



General Meeting of Council

MINUTES

Meeting held in the Central Highlands Regional Council Chambers, Emerald Office

Tuesday 11 April 2017

Commenced at 2.29pm

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017

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MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 2.29PM TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017 IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EMERALD OFFICE

PRESENT

Councillors

Councillor (Crs) K. Hayes (Mayor), G. Godwin-Smith (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors (Crs) P. Bell AM, C. Brimblecombe, M. Daniels, D. Lacey, A. McIndoe, G. Nixon and C. Rolfe

Officers

Chief Executive Officer S. Mason, General Manager Communities D. Fletcher, General Manager Corporate Services J. Bradshaw, General Manager Infrastructure and Utilities G. Joubert, General Manager Commercial Services M. Webster, Executive Manager Governance M. Uren, Minute Secretary B. Pusey

APOLOGIES

Nil

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolution:

Cr Brimblecombe moved and seconded by Cr Lacey “That a leave of absence be granted for C. Rolfe for 26 April 2017.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 001

Carried (9-0)

Cr Rolfe moved and seconded by Cr A. McIndoe “That a leave of absence be granted for D. Lacey for 9 May 2017.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 002

Carried (9-0)

Cr Nixon moved and seconded by Cr Lacey “That a leave of absence be granted for C. Brimblecombe for 9 May 2017.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 003

Carried (9-0)

Opening Prayer

Pastor Steve Gellatly from the Emerald Baptist Church delivered the opening prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

General Council Meeting: 28 March 2017

Resolution:

Cr C. Rolfe moved and seconded by Cr C. Brimblecombe “That the minutes of the previous General Council Meeting held on 28 March 2017 be confirmed.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 004

Carried (9-0)

Business Arising Out Of Minutes

Nil

Outstanding Meeting Actions

Nil

Conflict of Interest, Personal Gifts and Benefits

Cr M. Daniels declared a perceived conflict of interest for the discussion on the flood levy, advising she had previously provided services as a contractor conducting community engagement.

Petitions (if Any)

Nil

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS / NOTES

Minutes of Meeting – Audit Committee Meeting – 27 March 2017

Resolution:

Cr Rolfe moved and seconded by Cr Brimblecombe “That the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 27 March 2017 be endorsed.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 005

Carried (9-0)

Attendance

Mr Ben McMaster, Rockhampton Office Manager, AECOM joined the meeting 2.42pm

INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

Levee Business Case Report - Emerald Flood Protection Scheme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The construction of the Emerald Flood Protection Scheme consisting of a system of five levees, which will provide flood immunity for the Emerald Township for the Defined Flood Event (DFE) plus 0.5 metre freeboard will cost approximately \$200,000,000.

The draft *Business Case Report - Emerald Flood Protection Scheme* by AECOM involved completion of detailed geotechnical investigations; detailed stormwater and riverine flooding investigations for a range of storm sizes and flood events; detailed feature survey; land acquisition and resumption assessments; environmental assessments; preliminary engineering design, preliminary design drawings; preliminary road impact assessment; independent road safety report; risk analysis; economic report; and detailed cost estimate report. The Report also presents construction delivery options.

The Report provides a *Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)* that indicates the costs of building, operating and maintaining levees outweighs the potential direct benefits e.g. reduced flood damage, reduced social impacts, agricultural land impacts and residual value benefits to the community and the indirect benefits are marginal e.g. reduced insurance premiums and improved property values.

Resolution:

Cr K. Hayes moved and seconded by Cr A. McIndoe “That the Central Highlands Regional Council:

1. Receive the draft *Business Case Report - Emerald Flood Protection Scheme*;
2. Resolve not to pursue construction of flood mitigation levees for the township of Emerald. The draft *Business Case Report - Emerald Flood Protection Scheme* demonstrates an insufficient *Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)*. Essentially, the costs of building, operating and maintaining levees exceeds the potential direct benefits, namely reduced flood damage, social and agricultural land impacts and residual value benefits to the community. The indirect benefits of reduced insurance premiums and improved property values while marginal, are unproven;

