

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Cabonne
Shire Council, on Wednesday, 13 June 2012,
commencing at 10.30am**

<u>Present</u>	Cr. John Farr OAM	(Chairman)	Cabonne
	Cr. Kevin Duffy		Cabonne
	Cr. Geoffrey McClelland	(Deputy Chairman)	Weddin
	Cr. Barry Hinde		Weddin
	Cr. Geoffrey Braddon OAM		Blayney
	Cr. Kevin Radburn		Blayney
	Tony Perry	(General Manager)	
	Darrell Sligar	(Operations Manager)	
	Gavin Rhodes	(Finance Manager)	

PUBLIC FORUM

Graeme Fleming, General Manager Cabonne Council, and Dale Jones, Communications Officer Cabonne Council, were in attendance for the Public Forum and Chairman's Minute.

I extend a very warm welcome to the General Manager of Cabonne Council, Graeme Fleming, together with the Communications Officer for Cabonne Shire, Dale Jones.

I would like to acknowledge Graeme Fleming's service of 25 years with Cabonne Council. Graeme has been a strong supporter of Central Tablelands Water (CTW) as well as the WBC Alliance. He has been a great mentor as a General Manager to all of the younger GM's that have kicked off in this area as well as a couple of the Blayney GM's that he's helped considerably over the years.

Graeme is held in very high regard within the Local Government industry, so high in fact that he was recently nominated and appointed to the Bluett Award Committee. This is a highly respected position which doesn't require him to be working in LG.

When he jumped up on the stage at the Shires Association Conference to announce Councillor Bill Bott, who was going to make the announcement and present the 2011 Bluett Award, you would swear he'd been there for 10 years.

It was also very fitting that Graeme was nominated for and received the Public Service Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. All at CTW extend to Graeme the warmest congratulations for this award. So congratulations to you from CTW and all of us here. All of us at CTW are very aware of the wonderful job that you've done for Cabonne Council and when you retire on the 3rd of August we hope that you wear your caravan tyres out with your wife. Once again thanks Graeme, thanks for your support we wish you well in your retirement.

APOLOGIES

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**12/038 RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 11 April 2012, being minute numbers 12/021 to 12/037 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Cr. Hinde/Cr. Radburn)

CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE

This is my second last Chairman's minute. As you know, I have been on this Council for almost 29 years, and this is almost the completion of 17 years as Chairman. I dread the thought of someone taking that prize off me, but it will happen one day. In my role as Chairman, and previously as mayor of Cabonne Council, I have seen a lot of things happen and a lot of things go. This is not a farewell speech by any means, but what I want to talk about is the future of Local Government, the recent Shire's Association Conference and what's happening with Local Government at the moment.

As you all know, the Local Government Minister Don Page set up the 2036 Conference in Dubbo, and out of that the Minister then set up a Local Government Review Panel, with 5 terms of reference, which is due to report back to the Minister by July 2013. Minister Page made the statement that, out of the 151 Councils in NSW, there are up to 50 percent that are unsustainable financially and they need to be reviewed and looked at within the five terms of reference. I would like to read out the five terms of reference which were repeated at least three times during the Shires Conference, to remind us so we don't forget them. The terms of reference are the ability to support the current and future needs of local communities, the ability to deliver services and infrastructure efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner, the financial sustainability of each local government area, the ability for local representative and decision making, and the barriers and incentives to encourage voluntary boundary change. Now you can read a lot into that or you can ignore it, but I believe that if you ignore it will be at your own peril. I am talking about not only Central Tablelands Water (CTW) but also about Blayney, Weddin and Cabonne Councils.

As I said, the Minister stated that of the 151 Councils, 50 percent are unsustainable, so in my opinion, and the Minister's opinion, Local Government must act now or be swallowed up similar to what happened in Victoria. The answer is, in my opinion, and you can all have your own opinions, alliances, collaboration, sharing and jointing of departments, now I'll talk more about that later and the General Manager might also like to talk about that later, diversifying, it was revealed yesterday that Mudgee Council bought a mall in the main street, which proved to be very contentious. It cost Mudgee Council millions to do it up. The Council is going to get 20 percent return on their money over 30 years, I am not aware of any other local government council earning that rate of return.. That is called diversifying. Careful investment. I think we need to think of those sorts of ideas, think outside the square.

