



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on

Tuesday, 14 May 2024

1:00pm

In

NEWA Meeting Room, 2/129 Rusden Street, Armidale

Present: Councillor Dorothy Robinson (Chair), Councillor Tim Bower (Deputy Chair),
Councillor Margaret O'Connor

In Attendance: Tim Weeks (GM) and Laurie Knight (CFO)

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 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. Margaret O'Connor, Cr. Paul Packham

IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Weeks (GM) and Laurie Knight – CFO.

APOLOGIES: Cr. Scott Kermode, Councillor Troy Arandale

DECLARATION

OF INTEREST: Nil

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

Resolved: 10/24 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 20 February 2024, which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

Moved: Councillor Bower Seconded: Councillor Robinson

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

Resolved: 11/24 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 20 February 2024, which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

Moved: Councillor O'Connor Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed 3 votes to 1 (Cr Robinson)

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2024**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

The Chair, Councillor Robinson, wished it noted that items included in the Meeting Agenda and not considered during the meeting, should not be recorded in the Minutes as such.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS:

WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM REPORT

- Resolved: 12/24**
- 1 That the Weeds Action Plan Report, summarising activities and outcomes to date, including the 2023-2024 Weeds Action Program, be received and noted.
 2. That the efforts of the Biosecurity Officers be directed toward Walcha LGA, in order to improve the number of inspections undertaken prior to the year end.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

APPOINTMENT OF AN (ARIC) AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

- Resolved: 13/24**
1. That the Committee that was convened for selection and appointment of members to NEWA's ARIC, now meet to nominate preferred candidates for submission to the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 18 June 2024.
 2. That Councillor Packham be appointed to the ARIC selection committee as an *alternate* to any other member of the committee that may not be available.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2024**

GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2023-2024 WAP FUNDING

Resolved: 14/24 That Council note the current status of the Grant Funding to be provided under the 2023-2024 Weeds Action Program by the DPI.

Moved: Councillor Bower Seconded: Councillor Robinson

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**PROVISION OF WEED MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO TENTERFIELD SHIRE
COUNCIL**

Resolved: 15/24 That Council note the request received from Tenterfield Shire Council for the New England Weeds Authority to provide weed management services under the Biosecurity ACT 2015 for a 12 month period.

Moved: Councillor Bower Seconded: Councillor Robinson

The motion being put to the Vote was passed 3 votes to 1 (Cr Packham)

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2024**

**ADOPTION OF DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2024-2025 FOR
PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

- Resolved: 15/24**
- 1 That the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan and Annual Budget for 2024-2025 be adopted and placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.
 - 2 That following the conclusion of the public exhibition period, should public submissions have been received a further report be presented to Council of the submissions for the adoption of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2024-2025.
 - 3 That the constituent member Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Walcha and Uralla Shire be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2024-2025 for comment.

Moved: Councillor Bower

Seconded: Councillor O'Conner

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

COMPLETION OF NEW OFFICE AND DEPOT – FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Resolved: 16/24**
- That Council receive and note the Practical Completion of the new NEWA office and Depot facility located at 21 Waller Avenue, together with the summary provided of the current status of Progress Claims.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2024**

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

- Resolved: 17/24**
- 1 In accordance with Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and Clause 215 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, that Council notes the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements for the General Purpose Financial Report.
 - 2 That Council note that a Public Notice for the presentation of the Audited 2022-2023 Financial Reports was placed on Council's Website on 23 April 2024 to invite inspection and comment on the Financial Reports..
 - 3 That Council note that a copy of the 2022-2023 Financial Reports have been forwarded to the Office of Local Government.

Moved: Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor O'Connor

The motion being put to the Vote was passed UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2024**

QUARTERLY BUSINESS REVIEW – MARCH 2024

- Resolved: 18/24**
1. That Council note the Quarterly Business Review for the quarter ending 31 March 2024, and endorse the proposed budget variations as presented in the attachment to the Business Paper, and
 2. That in view of the statement by the General Manager/Responsible Accounting Officer, concerning the unsatisfactory nature of the budget and current cashflow position, the recommendations for action, as outlined in the statement, be endorsed and actioned as a matter of extreme urgency.

The proposed resolution 18/24 was not voted upon as Councillor Packham had left the meeting and a quorum no longer being in place.

INVESTMENT REPORT

At the time of this report, NEWA has no funds invested.

NEXT MEETING – To be advised

MEETING CLOSE: 03:26pm