APOLOGIES**
 - 2. DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR
OTHER INTEREST**
 - 3. MAYOR'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER
2014 – SEPTEMBER 2015 (CR.BERNARD CURTIN)**
 - 4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
OCTOBER 2014 – SEPTEMBER 2015 (ROWAN
PERKINS)**
 - 5. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**
 - 6. ELECTION OF MAYOR**
 - 7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**
 - 8. 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
2014 until September 2015 be noted.

REPORT:

The Council has now completed three years of its four year term and has continued to work towards the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan.

A very successful Food and Fibre Festival was held at the Tuppal Woolshed last October which showcased the many aspects of agriculture in our Shire. The mixed farming activities of our area was displayed and proved to be very informative to the many visitors including students from a number of schools who attended over three days.

Last December the Council, together with the Federal Government, AFL and the local community opened the new social complex at the Finley Recreation Reserve. This was a big project, which will serve the sporting bodies of Finley for many years to come.

In addition to the Charles Sturt Accommodation Scholarship, the Council has provided a Scholarship to the Finley TAFE College which will enable the purchase of text books for students.

The Council was successful in being granted \$2.5m under the NSW Government's "Fixing Country Roads" program which together with a Council contribution will see improvements to Silo Road and associated drainage. The aim of these works is to improve road geometry for larger vehicles and to improve traffic flow through the provision of parking lane to ease congestion during peak delivery periods.

Ratepayers will be interested to know that road maintenance costs are a constant demand on Council revenue. This year has seen with maintenance improvement some \$5.5 million has been the cost towards our roadworks.

Items requiring Council Resolution

As has been mentioned the Federal Government Indexation of financial assistance grants has placed limitations on Council's expenditure. This has seen a reduction of some \$250,000 from the Federal Government towards our Council each year into the future. To some extent this has been offset by increased Roads to Recovery contributions from the Federal Government however there has been a shift from untied to tied funding.

As you are aware, the Fit for the Future of Councils is being decided by the State Government over the next few months. Our council has met the 'Fit for the Future' criteria and has elected to stand alone for the future. We will learn the Government's decision later in the year.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their support over the past twelve months and also Council staff for their dedication towards their responsibilities towards the running of our Local Government Area.

Cr Bernard Curtin OAM
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 2015 be noted.

REPORT:

This year's report effectively reflects the third quarter 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 its strategic directions and the needs and wants of the community or community sectors. This influence can be both positive and negative and both of these can be seen in the following information. 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.

The Council has continued to work towards improved drainage for its township areas. This work has seen completion of drainage projects at Finley and Tocumwal. Importantly, the Council has commenced planning to accelerate these works through the borrowing of \$1.6m under the State's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme that subsidizes borrowing rates through a 3% interest subsidy.

The opening of the new facilities at the Finley Recreation Reserve was a great outcome for the community and the Council. The new facilities were developed at a cost of approx. \$1.7m and see the completion of the Council's plan to replace or upgrade facilities at its four key recreation reserves.

A 12 lot subdivision at the Tocumwal Aerodrome was completed and all lots sold. This is very pleasant outcome and addresses the Council's strategic direction in increasing the economic value of the aerodrome to strengthen its future viability. The Council has recently committed to a further 12 lot subdivision at the Aerodrome.

Items requiring Council Resolution

The pause in indexation of the Financial Assistance Grant provided by the Federal Government created its initial impacts this year with the realization of the average reduction of the grant of \$250k per annum. As the funding reduction is permanent, reduced operational or long term capital expenditures were identified and implemented, including a reduction in permanent staff numbers.

The Council was successful in attracting a grant of \$2.5m under the State "Fixing Country Roads" program. The Council also contributed \$500k to the project that will improve the ability of Silo Road to service the Tocumwal Intermodal Facility and also address drainage issues in the area. Site and drainage works have recently commenced.

Club Grants has also agreed to provide the Council \$105k to upgrade the Tocumwal skatepark. This together with a \$50k contribution from the Council will see a significantly improved facility for the community. The project is currently out to tender.

The Community Strategic Plan and its Delivery and Operational Plans continue to focus the Council's activities and pleasantly outcomes from the Operational Plan have shown a very high delivery of the established targets.

