



NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
ABN 35 514 070 354

24 April 2024

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

An Extraordinary Meeting of the New England County Council has been called by Cr. Dorothy Robinson (Chair), to be held at the offices of the New England Weeds Authority, **2/129 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350** on:

**Monday, 29 April 2024 at 1:00 pm**

Please direct any apologies to the General Manager.

Yours sincerely

Tim Weeks  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TO  
BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES RUSDEN STREET ON 29 April 2024**

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

*Clr. Dorothy Robinson (Chair) to advise that while the meeting was not being live-streamed, a video recording of the meeting will be available on the County Council's website.*

<b>1.</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – HON ADAM MARSHALL MP</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>RECEIVE AND CONSIDER NEWA'S LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN, BUDGET, CASH FLOW AND AUDIT REPORT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SUSPEND THE BOARD OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY'S GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTRACT</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING – 1:00PM, 15 MAY 2024</b>	

**CLOSE:**

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES RUSDEN STREET ON 29 APRIL 2024**

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

*Clr. Dorothy Robinson (Chair) to advised that while the meeting was not being live-streamed, a video recording of the meeting will be available on the County Council's website.*

- 4. **PRESENT**
- 5. **APOLOGIES**
- 6. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
- 4. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

*Clr. Dorothy Robinson advised that while the meeting was not being live-streamed, a video recording of the meeting will be available on the County Council's website.*

**PRESENT:** Cr. Dorothy Robinson (Chair), Cr Tim Bower (Deputy Chair), Cr. Troy Arandale, Cr. Margaret O'Connor, Cr. Paul Packham

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Laurie Knight – CFO (via Teams), Renee Irvine – Finance Manager

**APOLOGIES:** Cr. Scott Kermode

**Resolved: 1/24 Approval of Leave**

Moved: Councillor Bower                      Seconded: Councillor O'Conner

The motion being put to the vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Nil

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TO  
BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES RUSDEN STREET ON 29 April 2024**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Resolved: 2/24** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 21 November 2023, which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

Moved: Councillor Arandale                      Seconded: Councillor Robinson

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

**GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS:**

**AUTHORISATION OF PROJECT OFFICER TO PREPARE FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

- Resolved: 3/24**
1. That NEWA's Project Officer shall be authorised by Council to prepare and submit funding applications for grant submissions.
  2. In accordance with Council's Delegations, the General Manager may be required to review and co-sign such funding applications.

Moved: Councillor Arandale                      Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

**WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM – QUARTERLY REPORT - FEBRUARY**

- Resolved: 4/24**
1. That the Weeds Action Program Report, summarising activities and outcomes to date, including the 2023-2024 Weeds Action Plan results be received and noted.
  2. That Council Note that funding under The Weeds Action Program (WAP), provided by the Department of Primary industries (DPI) had not been received with uncertainty as to when payment *might* be made.
  3. That the GM write to and contact the Local Member, to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss the overdue funding by the DPI.

Moved: Councillor O'Connor                      Seconded: Councillor Arandale

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TO  
BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES RUSDEN STREET ON 29 April 2024**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**DRAFT 2022-2023 YEAR END AUDIT**

**Resolved: 5/24**

1. That Council note the status of the current audit of the draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023,
2. That Council note that an extraordinary meeting is likely to be required in order to meet the requirements of sec 418 of the Act for public presentation of audited accounts, and
3. That the Chair and Deputy Chair be authorised to re-sign the Statement by Councillors and Management, in the event they are requested to do so by the Auditor.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Packham

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**COMMONWEALTH BANK LOAN [GUARANTEES]**

**Resolved: 6/24**

1. That Council accept the offer of loan funding in accordance with documentation provided by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA).
2. That the Chair and Deputy, in conjunction with the General Manager and Chief Financial Officer, if required, be authorised to execute the loan documents when provided by the Commonwealth Bank.
3. That Council notes that Security documentation, by way of guarantees, will be provided by the Commonwealth Bank to Member Councils, as required.
4. That council notes the expedited need for these guarantees is the urgency that has resulted from not receiving funding from the DPI under the Weeds Action Program for the 2023-2024 FY; and authorises council's GM to make representation to the relevant ministers and government MPs, as appropriate, to accelerate receipt of this funding.