We are told that Local Government infrastructure is falling apart and billions of dollars needs to be spent to upgrade or renew it, and I've noticed that today in the newspaper the NSW State Government has brought a lot more money back into local water and sewerage repairs. Local Government I believe must borrow now, the dollar I believe will never ever be cheaper, the longer we leave it the dearer it will get.

The future is in our hands. We must act over the next twelve months, and CTW is part of Local Government, we must review every part of our organisation over the next twelve months and see where we can save, diversify, improve. I'll have more to say at the next meeting.

I want to talk about the recent Shires Association Conference. A team of four represented Council at the three day conference. The cost to Council was in the vicinity of about \$6,000, which included, accommodation, conference fees, food, functions, travelling, taxis etc. One of our nominated delegates decided to leave the Monday conference at lunchtime, The same delegate was in and out of the conference all day on Tuesday, going home that afternoon and not attending on the Wednesday. His paid accommodation was not used on the last night and he didn't attend either of the two dinner functions that were paid for. I believe that this is unacceptable for CTW to pay that sort of money out and be wasted.

Council has nominated three to attend the ALGA Conference in Canberra next week. Due to the circumstances outlined above and due to the General Manager attending a family function and not being available, I am recommending that CTW not be represented at the Canberra conference. Further, the annual LGSA Water Management Conference is only a month away and I am recommending that the General Manager, Operations Manager and the Chairman are the only representatives to attend.

With regard to the forthcoming local government elections in September and future representation on CTW. I am recommending that, as recommended in my Chairman's minute four years ago, a letter be forwarded from CTW to the General Manager's of the three constituent Councils and request that the elected representatives to CTW should be CTW consumers.

12/039 RESOLVED:

That the Chairman's Minute, as read, be accepted and the contents therein be noted and endorsed.

(McClelland/Braddon)

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION

Councillor Farr, Councillor Braddon and Councillor Duffy advised of their attendance at the 2012 Shires Association Conference and the 2012 LGMA Forum representing CTW.

Councillor Farr also advised of his attendance representing CTW at the CENTROC Board Meeting in Crookwell.

Councillor Duffy also advised of his attendance representing CTW at the WBC Board Meeting in Molong.

01) INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING (IP&R) (391)

12/040 RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Sections 402-406 of the Local Government Act 1993, and, following the statutory period of 28 days public display, Council now resolve to adopt the following draft Plans:

- a. Delivery Plan 2012–2016

- b. Operational Plan 2012–2013 – Part 1 & 2
- c. Workforce Management Plan 2012–2016
- d. Asset Management Strategy and Plans
- e. Long Term Financial Plan

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

02) BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - 31ST MARCH 2012 (15)

12/041 RESOLVED:

That the budget review statement for the quarter ended 31st March 2012 be accepted, and the variations therein be adopted.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Braddon)

03) FINANCIAL MATTERS (4)

12/042 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Hinde)

04) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL (248)

12/043 RESOLVED:

That Council endorse its policy of paying the maximum fees to the Chairman and Members of Central Tablelands County Council, as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for Category County Council – Water.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Hinde)

05) FLOOD DAMAGE TO TRUNK MAINS (395)

12/044 RESOLVED:

That the General Manager write to the Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Primary Industries and local members of parliament expressing Council's disappointment and dissatisfaction with the decision to rule Council ineligible for Natural Disaster Funding due to the classification of local water utilities as trading undertakings.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Hinde)

06) FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS - EMERGENCY REPAIRS (395)

12/045 RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 55, (3), (i), (k), Council endorse the action of the General Manager in engaging contractors, without going to tender, to carry out urgent permanent restoration of trunk mains damaged by floods on 1 March 2012, this action being necessary to ensure the continuing security of the potable water supply to a number of towns and villages within the supply network, thereby preventing a public health risk

to those communities.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Hinde)

07) LAKE ROWLANDS - SAFETY UPGRADE REVIEW (94)

12/046 RESOLVED:

