

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

PRESENT: Cr M.L. Rush, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J.F. Eades, Cr J.P. Foy, Cr J.L. Ledlin, Cr G.T. McNeill, Cr R.W. Scholes, Cr S.M. Reynolds, Cr S.J. Ward and Cr B.N. Woodruff.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms F. Plesman (General Manager), Mr D. Finnigan (Deputy General Manager), Mr D. Hagger (Chief Financial Officer), Ms S. Pope (Executive Manager – Planning & Environment), Mr P. Chambers (Chief Engineer (VC)), Mr M. Lysaught (Manager – Works, Property & Building Services), Mrs M. Sandell-Hay (PA to General Manager), 3 people in the public gallery and 3 media representatives.

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by the General Manager.

2 CIVIC PRAYER

The Civic Prayer was read by Cr Eades.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

335 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Woodruff and Scholes that:

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25 May 2021, a copy of which has been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

5 DISCLOSURE OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cr J. Eades declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10.3. Cr Eades advised Council that she owns a residence in the vicinity of the proposed development application and has also provided a submission to Council.

Cr J. Eades declared a pecuniary interest in Item 11.3. Cr Eades advised Council that she works for an employer named in the report.

Cr G. McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10.1. Cr McNeill advised Council that he is an employee of AGL Macquarie.

Cr G. McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12.1. Cr McNeill advised Council that he is an employee of AGL Macquarie.

Cr G. McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12.2. Cr McNeill advised Council that he is an employee of AGL Macquarie that provided a submission on this item.

Cr M. Bowditch – declared a pecuniary interest in Item 11.4. Cr Bowditch advised Council that he attended a meeting at Maxwell Underground last week.

Mr D. Finnigan declared a pecuniary interest in Item 19.2. Mr Finnigan advised Council that a family member owns a property in the vicinity of the proposed purchase.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

336 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Eades and Ledlin that:

Standing Orders be suspended in order to consider the items of Closed Committee as the first order of business.

18. ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED COUNCIL

337 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Eades and Ledlin that:

Council adjourn into Closed Session and members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:

19.1 2020-2021-0471-TENDER-SANDY HOLLOW POCKET PARK

Item 19.1 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, and Council considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

19.2 POTENTIAL CIVIC SQUARE PURCHASE

Item 19.2 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, and Council considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

19.3 FUTURE FUND COMMITTEE MINUTES

Item 19.3 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, and Council considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

19.4 UPPER HUNTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OPERATIONAL PLAN 2021/2022

Item 19.4 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, and Council considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

19.5 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SYDNEY STREET PROPERTY

Item 19.5 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, and Council considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

19.6 INSURANCE BUDGET 2021/2022

Item 19.6 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, and Council considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

Members of the public left the meeting for the duration of the Closed Council.

19 CLOSED COUNCIL

19.1 2020-2021-0471-TENDER-SANDY HOLLOW POCKET PARK

338 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Woodruff and Reynolds that:

1. Council accepts the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to accept the tender submitted by Deloma Pty Ltd, for the Lump Sum Price of \$131,451.34, exclusive of GST, for the construction of landscaping at the Sandy Hollow Pocket Park subject to a satisfactory financial assessment; and
2. The General Manager be delegated authority to sign and seal the contract.

19.2 POTENTIAL CIVIC SQUARE PURCHASE

Disclosure of Interest

Mr Finnigan declared a pecuniary interest in this item. Mr Finnigan advised Council that a family member owns property in the vicinity of the proposed purchase. Mr Finnigan left the meeting at 6.05pm and therefore took no part in discussion on this matter.

339 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Ledlin that:

Council:

1. Proceed with the purchase of the property 108 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook NSW 2333, Lot B in Deposited Plan 161185 as identified in the report.
2. Authorise the General Manager to negotiate the terms and execute all relevant documentation relating to the purchase by Council.
3. Authorise if necessary, for the Council Seal to be affixed to the Contract of Sale and Transfer document relating to the purchase by Council of the property.
4. The property be classified as "Operational" land within the meaning of Division 1, Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Mr Finnigan returned to the meeting room at 6.36pm and resumed his chair at the meeting table.