Moved: Councillor Arandale

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TO  
BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES RUSDEN STREET ON 29 April 2024**

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS REVIEW – DECEMBER 2023**

- Resolved: 7/24**
1. That Council endorse the changes detailed in the reports, and
  2. That Council adopts the December 2023 Quarterly Budget Review

Moved: Councillor Arandale                      Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**INVESTMENT REPORT**

At the time of meeting, Council had no funds invested.

**AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC)**

- Resolved: 8/24**
1. That Council establish a committee of three (3) members, to negotiate the establishment of an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) to be in place prior to 1 July 2024.
  2. That the committee (1) above, meet with the Uralla and Walcha Councils to identify potential independent members that might join a NEWA ARIC committee.

Moved: Councillor Robinson                      Seconded: Councillor Arandale

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) AGREEMENT [COMPLIANCE SYSTEM] WITH UPPER MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL (UMCC)**

Being of a confidential nature and commercial in confidence information, Council moved into Closed Session.

Moved: Councillor Robinson (Chair)

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

While in Closed Session, the following resolution was passed:

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TO  
BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES RUSDEN STREET ON 29 April 2024**

**Resolved: 9/24**

1. That Council receive and note the Intellectual Property Agreement.
2. That Council enter into an Intellectual Property (IP) agreement with Upper Macquarie County Council (UMCC) for licencing on a free of charge basis, of the Compliance System, to commence 1 July 2024 .

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Arandale

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**MATTERS OF URGENCY – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters of urgency.

**NEXT MEETING – 1:00pm, 16 April 2024**

Please note future meetings:

16 April 2024  
18 June 2024  
20 August 2024

**CLOSE:** 2:53pm

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5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING  
OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024**
6. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – HON ADAM MARSHALL MP**



Hon. **Adam Marshall** MP  
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Ref:JNNO28124

Mr Tim Weeks  
General Manager  
New England Weeds Authority  
**By email:** [tweeks@newa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tweeks@newa.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Weeks *Tim,*

I write further to your email dated 21 February 2024, regarding your concerns in relation to the NSW Weeds Action Program funding for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

I made representations to the Minister for Agriculture and Regional New South Wales, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC on your behalf.

I have now received the enclosed response from the Minister and I trust the information provided is of assistance to you.

Should I be able to provide you with any further assistance, in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

**HON. ADAM MARSHALL MP**  
Member for Northern Tablelands

Enc

17 APR 2024





**The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC**

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Western New South Wales

Ref: MF24/433

The Hon. Adam Marshall MP  
Member for Northern Tablelands  
PO Box 77  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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Re: NSW Weeds Action Program funding



Dear Mr Marshall,

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of the New England Weeds Authority (NEWA) regarding Weeds Action Program (WAP) funding.

The annual WAP allocation for 2023-24 has been approved. Eligible Local Control Authorities (LCAs) for weeds, including NEWA, will need to apply for a grant under the new NSW grant guidelines. This will be a targeted, competitive grant process. There will be an application and assessment process.

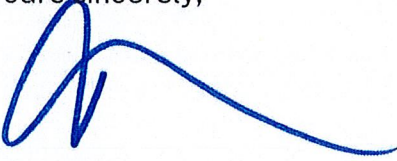
LCAs play a key role in weeds biosecurity and the NSW Government is committed to this partnership. The NSW Government, through both NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services, will support stakeholders to navigate this new process. The NSW Government is working to ensure this process is in place for future funding.

Applications opened on 19 March 2024 for eligible LCAs, and applications close on 12 April 2024. The Program Guidelines can be found on the NSW Government Grants and Funding website under weeds action program: [www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding](http://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding). Eligibility and assessment criteria are outlined in the Program Guidelines.

Local Land Services Regional Weed Coordinators will work with LCAs in providing support and responding to requests related to the grant application forms.