3. Acknowledge that Council has completed and sponsored a number of flood mitigation projects since 2010 to the value of \$7,300,000 which has cumulatively achieved significant flood mitigation benefits including:
- Enlarging the Queensland Rail bridge opening by 62.5 cubic metres on the western side of the Nogoa River;
 - Undertaking tree thinning at multiple sites within the Nogoa River;
 - Upgrading the culverts under Clermont Street opposite the Sullivan Street rail tunnel;
 - Desilting and reinstatement of Left Nogoa One (LN1) drain profile from Hogan's Road to Tysons Road to its original 10% Annual Exceedence Probability design by SunWater;
 - Raising New Street as an evacuation route;
 - Excavating 270,000 cubic metres from the Nogoa River at sites 2, 3, 10 and 11; and
 - Installing additional early warning flood alert (combined river and rain) gauges, upstream of Emerald at Vandyke, Petrona, Cungelella, Glenlee, Serpentine and installing redundancy or backup gauges at Craigmere and Emerald.
4. Pursue the following projects and strategies:
- Further advocate to the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) to raise the Vince Lester Bridge as a primary evacuation route for the town of Emerald to 179 metres Australian Height Datum (mAHD or 17.05 metres). This achieves connection level with Opal Street (178.9 mAHD) and by estimation, would result in approximately 390 previously inundated residential and commercial buildings not experiencing over floor flooding in a repeat of the 2010/2011 flood event;
 - Advocate to DTMR raising the Nogoa River Queensland Rail Bridge;
 - Advocate to DTMR for the removal of the existing timber foot bridge over the Nogoa River;
 - Continued and ongoing liaison with Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) regarding the modelled cumulative benefits of all flood mitigation projects to date;
 - Engage with SunWater and DTMR to increase the capacity of the LN1 drainage system to allow conveyance of additional water to double its present capacity including hydraulic improvements to structures traversing the Gregory Highway;
 - Investigate mitigation options at the Selma Weir breakout;
 - Further development of our existing early warning flood alert network for the Nogoa River and Theresa Creek catchments;
 - Public education and awareness about flood safety and evacuation;
 - Complete the development of an evacuation plan for the town of Emerald and surrounds; and
 - Seek funding that will enable additional vegetation thinning and clearing as well as excavation of the Nogoa River.

2017 / 04 / 11 / 006

Carried (9-0)

Attendance

Mr Ben McMaster left the meeting at 3.47pm

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 3.47pm

Meeting Re-commenced 4.02pm

GOVERNANCE

Work Health and Safety Council Report Quarter 3 FY17

Executive summary:

This report is a simplified summary of Council's safety performance and is pertinent to Quarter 3, 2017. The purpose of the information provided is to highlight to Council any issues, risks and opportunities impacting the safety and health of workers at Central Highlands Regional Council.

Considered by Council.

GENERAL BUSINESS

(Verbal matters raised by Councillors either as a question, acknowledgement and or additional follow-up by officers)

Cr C. Brimblecombe

Requested General Manager Communities D. Fletcher to provide an update from this morning's Community Standing Committee regarding flying fox dispersal in Duaringa.

Attendance

Chief Executive Officer S. Mason left the meeting 4.18pm

Cr M. Daniels

Larissa Rose – Queensland Renewable Industry Group Discussion regarding ethanol/biodiesel for large organisations fleet.

LATE AGENDA ITEMS

Minutes of Meeting –

Finance and Infrastructure Standing Committee Meeting: 11 April 2017,

Communities Standing Committee Meeting: 11 April 2017

Resolution:

Cr C. Brimblecombe moved and seconded by Cr G. Godwin-Smith "That the minutes of the

1. Finance and Infrastructure Standing Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2017; and
2. Communities Standing Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2017.

be endorsed."