19.3 FUTURE FUND COMMITTEE MINUTES

340 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Foy that:

Council notes the information contained in this report.

**19.4 UPPER HUNTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OPERATIONAL PLAN
2021/2022**

MOTION

MOVED by Cr McNeill and Cr Reynolds that this item be deferred for consideration by the new Council when elected.

The motion was put to the vote and LOST.

341 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rush and Woodruff that:

Council endorses the Operational Plan and Budget for 2021/2022 of the Upper Hunter Economic Development Corporation Limited.

In Favour: Crs M. Bowditch, J. Eades, J. Foy, J. Ledlin, M. Rush, R. Scholes, S. Ward and B. Woodruff.

Against: Crs G. McNeill and S. Reynolds.

19.5 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SYDNEY STREET PROPERTY

342 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Woodruff that:

Council authorises the General Manager to negotiate the purchase price and provide a further report to Council.

19.6 INSURANCE BUDGET 2021/2022

343 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Woodruff and McNeill that:

1. Council proceeds with the payment of insurances for 2021-22 as per the attached Asset Insurance Schedule and the Muswellbrook Shire Council Scheme Membership and Insurance Renewals report 22 June 2021; and
2. an Internal Reserve for Insurance be established which is funded to three times the Public Liability and Property deductible amounts.

20 RESUMPTION OF OPEN COUNCIL

344 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Foy and McNeill that:

The meeting return to Open Council.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Mr Graeme Ray** – Spoke in opposition to the recommendation contained in Item 10.2. Mr Ray provided Council with a copy of his notes for the information of Council.
- **Mr Granville Taylor** – Item 10.3.

Disclosure of Interest

Cr Eades declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10.3. Cr Eades advised Council that she owns property within the vicinity of proposed development and has also provided a submission to

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

Council. At 6.44pm Cr Eades left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion on this matter.

Mr Taylor spoke provided further comments regards to his submission on Item 10.3

At 08:38 am Councillor Janelle Eades returned to Council Chambers.

- **Mr Todd Fuller (AGL Macquarie)** - Item 10.1

Disclosure of Interest

Cr McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10.1. Cr McNeill advised Council that he is an employee of AGL Macquarie. At 6.48pm Cr McNeill left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion on this matter.

Mr Fuller inquired whether Councillors had any questions regarding the proposed development.

8 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

9 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

10 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

10.1 DA 1/2011 - SECTION 4.55 MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR LIDDELL ASH DAM TO ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL BORROW PIT

Disclosure of Interest

Cr McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in this Item. Cr McNeill advised Council that he is an employee of AGL Macquarie. Cr McNeill remained absent from the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this matter.

345 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Bowditch that:

Council approves the s4.55(2) application for the modification of DA 1/2011 subject to the recommended conditions of consent as modified contained in Attachment B.

(Note: new conditions and recommended modifications to the existing conditions of consent have been included in red for ease of reference for Councillors when reviewing the recommended modified conditions)

In Favour: Crs M. Bowditch, J. Eades, J. Foy, J. Ledlin, S. Reynolds, M. Rush, R. Scholes, S. Ward and B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

At 6.50pm Cr McNeill returned to Council Chambers and resumed his chair at the meeting table.

10.2 S4.55 (2) DA 2020-22 INDUSTRIAL - HARDSTAND STORAGE PREMISE - 38-40 ENTERPRISE CRESCENT MUSWELLBROOK

MOTION

Council refuses the request for section 4.55(2) modification of Development Application No. 2020/22 and supports the previous determination of the application included as Attachment B.

FORESHADOWED MOTION

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

Cr McNeill moved that the matter be deferred to allow Councillors the opportunity to attend an on-site inspection.

The foreshadowed motion was WITHDRAWN

346 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rush and Woodruff that:

Council refuses the request for section 4.55(2) modification of Development Application No. 2020/22 and supports the previous determination of the application included as Attachment B.