I trust this is of assistance; however, I have asked Beth Brown, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Regional Weed Coordinator to be available to answer any further questions that LCAs in the Northern Tablelands Region may have. Ms Brown can be contacted on 0429 773 453 or by email at [beth.brown@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:beth.brown@lls.nsw.gov.au) Further information can also be sought by email to [wagrantsupport@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wagrantsupport@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Tara Moriarty MLC**  
Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Western New South Wales

15 / 4 / 2024

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES ON 29 APRIL 2024**

- 7. RECEIVE AND CONSIDER NEWA'S LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN,  
BUDGET, CASH FLOW AND AUDIT REPORT**

# NEWA - 10 Year Budget Operatioanl Plan 2023-24

	1 2023_24 Budget	2 2024_25 F'cast	3 2025_26 F'cast	4 2026_27 F'cast	5 2027_28 F'cast	6 2028_29 F'cast	7 2029_30 F'cast	8 2030_31 F'cast	9 2031_32 F'cast	10 2032_33 F'cast
<b>INCOME</b>										
<b>Government Grants - (incl. WAP)</b>										
Grant - WAP	386,772	406,111	424,386	441,362	454,602	468,240	482,288	496,756	511,659	527,009
Grant - Murray-Darling / Dumaresq River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant - Gondwana Grasses	68,575	72,004	75,244	78,254	80,602	83,020	85,511	88,076	90,718	93,440
Transport for NSW	105,500	110,775	115,760	120,390	124,002	127,722	131,554	135,501	139,566	143,753
ARC - Tropical Soda Apple Project	50,000	52,500	54,863	57,057	58,769	60,532	62,348	64,218	66,145	68,129
GLENRAC Project	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other - unspecified	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
	<b>1,010,847</b>	<b>1,041,390</b>	<b>1,070,253</b>	<b>1,097,063</b>	<b>1,117,975</b>	<b>1,139,514</b>	<b>1,161,700</b>	<b>1,184,551</b>	<b>1,208,088</b>	<b>1,232,331</b>
<b>Member Council Contributions</b>										
Member Contribution - Armidale Regional Council	253,355	280,695	293,326	305,059	314,211	323,637	333,346	343,347	353,647	364,256
Member Contribution - Glen Innes Severn Council	163,914	180,711	188,843	196,397	202,289	208,357	214,608	221,046	227,678	234,508
Member Contribution - Uralla Shire Council	95,834	106,176	110,953	115,392	118,853	122,419	126,091	129,874	133,770	137,784
Member Contribution - Walcha Council	95,834	106,176	110,953	115,392	118,853	122,419	126,091	129,874	133,770	137,784
	<b>608,936</b>	<b>673,757</b>	<b>704,076</b>	<b>732,239</b>	<b>754,206</b>	<b>776,832</b>	<b>800,137</b>	<b>824,141</b>	<b>848,866</b>	<b>874,332</b>
<b>Project Works</b>										
NEWA - DPI / LLS / Crown Land Projects	200,000	210,000	219,450	228,228	235,075	242,127	249,391	256,873	264,579	272,516
	<b>200,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>219,450</b>	<b>228,228</b>	<b>235,075</b>	<b>242,127</b>	<b>249,391</b>	<b>256,873</b>	<b>264,579</b>	<b>272,516</b>
<b>Private Works</b>										
Member Councils, DPI, LLS, Crown Lands	150,000	157,500	164,588	171,171	176,306	181,595	187,043	192,654	198,434	204,387
Private Landholders	50,000	52,500	54,863	57,057	58,769	60,532	62,348	64,218	66,145	68,129
	<b>200,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>219,450</b>	<b>228,228</b>	<b>235,075</b>	<b>242,127</b>	<b>249,391</b>	<b>256,873</b>	<b>264,579</b>	<b>272,516</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>										
Interest - Fixed Term Deposit	25,000	25,000	25,000	28,000	24,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>
<b>Other Income</b>										
Gain/(<Loss> on sale of Assets	52,000	34,000	22,000	22,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Insurance Rebate	5,275	5,539	5,788	6,020	6,200	6,386	6,578	6,775	6,978	7,188
	<b>57,275</b>	<b>39,539</b>	<b>27,788</b>	<b>28,020</b>	<b>31,200</b>	<b>31,386</b>	<b>31,578</b>	<b>31,775</b>	<b>31,978</b>	<b>32,188</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>2,102,059</b>	<b>2,199,686</b>	<b>2,266,016</b>	<b>2,341,777</b>	<b>2,397,531</b>	<b>2,458,987</b>	<b>2,519,197</b>	<b>2,581,213</b>	<b>2,645,089</b>	<b>2,710,882</b>