1. That engineering consultants GHD be appointed to carry out the Lake Rowlands upgrade options study at a cost of \$38,160 (excl. GST) and to carry out a survey required for the development of Concept Design Layouts at an estimated cost of \$5,000.
2. That the General Manager prepare a submission on behalf of CTW to the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee Inquiry into the Adequacy of Water Storages in NSW and that the General Manager liaise with the CENTROC Infrastructure Committee with regard to the submission.
3. That Mr Rob Parker, expert dam consultant , be invited to attend with the General Manager at future Public Hearings of the Standing Committee Inquiry.
4. That the General Manager write to Chairman of the previous Standing Committee Inquiry into Economic and Social Development in Central Western NSW seeking results of that Inquiry.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Duffy)

08) 2010/2011 NSW WATER SUPPLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT (217)

12/047 RESOLVED:

That the 2010/2011 Water Supply Performance Report for Local Government Water Utilities be received and noted.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Hinde)

09) FORESTS NSW - CORPORISATION BY NSW GOVERNMENT (217)

12/048 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Braddon)

10) NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK - SITE ACCESS EUGOWRA (124)

12/049 RESOLVED:

That Council endorse the action taken to date by the General Manager in his communication with the consultants working on behalf of the National Broadband Network.

(Cr. Hinde/Cr. Radburn)

11) CABONNE COUNCIL - SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT, MANILDRA (324)

Cr Farr and Cr Duffy declared an Interest at left the meeting at 11.25am.

12/050 RESOLVED:

That Council offer Cabonne Council a two (2) year interest free deferred payment for Section 64 developer charges on proposed Lots 14, 15, 16 and 17 in Lot 100 DP1110843 Manildra, with conditions in accordance with Council policy but with the need for a bank guarantee being replaced with a written guarantee of payment from Cabonne Council.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Braddon)

Cr Farr and Cr Duffy returned to the meeting at 11.30am.

12) LGSA 2012 WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (9)

Approval for attendance resolved in Chairman's minute, minute number **12/051**

13) WBC ALLIANCE - EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (356)

12/052 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Braddon)

14) PURCHASE OF PLANT (87)

12/053 RESOLVED:

That Council endorse the action of the Plant Committee.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Braddon)

15) MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (105)

12/054 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

16) PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (105)

12/055 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

17) NEW WATER SERVICES (80)

12/056 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.
(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

**18) WATER LEAKAGE ACCOUNT 9057-00000-3 (297)
WATER LEAKAGE ACCOUNT 1744-00000-9 (283)**

12/057 RESOLVED:

That, as these matters deal with items that are subject to the affairs of an individual, Council consider it in Committee of the Whole and that in terms of Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Duffy)

19) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Councillor Duffy suggested that Council should consider introducing a policy allowing mobile phones to be switched on in Council meetings provided they were on silent or vibrate.

There was a consensus that there was no need for such a policy.

20) PROCEED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12/058 RESOLVED:

That, as business for the Ordinary Meeting has now concluded, Council proceed into Committee of the Whole to discuss the items referred to in the report.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Duffy)

21) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

WATER LEAKAGE ACCOUNT 9057-00000-3 (297)

Proceedings in brief:

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adhere to its policy of no concession for water leakage but that the consumer be given the option of paying the account within a reasonable time by instalments.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Radburn)

An amendment was moved by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor McClelland that the consumer be given a 50% discount on the consumption charge and the balance to be paid in three instalments.

The amendment was carried and became the motion.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council grant the consumer a concession of 50% of the consumption charge as recorded on the April 2012 water account, and that the consumer be offered the opportunity to pay the balance of the account under a negotiated instalment plan of 3 instalments.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. McClelland)

WATER LEAKAGE ACCOUNT 1744-00000-9 (283)

Cr McClelland declared an interest and left meeting at 11.50am.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council adhere to its policy of no concession for water leakage.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Radburn)

RECOMMENDATION:

That as the deliberation of the Committee is concluded, the Council reconvene the Ordinary Meeting.

(Cr. Hinde/Cr. Braddon)

22) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12/059 RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Hinde)

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held in Grenfell on 8th August 2012

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.00pm.