In Favour: Crs M. Bowditch, J. Eades, J. Foy, J. Ledlin, G. McNeill, S. Reynolds, M. Rush, R. Scholes, S. Ward and B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

10.3 DA 2021-26 - NOTICE OF APPEAL - POLVERE -V- MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
Disclosure of Interest

Cr J. Eades declared a pecuniary interest in this item. Cr Eades advised Council that she owns a residence with the area. At 06:43 p.m. Councillor Janelle Eades left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

347 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rush and Bowditch that:

The matter be delegated to the General Manager with a workshop being held with Councillors prior to any further action being taken.

In Favour: Crs M. Bowditch, J. Foy, J. Ledlin, G. McNeill, S. Reynolds, M. Rush, R. Scholes, S. Ward and B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

At 6.55pm Cr Janelle Eades returned to Council Chambers and resumed her chair at the meeting table.

10.4 BUSINESS WAR ON WASTE GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

348 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Reynolds and Scholes that:

Council:

1. Notes that no submissions were received during the public notification period;
2. Approves the following allocation of funding for the Business War on Waste Program:
 - a. Vines Restaurant Hollydene – Chicken Coop for reducing food waste - \$6,000 ex GST
 - b. Double Picc Café – Reusable Cup System - \$6,000 ex GST
 - c. United Pastoral Pty Ltd t/a Hollydene Wines – Glass Crushing Machine for Turning bottles into Sand - \$4,000 ex GST; and
3. Declines the allocation of funding to Wild Engineering.

10.5 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

349 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Reynolds and Scholes that:

The information contained in this report be noted.

11 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

11.1 TOWN BUS SHELTER DESIGN

350 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rush and Reynolds that:

Council:

1. approves the Option 3 Design for bus shelters installed in Muswellbrook as outlined in the report; and
2. continues to seek additional funding of \$160,000 to allow for the construction of the bus shelters before November 2022.

11.2 PROPOSED DEDICATION OF OVERTON ROAD AND PART OF LOGUES LANE

351 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and McNeill that:

Council approves the dedication of Overton Road and part of Logues Lane as Council Public Road in accordance with Section 16 of the Roads Act 1993, and action be taken to dedicate the roads by the placement of a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

11.3 WOLLOMBI PARK AND HUNTER PARK CONCEPT PLANS - PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Disclosure of Interest

Cr J. Eades declared a pecuniary interest in this item. Cr Eades advised Council that she works for an employer named in the report. At 6.55pm Cr Eades left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

352 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Ledlin that:

Council:

1. Endorse the concept plans for Hunter Park and Wollombi Park; and
2. Prepare staging plans and cost estimates for consideration.

At 6.55pm Cr Eades returned to Council Chambers and resumed her chair at the meeting table.

11.4 MAXWELL UNDERGROUND PROJECT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Disclosure of Interest

Cr M. Bowditch declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in this item Cr Bowditch advised Council that he attended a meeting last week at Maxwell Underground. At 6.55pm Cr Bowditch left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

353 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ward and Reynolds that:

Council notes the Traffic Management Plan details and conditions contained therein, and delegates to the General Manager the authority to approve a s.138 Roads Act application to conduct a pre dilapidation survey of Thomas Mitchell Drive.

At 6.56pm Cr Bowditch returned to Council Chambers and resumed his chair at the meeting table.

11.5 CONCEPT DESIGN FOR THE UPGRADE OF YARRAWA ROAD

354 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Woodruff that:

Council endorses the Detailed Concept Design for the construction of Yarrawa Road Ch 14.0km to Ch16.00 km, attached as appendix A to the report.

11.6 MAJOR PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

355 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Foy that:

Council notes the information contained in the report.

12 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.1 2021/2022 COUNCILLOR FEES

356 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Eades and Woodruff that:

Council

1. Note the 2021 Annual Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.
2. Approve the annual fee of \$12,400 for Councillors for 2021/2022; and
3. Approve an additional fee of \$27,060 for the position of Mayor for 2021/2022.