# NEWA - 10 Year Budget Operatioanl Plan 2023-24

	1 2023_24 Budget	2 2024_25 F'cast	3 2025_26 F'cast	4 2026_27 F'cast	5 2027_28 F'cast	6 2028_29 F'cast	7 2029_30 F'cast	8 2030_31 F'cast	9 2031_32 F'cast	10 2032_33 F'cast
<b>COST OF SALES</b>										
Operational Staff Wages & Oncosts	829,558	858,592	884,350	906,459	929,121	952,349	976,157	1,000,561	1,025,575	1,051,215
Staff Travel & Accommodation Expense	8,500	8,925	9,327	9,700	9,991	10,290	10,599	10,917	11,245	11,582
Contractor Costs	300,000	315,000	330,750	345,634	359,459	370,243	381,350	392,791	404,574	416,712
Chemical usage	67,000	38,000	39,710	41,298	42,537	43,813	45,128	46,482	47,876	49,312
Fuel, Oil & Spray/Vehicle Maintenance	83,000	89,500	93,975	98,204	102,132	105,196	108,352	111,602	114,950	118,399
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>1,288,058</b>	<b>1,310,017</b>	<b>1,358,112</b>	<b>1,401,295</b>	<b>1,443,240</b>	<b>1,481,891</b>	<b>1,521,586</b>	<b>1,562,353</b>	<b>1,604,221</b>	<b>1,647,220</b>
<b>GROSS MARGIN</b>	<b>814,001</b>	<b>889,668</b>	<b>907,905</b>	<b>940,482</b>	<b>954,291</b>	<b>977,095</b>	<b>997,611</b>	<b>1,018,860</b>	<b>1,040,869</b>	<b>1,063,663</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>										
<b>Member Fees &amp; Allowances</b>										
Chair - Allowance, Fees, Travel and Expenses	13,212	13,873	14,497	15,077	15,529	15,995	16,475	16,969	17,478	18,003
Member - Fees and Allowances (Travel & Expenses) [x4]	32,923	34,569	36,124	37,569	38,697	39,857	41,053	42,285	43,553	44,860
Member -Superannuation	5,075	5,329	5,568	5,791	5,965	6,144	6,328	6,518	6,713	6,915
	51,210	53,770	56,190	58,438	60,191	61,996	63,856	65,772	67,745	69,777
<b>Staff Training &amp; Conferences</b>										
Training - DPI, LLS & Work Tickets	5,000	5,250	5,486	5,706	5,877	6,053	6,235	6,422	6,614	6,813
First Aid Training	1,000	1,050	1,097	1,141	1,175	1,211	1,247	1,284	1,323	1,363
WHS & WHS Committee	500	525	549	571	588	605	623	642	661	681
Biannual Weeds Conference	0	8,640	0	9,390	0	9,962	0	10,569	0	11,213
	6,500	15,465	7,132	16,807	7,640	17,831	8,105	18,917	8,599	20,070
<b>Depreciation</b>										
Offices & Depot Depreciation	0	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500
Office Equipment and ICT	17,500	18,375	19,202	19,970	20,569	21,186	21,822	22,477	23,151	23,846
Spray Units	9,500	9,975	10,424	10,841	11,166	11,501	11,846	12,201	12,567	12,944
Motor Vehicles	68,500	71,925	75,162	78,168	80,513	82,928	85,416	87,978	90,617	93,336
UTVs, Argo & Trailers	11,000	11,550	12,070	12,553	12,930	13,318	13,718	14,130	14,554	14,991
	106,500	134,325	139,358	144,032	147,678	151,433	155,302	159,286	163,389	167,617
<b>Borrowing Costs</b>										
Principal & Interest - - 21 Waller Avenue	104,058	103,289	103,629	104,540	104,835	104,893	104,699	104,237	103,491	102,694
	104,058	103,289	103,629	104,540	104,835	104,893	104,699	104,237	103,491	102,694

