

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Cabonne
Shire Council, on Wednesday, 8 June 2011,
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 Sliger	(Operations Manager)	

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no persons in attendance at the time set aside for the public forum.

APOLOGIES

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

11/041 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 13 April 2011, being minute numbers 11/020 to 11/040 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. McClelland)

CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE

During the past two months, there has been a WBC board meeting in Blayney and a Centroc board meeting in Condobolin. As I was unable to attend the WBC meeting, I am thankful that Cr Duffy was able to represent Council at that meeting, I was able to attend the Centroc meeting on the 26th May but there were no outstanding issues arising from that meeting.

I also represented Council at the annual NSW Shire's Conference in Sydney on the 31st of May and the 1st of June. There are a few issues that came out of the Conference. The Mayor of Forbes Cr Phyllis Miller is the new 'E' Division representative replacing the Mayor of Parkes, Cr Ken Keith. Cr. Miller was elected with a 5-4 vote count. During Shires' Conference, I had the opportunity together with the Centroc Executive to meet with NSW Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, who, among other responsibilities, is the Minister responsible for Water. We had a very positive meeting with the Minister. Those present were the Mayor and General Manager of Orange City Council, who are executives of Centroc, Phyllis Miller who is the Chair of Centroc and Jenny Bennett who is the Executive Officer of Centroc. There has previously been a number of meetings with Minister Hodgkinson in relation to financing the upgrade of Lake Rowlands and she wants to know who else is being approached to put money into the project or is it just the State Government being approached. At the meeting with the Minister, we followed up on a letter written to

her by the General Manager requesting the re-allocation to the Lake Rowlands project of the \$2.4 million funding granted to the construction of a pipeline from Browns Creek Mine to Carcoar Filtration, which is not going ahead. The Minister promised she would look into the matter and see whether the funding was still available and give it favourable consideration. The new Member for Dubbo and Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, Troy Grant, was also in attendance.

We are fortunate that we have all the local National Party representatives supporting us on this issue with Troy Grant, Dubbo, Andrew Gee, Orange and Paul Toole, Bathurst.

I didn't get much of a chance to have a great deal of conversation with the Minister but I did enforce on her how urgent it was because of the Dam Safety Committee report that says, if we don't get this going within 12 months, we are going to have to spend millions on our old dam, and that will be the finish of the augmentation. She appreciated the situation.

We also met with the Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health, The Hon Melinda Pavey, re funding for the Centroc Over the Range programme. We are trying to attract Health people to come and work in the bush. We have invited her to Orange to meet with us and view the hospital and get a better understanding of the issues.

The Minister for Local Government, Don Page, spoke at length at the Shires Conference. He is a very interesting character, he's been a member of Parliament for 23 years and he was a mayor up in the North Coast area. He is keen to get out and meet us all. He made a few statements at the meeting. He's going to give us the opportunity to run our own elections every four years. I've heard nearly every council complain that the cost imposed by the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the council elections was far too high. He also said cost shifting is gone. He said if there was legislation that imposed an extra responsibility on local government there would be money to cover it, and that would be a good thing. He said that every Council in NSW is going to be audited to value and assess the condition of their infrastructure to see whether they are viable or not to continue. He's going to do a review of the Local Government Act, which is now 13 years old. There's a billion dollars out there for roads, halls and parks.

The State Government is considering the possibility of offering 50% interest subsidies on loan borrowings for certain infrastructure, and the General Manager is looking into that. The Minister stated that he is going to support decentralisation, but we've heard every Government say that and it never happens. He is also very concerned about the Code of Conduct, and I encourage all Councillors to read the Code of Conduct white paper, and if you don't like it, say so, if you think it's too binding or whether it's too loose. And he said that there would be no forced amalgamations of local government. We asked him the question about rate pegging and he said that he's going to leave that to IPART, so we'll see what's done with that. I met him at the official dinner and spoke to him about different issues, and I found him very supportive.

In relation to the Shire's Association Executive, the new President is Cr Ray Donald, the Mayor of Bogan Shire. Cr Donald replaces the outgoing President, Cr Bruce Miller from Cowra.

There's only one other issue that I want to put on notice for Council and I want it recorded. There is a group of people who have formed together in the eastern area of Cabonne who are pushing to amalgamate with Orange City Council, claiming that they are in the forgotten area of Cabonne. Now you may think that this has no

significance for Council whatsoever but, if this gets legs, it could go further afield to say Canowindra going into Cowra, or Manildra might go into Parkes, or Millthorpe might go into the Orange particularly with the leader of the group having an address in Millthorpe. If that happens, it will have repercussions for CTW because you will have Orange City, Cowra Shire and Parkes Shire all being involved in the running of the Council.

In my 28 years of service I have heard this all before. People that say that they don't get a share of their rates, but it is unfortunate that they can't understand that rates are basically a tax to run the Shire. It's no different to the Federal Government getting the taxation from what we earn to run the Government and they put it where they think best. Now there is food for thought.

Cr Duffy stated that comments in regards to the eastern area of Cabonne should be kept accurate. He further stated that the eastern area has more of a community interest with Orange and that there was a lot of misinformation being given out. He said there was a need for a meeting between Cabonne and Orange Councils.