12.2 2021/22 OPERATIONAL PLAN, BUDGET, REVENUE POLICY AND FEES AND CHARGES

Disclosure of Interest

Cr McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in this item. Cr McNeill advised Council that he is an employee of AGL Macquarie who are mentioned in the report. At 7.00pm Cr McNeill left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this matter.

357 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Scholes that:

The 2021/22 Operational Plan, including the statement of Council's Revenue Policy, Budget and Fees and Charges be adopted.

Cr Rush thanked Cr Ledlin, the General Manager and Finance Staff for their work in preparing the balanced budget.

At 7.01pm Cr McNeill returned to Council Chambers.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

12.3 MAKING OF THE RATES AND ANNUAL CHARGES FOR 2021/22

358 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Woodruff and Scholes that:

Council MAKES the following Ordinary rates for the 2021/22 Financial Year:

GENERAL FUND

Rate Type	Category	Sub-Category	Ad Valorem Cents in \$	Base/ Min \$	Base % of Total Rate Levied	Estimated Yield
Ordinary	Residential	Residential – General	0.5074695	\$240	20.78%	\$1,070,743
Ordinary	Residential	Residential – Muswellbrook & Denman	0.6905017	\$290	35.19%	\$4,655,129
Ordinary	Farmland	Farmland – General	0.3237322	\$400	14.04%	\$1,025,625
Ordinary	Farmland	Farmland – Irrigable	0.3882914	\$440	10.59%	\$469,288
Ordinary	Mining	Mining – General	1.3212501	\$15,000	1.13%	\$10,649,919
Ordinary	Mining	Mining – Underground Coal Mining	27.4211490	\$15,000	0%	\$0
Ordinary	Mining	Mining – Metallurgical Coal Mining	27.4211490	\$15,000	0%	\$0
Ordinary	Business	Business – General	1.2524165	\$250	8.25%	\$1,448,143
Ordinary	Business	Business – Power Generation	8.7591824	\$25,000	18.19%	\$274,848
Ordinary	Business	Business – Thomas Mitchell Drive Industrial Centre	1.2601275	\$275	11.71%	\$352,324
Ordinary	Business	Business – Showground Release Area	0.2289207	\$250	2.25%	\$11,101
Ordinary	Business	Business – Mine Rehabilitation	1.3212501	\$15,000	0%	\$0

WATER CHARGES

Council MAKES the following water charges for the 2021/22 Financial Year:

1. A Water Service Availability Charge is charged for each service to the property in respect of land that is supplied with water from a water pipe of the Council and land that is situated within 225 metres of a water pipe of the Council (whether or not actually supplied with water from any water pipe of the Council). The Water Service Availability Charge is based on the service size of the connection to the water supply line. The Water Service Availability Charges for the year commencing 1 July 2021 are:

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

Water Service Charge Category	Amount
Availability Charge (Not Connected)	\$209.00
Availability Charge (Connected)	
20mm service	\$209.00
25mm service	\$327.00
32mm service	\$535.00
40mm service	\$836.00
50mm service	\$1,306.00
65mm service	\$2,208.00
80mm service	\$3,344.00
100mm service	\$5,225.00
150mm service	\$11,756.00

2. A Consumption Tariff is to be charged per kilolitre for all water supplied. The water consumption tariffs for the year commencing 1 July 2021 are:

<u>Consumption Tariff</u>	<u>(\$/Kl)</u>
Residential	Tier 1 (1-350Kl per annum) \$1.96 per kilolitre Tier 2 (>350Kl per annum) \$2.78 per kilolitre
Non-Residential	\$2.43 per kilolitre

SEWERAGE CHARGES

Council MAKES the following sewer charges for the 2021/22 Financial Year:

An annual charge for sewer is applicable to each rateable assessment except:

- Land which is more than 75 metres from a sewer of the Council and is not connected to the sewer; and
- Land from which sewage could not be discharged into any sewer of the Council.