# NEWA - 10 Year Budget Operatioanl Plan 2023-24

	1 2023_24 Budget	2 2024_25 F'cast	3 2025_26 F'cast	4 2026_27 F'cast	5 2027_28 F'cast	6 2028_29 F'cast	7 2029_30 F'cast	8 2030_31 F'cast	9 2031_32 F'cast	10 2032_33 F'cast
<b>Other Expenses</b>										
Administrative Salaries and Oncosts	163,088	168,796	173,860	178,207	182,662	187,228	191,909	196,707	201,624	206,665
Advertising - General	5,000	5,250	5,486	5,706	5,877	6,053	6,235	6,422	6,614	6,813
ARC Rates - 21 Waller Ave	1,651	1,734	1,812	1,884	1,941	1,999	2,059	2,121	2,185	2,251
Audit - Financial & ARIC	15,000	15,750	16,459	17,117	17,631	18,160	18,704	19,265	19,843	20,439
Bank Fees & Charges	500	525	549	571	588	605	623	642	661	681
Consultants - Finance - CFO	45,000	47,250	49,376	51,351	52,892	54,479	56,113	57,796	59,530	61,316
Other Consulting Services	5,000	5,250	5,486	5,706	5,877	6,053	6,235	6,422	6,614	6,813
Governance & LGNSW membership	2,000	2,100	2,195	2,282	2,351	2,421	2,494	2,569	2,646	2,725
ICT Maintenance & Repair and SLA (Incl Comms)	46,000	48,300	50,474	52,492	54,067	55,689	57,360	59,081	60,853	62,679
Insurance	44,000	46,200	48,279	50,210	51,716	53,268	54,866	56,512	58,207	59,954
Legal Costs	5,000	5,250	5,486	5,706	5,877	6,053	6,235	6,422	6,614	6,813
Mapping (Chartis)	6,000	6,300	6,584	6,847	7,052	7,264	7,482	7,706	7,937	8,175
Media - Social, Newsletter, Website and Brochures	8,000	8,400	8,778	9,129	9,403	9,685	9,976	10,275	10,583	10,901
Office Maintenance & Repairs	1,000	1,050	1,097	1,141	1,175	1,211	1,247	1,284	1,323	1,363
Postage	1,000	1,050	1,097	1,141	1,175	1,211	1,247	1,284	1,323	1,363
Printing and Stationery	5,000	5,250	5,486	5,706	5,877	6,053	6,235	6,422	6,614	6,813
Publications & Subscriptions	5,000	5,250	5,486	5,706	5,877	6,053	6,235	6,422	6,614	6,813
Rent - Rusden Street	7,200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff PPE	10,868	11,411	11,924	12,401	12,773	13,157	13,551	13,958	14,377	14,808
Utilities	10,000	18,000	19,080	20,225	21,438	22,725	24,088	25,533	27,065	28,689
	<b>386,307</b>	<b>403,116</b>	<b>418,994</b>	<b>433,527</b>	<b>446,249</b>	<b>459,367</b>	<b>472,893</b>	<b>486,843</b>	<b>501,231</b>	<b>516,073</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,942,632</b>	<b>2,019,983</b>	<b>2,083,415</b>	<b>2,158,639</b>	<b>2,209,833</b>	<b>2,277,411</b>	<b>2,326,442</b>	<b>2,397,408</b>	<b>2,448,676</b>	<b>2,523,450</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/&lt;DEFICIT&gt;</b>	<b>159,427</b>	<b>179,703</b>	<b>182,601</b>	<b>183,138</b>	<b>187,698</b>	<b>181,575</b>	<b>192,756</b>	<b>183,805</b>	<b>196,413</b>	<b>187,432</b>