Cr Braddon questioned how many lived in the eastern area of Cabonne, and said possibly 4,000 whilst it only required 250 signatures for a petition to the Boundaries Commission.

11/042 RESOLVED:

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

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Hinde)

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION

Cr Duffy reported that he represented the Chairman at the WBC board meeting on 4th May 2011.

01) BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - 31ST MARCH 2011 (15)

Proceedings in Brief:

The General Manager was requested to report to the August 2011 meeting of Council if any cutbacks in expenditure can be achieved.

11/043 RESOLVED:

That the budget review statement for the quarter ended 31st March 2011 be accepted, and the variations therein be adopted.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. McClelland)

02) FINANCIAL MATTERS (4)

11/044 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. McClelland)

03) GST COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE (15)**11/045 RESOLVED:**

That Council authorise the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, General Manager and Finance Manager to sign the GST Compliance Certificate (attached to the business paper) for the period 1 May 2010 to 30 April, 2011 and submit to the Department of Local Government.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Hinde)

04) 2011/2012 DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN (201)**11/046 RESOLVED:**

That Council formally adopt the 2011/2012 Draft Management Plan, incorporating a Financial Plan for the period 2011 to 2014, the fees and charges and the estimates of expenditure and income, as shown therein, for the period 2011/2012.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. McClelland)

05) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL (248)**11/047 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. Braddon/Cr. Radburn)

06) LAKE ROWLANDS AUGMENTATION PROJECT (226)**11/048 RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted and that the Chairman be commended for his representation.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

07) DEVELOPMENT SERVICING PLAN UPDATE (340)**11/049 RESOLVED:**

That Council approve the appointment of HydroScience Consulting to carry out the review and update of Council's Development Servicing Plan at a fee of \$22,500 (excl. GST).

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Radburn)

08) 2011 SHIRES' CONFERENCE (109)

11/050 RESOLVED:

1. That Council extend congratulations to the Chairman on his achievement of being awarded an Outstanding Service Award at the 2011 Shires Association Conference, and
2. That approval be given for the Chairman and General Manager to attend the Destination 2036 Conference in Dubbo on 17/18 August 2011.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Radburn)

09) COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (89)

11/051 RESOLVED:

That approval be given to Cr Duffy to represent Council at the 2011 National Assembly of Local Government with a view to coordinating a meeting between the Federal Minister Tony Burke and a Centroc delegation in order for the delegation to pursue funding opportunities for Lake Rowlands, and that Cr Duffy would present a written report to the August meeting of Council outlining the benefits of his attendance at the Assembly.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. McClelland)

10) WBC ALLIANCE - PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT (356)

11/052 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. McClelland)

11) REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER UTILITIES (217)

11/053 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Duffy)

12) LOAN BORROWING OPTION (117)

11/054 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted and that the General Manger Council investigate details of the loan subsidy provisions announced by the Premier at the recent Shires Association Conference.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. McClelland)

13) PURCHASE OF PLANT (87)**11/055 RESOLVED:**

That Council endorse the action of the Plant Committee.
(Cr. Hinde/Cr. Duffy)

14) MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (105)**11/056 RESOLVED:**

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

15) PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (105)**11/057 RESOLVED:**

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

16) NEW WATER SERVICES (80)**11/058 RESOLVED:**

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

17) WATER LEAKAGE – ACCOUNT 2193-00000-3 (284)**11/059 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. Duffy/Cr. Radburn)

18) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CORPORATE SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT TENDER (356)**11/060 RESOLVED:**

That, as these matters deal with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, 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.
(Duffy/Radburn)

19) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions on notice were received.

20) PROCEED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

11/061 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. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

20) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

WATER LEAKAGE – ACCOUNT 2193-00000-3 (284)

Cr McClelland moved, seconded Cr Hinde, that the consumer be granted a one-off concession equivalent to 50% of the consumption charge on the April 2011 water account.

The motion was put and lost.

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 installments.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Radburn)

IT CORPORATE SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT TENDER (356)

RECOMMENDATION:

That council approves the engagement of IT Vision to provide corporate IT software and annual ongoing support, and authorises the placement of Councils Seal on the contract documents.

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

(Cr. Duffy/Cr. Braddon)

11/062 RESOLVED:

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

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Duffy)

Proceedings in Brief:

The General Manager undertook to report to the August 2011 meeting of Council on the implications of making decisions in between Council meetings and which are outside of Council policy.

The General Manager also undertook to make enquiries and report to the August 2011 meeting of Council as to the current status of the proposed gold mining venture In Blayney.

11/063 RESOLVED:

That approval be given to place Councils Common Seal on a Transfer of Land to Parkes Shire Council in respect of Folio identifiers 7/C/5187, 521/550781, 32/752121 and 1/514454.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Braddon)

Proceedings in Brief:

The General Manager reported verbally that he had been contacted by a consumer from Canowindra expressing his concern that Council meetings were held in Molong and not in an area covered by CTW, particularly Canowindra.

11/064 RESOLVED:

That Council acknowledges the consumers concerns but that Council meetings should continue to be held at the Cabonne Council Chambers in Molong when the Council is meeting in the Cabonne area.

(Cr. Radburn/Cr. Braddon)

Cr Duffy requested that his name be recorded as having voted against the motion.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held in Grenfell on 10th August 2011

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.54pm,