1. **Residential Sewer Charges**

A Sewer Service Availability Charge is charged in respect of each Residential assessment for which the service is provided or is proposed to be provided. The Sewer Service Availability Charges for the year commencing 1 July 2021 are:

Sewer Service Charge

Residential Sewer Availability Charge (Vacant)	\$312.00
Residential Sewer Charge (Occupied)	\$783.00

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

2. Non-Residential Sewerage Charges

Non-Residential Sewer Charges will be based on the following formula:

SC = SDF x (AC + (C x UC)) where:

SC = Sewerage Charge

SDF = Sewerage Discharge Factor

AC = Availability Charge

C = Total water consumption for meter

UC = Sewer Usage Charge

The Sewer Service Availability Charges for the year commencing 1 July 2021 are:

Sewer Service Charge Category	Amount
Availability Charge (Not Connected)	\$312.00
Availability Charge (Connected)	
20mm service	\$312.00
25mm service	\$487.50
32mm service	\$798.72
40mm service	\$1,248.00
50mm service	\$1,950.00
65mm service	\$3,295.50
80mm service	\$4,992.00
100mm service	\$7,800.00
150mm service	\$17,550.00

The Sewer Usage Charge for the year commencing 1 July 2021 is:

Sewer Usage Charge (\$/KI)

Non-Residential Sewer Usage Charge \$2.43 per kilolitre

Discharge Factors required for non-residential properties will be determined on an individual property basis.

DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES

Council MAKES for rateable land categorised for rating purposes as Residential and situated within the urban area in which a Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided, the following waste charges for the 2021/22 Financial Year:

Domestic Waste Management Service Charge	Amount
Urban Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge ⁽¹⁾	\$97.00

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

Urban Domestic Waste Management Service Charge ⁽²⁾	\$422.00
Additional Urban Domestic Waste Management Service Charge	\$105.00
Additional Urban Domestic Waste Management Recycling Service Charge	\$72.00
Additional Urban Domestic Waste Management Green Waste Service Charge	\$31.00

- (1) This charge applies to vacant rateable land categorised for rating purposes as Residential and situated within the urban area in which a Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided.
- (2) Each habitable premises is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin service per week and one fortnightly collection of recyclable material and one fortnightly collection of green waste for each Urban Domestic Waste Management Service Charge.

Council MAKES for rateable land categorised for rating purposes as Residential or Farmland and situated within the rural area in which a Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided, the following waste charges for the 2021/22 Financial Year:

Rural Domestic Waste Management Service Charge	Amount
Rural Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge ⁽¹⁾	\$97.00
Rural Domestic Waste Management Service Charge ⁽²⁾	\$390.00
Additional Rural Domestic Waste Management Service Charge	\$105.00
Additional Rural Domestic Waste Management Recycling Service Charge	\$72.00
Rural Domestic Waste Management Green Waste Service Charge	\$31.00

- (1) This charge applies to vacant rateable land categorised for rating purposes as Residential or Farmland and situated within the rural area in which a Rural Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided.
- (2) Each habitable premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin service per week and one fortnightly collection of recyclable material for each Rural Domestic Waste Management Service Charge.

Council MAKES for land not categorised for rating purposes as residential and situated within the urban area in which a Waste Management Service is able to be provided, the following waste charges for the 2021/22 Financial Year:

Waste Management Service Charge	Amount
Urban Waste Management Availability Charge – Non-Domestic ⁽¹⁾	\$97.00
Waste Management Service Charge ⁽²⁾	\$390.00
Additional Waste Management Service Charge	\$105.00
Additional Waste Management Recycling Service Charge	\$72.00
Waste Management Green Waste Service Charge	\$31.00

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE,
2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM.**

- (1) This charge applies to vacant rateable land not categorised for rating purposes as Residential and situated within the urban area in which a Waste Management Service is able to be provided.
- (2) Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin service per week and one fortnightly collection of recyclable material for each Waste Management Service Charge.