NEWA OPERATIONAL PLAN  
2023-2032 Cashflow Budget

	1 2023_24 Budget	2 2024_25 F'cast	3 2025_26 F'cast	4 2026_27 F'cast	5 2027_28 F'cast	6 2028_29 F'cast	7 2029_30 F'cast	8 2030_31 F'cast	9 2031_32 F'cast	10 2032_33 F'cast
<b>Source &amp; Application of Cash Funds</b>										
Opening Cash Balance	1,536,000	487,934	451,713	521,222	638,742	777,268	906,227	1,046,034	1,176,675	1,319,828
LOAN DRAWDOWNS	700,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Income per profit and Loss	2,102,059	2,199,686	2,266,016	2,341,777	2,397,531	2,458,987	2,519,197	2,581,213	2,645,089	2,710,882
Expenses per profit and loss (excl. depreciation and interest)	<1,817,599>	<1,973,283>	<2,033,782>	<2,109,432>	<2,155,080>	<2,224,003>	<2,271,265>	<2,340,347>	<2,389,612>	<2,462,508>
Capital expenditure	<211,000>	<125,000>	<73,000>	<48,000>	<35,000>	<35,000>	<35,000>	<35,000>	<35,000>	<35,000>
Building Construction	<1,761,000>	<75,000>	<25,000>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOAN REPAYMENTS	<60,525>	<62,625>	<64,725>	<66,825>	<68,925>	<71,025>	<73,125>	<75,225>	<77,325>	<79,675>
<b>Closing cash balance</b>	<b>487,934</b>	<b>451,713</b>	<b>521,222</b>	<b>638,742</b>	<b>777,268</b>	<b>906,227</b>	<b>1,046,034</b>	<b>1,176,675</b>	<b>1,319,828</b>	<b>1,453,526</b>
<b>Loan Account</b>										
Loan opening balance	0	639,475	576,850	512,516	445,691	376,766	305,741	232,616	157,391	80,066
LOAN DRAWDOWNS	700,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest (10 Years)	43,533	40,664	39,295	37,715	35,910	33,868	31,574	29,012	26,166	23,019
LOAN REPAYMENTS	<104,058>	<103,289>	<103,629>	<104,540>	<104,835>	<104,893>	<104,699>	<104,237>	<103,491>	<103,085>
<b>Closing Loan Balance</b>	<b>639,475</b>	<b>576,850</b>	<b>512,516</b>	<b>445,691</b>	<b>376,766</b>	<b>305,741</b>	<b>232,616</b>	<b>157,391</b>	<b>80,066</b>	<b>0</b>

NEWA OPERATIONAL PLAN  
10 YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET

	1 2023_24 Budget	2 2024_25 F'cast	3 2025_26 F'cast	4 2026_27 F'cast	5 2027_28 F'cast	6 2028_29 F'cast	7 2029_30 F'cast	8 2030_31 F'cast	9 2031_32 F'cast	10 2032_33 F'cast
<b>CAPITAL BUDGET</b>										
<b>Capital Income</b>										
Transfer from Plant Reserve	125,000	73,000	48,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Income from Loans	700,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>825,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>										
Acquisition of Plant & Equipment	211,000	125,000	73,000	48,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Acquisition of Office Equipment	14,000	12,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000
Building Construction	1,761,000	75,000	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Plant Reserve	52,000	34,000	22,000	22,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Principal Repayment on Loan	60,525	62,625	64,725	66,825	68,925	71,025	73,125	75,225	77,325	79,675
	<b>2,098,525</b>	<b>308,625</b>	<b>184,725</b>	<b>141,825</b>	<b>128,925</b>	<b>136,025</b>	<b>133,125</b>	<b>140,225</b>	<b>137,325</b>	<b>144,675</b>
<b>NET CAPITAL MOVEMENT (CASH INCREASE/&lt;CASH DECREASE&gt; )</b>	<b>&lt;1,273,525&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;235,625&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;136,725&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;106,825&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;93,925&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;101,025&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;98,125&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;105,225&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;102,325&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;109,675&gt;</b>

