

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Central Tablelands Water, on Wednesday, 12th October 2016, commencing at 10.30am

<u>Present</u>	Cr. David Somerville	(Chairman)	Blayney
	Cr. Kevin Walker	(Deputy Chairman)	Cabonne
	Cr. Anthony Durkin		Cabonne
	Cr. Paul Best		Weddin
	Cr. Craig Bembrick		Weddin
	Cr. Geoffrey Braddon OAM		Blayney
	Gavin Rhodes	(General Manager)	
	Leonie Freeth	(Director Operations & Technical Services)	
	Raelene Mulligan	(Director Finance & Corporate Services)	

Council's Auditor, Mr John O'Malley a Partner with Intentus Chartered Accountants, presented his findings of the 2015/2016 Financial Statements.

Council's General Manager, Mr Gavin Rhodes, presented an information session on the history and current operations of Central Tablelands Water.

APOLOGIES

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

16/067 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 10 August 2016, being minute numbers 16/051 to 16/066 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Walker)

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The General Manager advised Council that he contacted NSW Public Works Advisory in relation to any potential disaster recovery funding which may be available for repairs to a recent damaged trunk main due to storms and flooding. It was confirmed that as Central Tablelands Water is considered a 'trading undertaking' whereby recovery of its costs can be through rates and charges and, therefore, is not eligible for any financial assistance.

The General Manager also advised that he had written to the candidates contesting the upcoming by-election of the NSW seat of Orange, seeking their support for the proposed new Cranky Rock Dam proposal on the Belubula River. As at 12th October 2016, only one response had been received.

CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE

Since our last meeting there are several developments on the reform front of potential impact on CTW.

First, the final form of Joint Organisations (JO) will be soon known as the government is set to introduce legislation shortly. For CTW it is likely to mean that we will no longer be a full member of the JO (as we are now with Centroc) but become an associate member with rights to attend board meetings but no voting rights. I don't see this as a particular issue for CTW or county councils generally, but it will be important that we are a fully participating member in the CWUA, the Water Utilities Alliance, as this is the forum of direct relevance to CTW. We are discussing with Centroc its future structure once mandatory JO's are created by legislation and certain core functions are transferred to them. This will necessarily include the structure of the CWUA and CTW's role in it.

On the topic of JO's I was asked by Local Government NSW to provide input on behalf of the water county councils into what should be their future relationship with JO's. It is critical to ensure that JO's do not become masters of the county councils or encroach into their service delivery responsibilities. I hope these points will be reflected in the legislation.

Secondly, as councillors will have heard, Cabonne council yesterday decided to appeal the decision of the Land and Environmental Court which dismissed its case against the proposed Cabonne-Orange-Blayney merger. Whether this merger will go ahead is still up in the air, not only because of the continuing court challenge but because of the looming bi-election for the State seat of Orange. The general manager and I have been continuing to lobby for protections to be included in any proclamation, if a merger does ultimately proceed, to ensure that there can be continuity of governance for county councils. We have now been joined in this effort by two other water county councils already affected by mergers.

I ask that this chairman's minute be accepted, noted and endorsed.

16/068 RESOLVED:

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

(Cr. Best/Cr. Bembrick)

MATTERS ARISING FROM CHAIRMANS MINUTE

Cr Durkin moved a motion that Council makes representation to the Minister for Local Government to ensure that the constitution of CTW continues to provide that each constituent Council continues to have an equal number of votes, including any period of administration.

16/069 RESOLVED:

That Council makes representation to the Minister for Local Government to ensure that the constitution of CTW continues to provide that each constituent Council continues to have an equal number of votes, including any period of administration.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Best)

Cr. Braddon requested that it be noted that he voted against this recommendation.

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION

Cr Somerville represented CTW at the following meetings:

- Attended the LGNSW Water Management Conference 28-30th August 2016 in Broken Hill.
- Meeting with the Minister for Local Government Paul Toole MP, Chair and Executive Officer of CENTROC at Parliament House Sydney on 13th September 2016.
- Meeting with the Manager Asset Strategy WaterNSW in Sydney on 10th October 2016.
- Attended the Water County Council General Manager's meeting in Sydney on 10th October 2016 .
- Meeting with the Minister for Local Government's Senior Advisor in Sydney on 10th October 2016.

Cr Walker represented CTW at the following meetings:

- Attended the LGNSW Water Management Conference 28-30th August 2016 in Broken Hill.

01) OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE BY COUNCILLORS (GO.CO.2)**16/070 RESOLVED:**

That the Oath or Affirmation of Office by Councillors be conducted.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Braddon)

Cr Somerville, Cr Walker and Cr Braddon took the Oath and Cr Bembrick, Cr Best and Cr Durkin took the Affirmation of Office. All Councillors signed their respective oath or affirmation of office.

02) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (GO.CO.2)

The General Manager advised that he had received one nomination for the position of Chairman, namely Cr. David Somerville, and called for any further nominations. No further nominations were received.

Cr. David Somerville was declared duly elected as Chairman.

The General Manager advised that he had received one nomination for the position of Deputy Chairman, namely Cr Kevin Walker, and called for any further nominations. No further nominations were received.

Cr. Kevin Walker was declared duly elected as Deputy Chairman.

03) COUNCIL COMMITTEES (GO.CO.2)

16/071 RESOLVED:

That Council confirm the Audit Committee comprise of the Chairman (or delegate), two (2) external independents, the General Manager as an observer, and the Director Finance and Corporate Services assuming the role of Secretariat to the Audit Committee (responsible for the coordination of the audit committee, functions and processes).

(Cr. Bembrick/Cr. Braddon)

04) MEETING TIMES AND DATES (GO.CO.2)

16/072 RESOLVED:

1. That Council hold its ordinary meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of alternate months, as follows:

Wednesday	14 th December 2016	-	Canowindra
Wednesday	8 th February 2017	-	Grenfell
Wednesday	12 th April 2017	-	Blayney
Wednesday	14 th June 2017	-	Canowindra
Wednesday	9 th August 2017	-	Grenfell
Wednesday	11 th October 2017	-	Blayney

2. Council consider the Draft Operational Plan and Budget at the April ordinary meeting each year.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Durkin)

05) ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FM.FR.1)**16/073 RESOLVED:**

That the audited financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2016, together with the auditor's report, be received and noted.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Durkin)

06) INTENTUS – INTERIM AUDIT MANAGEMENT LETTER YE 30/06/2016 (CM.AU.1)**16/074 RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Braddon)

07) FINANCIAL MATTERS (FM.BA.1)**16/075 RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Walker)

08) QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016 (FM.FR.1)**16/076 RESOLVED:**

That the budget review statement for the quarter ended 30th September 2016 be accepted, and the variations therein be adopted.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Durkin)

09) CANCER CARE WESTERN NSW INC – LETTER OF THANKS (CR.SD.1)**16/077 RESOLVED:**

That Council note the report.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Walker)

10) COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY (CM.PO.1)**16/078 RESOLVED:**

That Council endorse the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policies as presented in the General Manager's Report and place them on public display for a period of 28 days with a view to adoption at the December 2016 meeting of Council.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Braddon)

11) POLICY REGISTER (CM.ME.1)

16/079 RESOLVED:

That the updated Policy Register, with the inclusion of the Revenue Policy, be adopted.

(Cr. Best/Cr. Bembrick)

12) 2014/2015 NSW WATER SUPPLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT (GR.SL.2)

16/080 RESOLVED:

That the 2014/2015 Water Supply Performance Report for Local Government Water Utilities be received and noted.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Braddon)

13) MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (WS.MO.4)

16/081 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Bembrick)

14) PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (WS.MO.4)

16/082 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Bembrick)

15) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions on notice were received.

16) CENTRAL TABLELANDS REGIONAL WATER SECURITY PROJECT - VALUATIONS (WS.AM.1)

WATER LEAKAGE – ACCOUNT 2340100007 (CR.EQ.1)

LATE ITEM – TRUNK MAIN 'K' RENEWAL – PROCUREMENT OF PIPELINE (WS.AG.1)

16/083 RESOLVED:

1. That, Council adjourn into a Closed Meeting and the press and the public be excluded from the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, as these matters are considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, for the following reasons:

a. commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

i. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or

b. personal matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Durkin)

17) PROCEED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

16/084 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. Walker/Cr. Braddon)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CENTRAL TABLELANDS REGIONAL WATER SECURITY PROJECT - VALUATIONS (WS.AM.1)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council agree to pay the remaining 90% compensation when and if Phase 2 is funded, and the easement is registered with NSW Land & Property Information; and,
2. That Council give delegated authority to the General Manager to negotiate with each landholder + or – 50% of the Opteon valuation.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Walker)

WATER LEAKAGE – ACCOUNT 2340100007 (CR.EQ.1)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council grant a one-off concession of 50% off the consumption charge as recorded on the August 2016 water account.

(Cr. Durkin/Cr. Braddon)

LATE ITEM – TRUNK MAIN ‘K’ RENEWAL – PROCUREMENT OF PIPELINE (WS.AG.1)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the purchase of pipeline for Trunk Main K Stage 1 works through the Local Government Procurement (LGP) VendorPanel.

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Walker)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Durkin)

18) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

16/085 RESOLVED:

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

(Cr. Braddon/Cr. Durkin)

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held in Canowindra on 14th December 2016.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1.25pm.