Attendance

Chief Executive Officer S. Mason joined the meeting 4.21pm

2017 / 04 / 11 / 007

Carried (9-0)

CLOSED SESSION

Into Closed Session

Resolution

Cr C. Nixon moved and seconded by Cr Brimblecombe “That Council close its meeting to the public in accordance with Section 275 (1) (f) (h) (e) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and that Council staff involved in the closed discussions remain in the room.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 008

Carried (9-0)

Attendance

General Manager Community Services D. Fletcher, General Manager Corporate Services J. Bradshaw, General Manager Commercial Services M. Webster, Executive Manager Governance M. Uren, Finance Manager Shelly Fogg joined the meeting 4.21pm

The meeting was closed at 4.21pm

Attendance

Chief Executive Officer S. Mason left the meeting 4.24pm
Finance Manager Shelly Fogg left the meeting 4.32pm
Mayor K. Hayes left the meeting 4.35pm
Mayor K. Hayes joined the meeting 4.35pm
Coordinator Financial Accounting H. Kirby joined the meeting 4.35pm
Chief Executive Officer S. Mason joined the meeting 4.38pm
Cr Daniels left the meeting 4.41pm
Cr Daniels joined the meeting 4.43pm
Coordinator Financial Accounting H. Kirby left the meeting 5.06pm

With respect to the legal advice obtained from King and Company Solicitors regarding the potential conflict of interest of Councillors who are directors of the Central Highlands Queensland housing Company Limited, Crs G. Nixon, P. Bell, K. Hayes and D. Lacey and Chief Executive Officer S. Mason, who are all directors, declared a conflict of interest in the following matter and dealt with the conflict by staying in the room determining they can all make a decision in the public interest.

Out of Closed Session

Resolution

Cr McIndoe moved and seconded by Cr Daniels “That the meeting now be re-opened to the public.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 009

Carried (9-0)

The meeting was opened at 5.11pm

Future Sale of Land for overdue rates - recommendation of next properties

Executive summary:

Council’s Rates Recovery Policy outlines Council’s intention to proceed to sale of land for eligible properties. During the last six months Council has proceeded to sale of land on an initial list of 16 properties to recover unpaid rates and charges. This report identifies to Council a further list of properties that it is recommended to issue warning letters initially, and then to proceed to sale of land where appropriate.

Resolution

Cr C. Rolfe moved and seconded by Cr D. Lacey “That Central Highlands Regional Council pursuant to section 140 (2) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, proceed to sale of land for the properties identified below;

Assessment Numbers			
3733	25070	16546	272
3792	4746	2538	16349
4476	3825	18876	705
27871	4819	25344	16728
15001	9303	18980	2165
162	16778	16289	15911
10068	25484	16686	229
17788	1057	826	
11554	3414	16815	
563	16085	16029	

And Further;

That Central Highlands Regional Council delegate to the Chief Executive Officer its power to take all further steps under Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 3 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to effect the sale of the land, including the power to end sale procedures.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 010

Carried (9-0)

Native Title Update - April 2017

Executive summary:

To ensure council is provided with regular status updates on Native Title Claims and Determinations within the Central Highlands Regional Council area, an update will be provided to the General Council Meeting on a quarterly basis

The following report provides updates in relation to the following Native Title Claims:

1. Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala #1 – QUD383/2013
2. Iman People #2 – QUD6162/1998
3. Wangan & Jangalingou People - QUD85/2004
4. Western Kangoulu - QUD229/2013

Considered by Council

Central Highlands (Qld) Housing Company Limited

Executive summary:

Central Highlands (Qld) Housing Company Limited (Housing Company) has been provided an opportunity to increase its affordable housing portfolio. Favourable terms have been offered on the purchase of six three bedroom homes in Blackwater. The tenure of the properties requires a short timeframe to finalise acquisition.

The Housing Company Board met on 23 March 2017 and agreed, by resolution, to approach Council for assistance to partially fund the acquisition of the housing.

Resolution

Cr G. Godwin-smith moved and seconded by Cr Brimblecombe “That Central Highlands Regional Council provide a cash contribution (donation) in the sum of \$110,000 to the Central Highlands (Qld) Housing Company to assist with the purchase of six houses to expand the affordable housing stock in Blackwater, with the Housing Company contributing the balance of \$110,000.”

2017 / 04 / 11 / 011

Carried (8-1)

Work Health and Safety - Compliance Matters Q3 Update

Executive summary:

This report is a simplified summary of legal issues impacting Council’s safety compliance.

Considered by Council.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 5.13pm

CONFIRMED

MAYOR

DATE