The Council's long term goal of improving its town entries has finally seen some actual ground works commence at Finley and Tocumwal. This ground breaking has following a very extensive community consultation program and development of detailed plan of both the entries themselves but also integration into the actual township areas. The Council has made an application for funding under the Federal Governments National Stronger Regions program to accelerate implementation of these plans.

After a considerable period the Council implemented its new street names, primarily, affecting Finley and Tocumwal. While the impact on affected residents has been appreciated by the Council its belief in the greater good of improving community safety has driven it to complete the project in the face of some criticism.

Implementation of the Council's Tourism Strategy saw it cease subsidizing the operation of the Tocumwal Visitor Information Centre. The funds previously provided for this have been redirected to projects that improve amenity of the area and also industry development programs. Whilst it is still in its development stage the Council has been successful in attracting a business to the Tocumwal Visitor Information Centre to both obviously operate a new business but also to provide services to visitors to the area.

The battle to maintain the main street trees at Tocumwal has continued to be a tough one. It has now been confirmed that the high water table that has been killing the trees is caused by stormwater and a recently installed

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Items requiring Council Resolution

drainage system appears to be lowering the ground water to a level where the trees will be able to survive. Replacement trees will be planted imminently.

The Barooga Botanical Gardens are one of the Council's great success stories. This success is largely due to the long term vision and commitment by the Committee of Management. The success of the gardens has seen the need to upgrade the public facilities at the site and works have recently commenced on the project that includes new public toilets and a storage and work shed. At the request of the Barooga Advancement Group and with a contribution from it, the Council agreed to extend the shed to include storage space for that Committee as well.

The Council has also taken on a small role in the process to identify and remediate residential properties affected by the Mr Fluffy asbestos insulation. The position of the NSW Government to acquire these properties and radiate them is welcomed.. nonetheless this is very significant issue for property owners from both health and financial perspectives.

A key disappointment was the vandalism of semi mature trees at Railway Park, Finley. The fact that the vandalism has set back the development of the Park by about 10 years is extremely frustrating however the impact on the volunteer members of the Committee of Management who have labored tirelessly to get the Park to its present state is depressing.

The past twelve months has seen the retirement of several long term staff notably Philip (Twiggy) Eales and Tony Davis. Noel McCallum has also taken extensive leave prior to formally retiring in early 2016. Together these departures have seen a loss of almost 120 years of knowledge and experience.

Finally, the Council has entered a period of relative uncertainty after about 109 years of existence. The State's "Fit for the Future" program has seen an initiative developed by Councils themselves handed to the State. The State now requires Council to be either Fit for the Future or to accept the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel in its report; there are significant concerns that the Council may face amalgamation regardless of its demonstration that it is Fit for the Future. This issue and the associated issue of Joint Organizations will unravel in the next few months.

In hindsight the year has been a relatively 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.

Items requiring Council Resolution

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

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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.

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, 2016 be
conducted.

REPORT:

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

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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 2016 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.

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 17th September, 2014 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. **Barooga Advancement Group**
Crs. A O'Neill and J Bruce
5. **Tocumwal Swimming Pool Committee of Management**
Crs. C Jones and D Glanville.
6. **Finley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management**
Crs. B Hill and M Hannan
7. **Finley Showground and Sporting Complex Committee of
Management**
Crs. B Hill (Chair)
8. **Finley Tidy Towns Committee of Management**
Cr B Hill
9. **Finley War Memorial Swimming Pool Committee of
Management**
Cr B Hill

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Items requiring Council Resolution

- 10. Risk Management Committee**
Mayor
- 11. Tocumwal Aerodrome Users Group**
Cr C Jones as the Chairperson.
- 12. Youth Development Committee**
Crs. B Hill and M Hannan

Also, that the following Councillors were appointed 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 – appointment necessary.
- 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.
- 5. RAMROC**
Mayor, General Manager (designated positions).
- 6. Public Libraries New South Wales (PLNSW)**
Cr D Glanville
- 7. Western Joint Regional Planning Panel**
Cr A O'Neill and B Curtin (alternate)