\$700,000



**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES ON 29 APRIL 2024**

- 8. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SUSPEND THE BOARD OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

# The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP

Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly  
Vice-President of the Executive Council  
Minister for Local Government



Our Ref: A895219

Councillor Dorothy Robinson  
Chair  
New England Weeds Authority  
PO Box 881  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Via email: [drobinson@armidale.nsw.gov.au](mailto:drobinson@armidale.nsw.gov.au)  
[newa@newa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newa@newa.nsw.gov.au)

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SUSPEND THE BOARD OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (TRADING AS THE NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY) UNDER SECTION 438I OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993

Dear Cr Robinson,

In accordance with section 438K of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) I hereby give notice of my intention to issue a suspension order to temporarily suspend the Board of the New England Weeds Authority (NEWA) under section 438I of the Act for a period of three months, and to appoint an interim administrator under section 438M of the Act.

- OLG's preliminary enquiries have found there is significant concern about the operations of NEWA, based on its current practices, governance, operational plans, budgets, resources, staffing and financial position.
- OLG has raised a number of concerns which appear to show that that NEWA has failed to meet its statutory responsibilities and to maintain appropriate governance, financial and accounting standards.
- These concerns appear to include:
- Failure to fully comply with statutory obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant Regulations relating to timely preparation, endorsement and reporting obligations regarding annual budgets, budget estimates and operational plans.
- Failure to produce financial information to comply with financial management and reporting obligations, including to OLG and the NSW Audit Office
- Lack of compliance with required internal policies, procedures and delegations governing NEWA's regulated activities concerning tendering and procurement practices, payment for services and the adequacy of controls to ensure such compliance.
- Concerns about decisions made by NEWA regarding its capacity to successfully fund, resource and complete infrastructure projects, and its failure to lodge any Capex reviews as per OLG's capital expenditure guidelines.

- Concerns regarding whether NEWA has identified and appropriately evaluated financial risks associated with funding (and seeking to obtain funding) for its infrastructure projects and its ability to service any loans it is currently seeking.
- Concerns regarding threats of legal action received by NEWA from by APJ Law acting on behalf of Rice Construction Group Pty Ltd stating that NEWA was in breach of payment for 3 claims of approximately \$440k in value for unpaid contract fees for the construction of the new depot.

In accordance with clause 413E of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, I have considered the criteria listed before issuing this notice of intention. Having regard to the criteria, I have formed the preliminary opinion that the appointment of an interim administrator may be necessary to restore the proper or effective functioning of Council for the reasons set out above.

I hereby invite Council to make a submission in respect of the proposed suspension. I invite Council to provide its written response within 7 days of the date of this notice. It is suggested that NEWA tables this notice of intention at an open Board meeting and provides its submission by way of resolution of the Board. This may require an extraordinary meeting to be held to meet the time frames.

I will consider all submissions made to me by NEWA during this period before deciding whether to proceed with the suspension order.

I have attached a copy of OLG's Performance and Suspension Orders Procedural Framework which provides information about the process for issuing the suspension orders and the appointment of the Administrator.

If you have any questions please contact Douglas Walther, Executive Director, Office of Local Government on 0407 221 665 or [douglas.walther@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:douglas.walther@olg.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



26 APR 2024

**The Hon. Ron Hoening MP**  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly  
Vice-President of the Executive Council  
Minister for Local Government

Cc: Tim Weekes, General Manager, NEWA  
[tweeks@newa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tweeks@newa.nsw.gov.au)

**ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S OFFICES ON 29 APRIL 2024**

- 9. CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY'S  
GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTRACT**
  
- 10. NEXT MEETING – 1:00PM, 15 MAY 2024**

**CLOSE:**