Council MAKES for land not categorised for rating purposes as Residential or Farmland and situated within the rural area in which a Waste Management Service is able to be provided, the following waste charges for the 2021/22 Financial Year:

Rural Waste Management Service Charge	Amount
Rural Waste Management Availability Charge – Non-Domestic ⁽¹⁾	\$97.00
Rural Waste Management Service Charge ⁽²⁾	\$390.00
Additional Rural Waste Management Service Charge	\$105.00
Additional Rural Waste Management Recycling Service Charge	\$72.00
Rural Waste Management Green Waste Service Charge	\$31.00

- (1) This charge applies to vacant rateable land not categorised for rating purposes as Residential or Farmland and situated within the rural area in which a Rural Waste Management Service is able to be provided.
- (2) Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin service per week and one fortnightly collection of recyclable material for each Rural Waste Management Service Charge.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CHARGE

Council hereby MAKES a Stormwater Management Charge for land within the Muswellbrook and Denman urban areas and included in the Town Planning Zones of R1 General Residential, B2 Local Centre, SP2 Infrastructure, IN2 Light Industrial, IN1 General Industrial and RU5 Village, except where exemption or variation to the charge is provided in accordance with the document "Stormwater Management Service Charge Guidelines" issued by the Division of Local Government in July 2006, for the 2021/22 Financial Year at a rate of \$25.00 per assessment and \$12.50 per residential strata unit.

Where a non-residential assessment exists with an impervious land area falling within the ranges outlined below the charge will be levied in accordance with table established below:

Area Sqm	Charge
0 - 1,199	\$25.00
1,200 - 4,999	\$100.00
5,000 - 9,999	\$375.00
>10,000	\$725.00

INTEREST ON OVERDUE ACCOUNTS

The Council hereby determines and orders that, in accordance with Section 566 of the Local Government Act 1993, the interest to be applied to unpaid rates and charges after they become due and payable is the maximum rate of interest specified for the time being by the Minister pursuant to s 566(3) of the Act.

The Minister has determined the maximum interest rate applicable for 2021/22 is 6.0%.

HUNTER CATCHMENT CONTRIBUTION

The Council hereby determines and orders that in accordance with Clauses 36 and 40, Part 4 of the Local Land Services Regulation 2014, the rate to be levied will be set at the rate to be specified by Hunter Local Land Services for 2021/22, on the current Land Value of the land within the Council area. By virtue of the provisions of the above regulation, the Council is authorised, empowered and required to levy the said Catchment contribution rate in respect of the lands.

The Minister has determined the rate for the Hunter Catchment Contribution for 2021/22 is 0.00964 (zero point zero zero nine six four) cents in the dollar.

12.4 CARRYOVER PROJECTS FOR 2021/22

359 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McNeill and Woodruff that:

1. The attached lists of Operating and Capital Carryovers be adopted.
2. The final value, based on the adjusted actual 2020/21 expenditure, be incorporated into the 2021/22 Budget prior to the September 2021 quarterly budget review.

12.5 STORE AND MATERIAL STOCKTAKE - 24 MAY 2021

360 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Foy and Ledlin that:

Council notes the report on the stocktake carried on 24 May 2021 and that an amount of \$53.91 be added to the inventory register.

12.6 REPORT ON COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING JUNE 2021

361 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Foy that:

Council notes the information contained in the report.

12.7 REPORT ON INVESTMENTS HELD AS AT 31 MAY 2021

362 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Woodruff that:

The information showing Council's investments as at 31 May 2021 be noted.

12.8 MAY 2021 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

363 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Woodruff that:

The Financial Report for the month ending 31 May 2021 be noted.

12.9 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CONTROL POLICY

364 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Bowditch and Woodruff that:

Council:

1. Endorses the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy for public exhibition for a period of not less than twenty-eight (28) days.
2. Adopts the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy at the conclusion of the public exhibition period if no substantive changes are recommended in any submissions received.

12.10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

365 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Eades and Scholes that:

The information contained in this report be noted.

13 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

13.1 FINANCE REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 20/05/2021

366 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Scholes that:

The Minutes of the Finance Review and Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 20 May 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein ADOPTED.

13.2 FINANCE REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 27/05/2021

367 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Scholes that:

The Minutes of the Finance Review and Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27 May 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein ADOPTED.

13.3 FINANCE REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 10/06/2021

368 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Scholes that:

The Minutes of the Finance Review and Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10 June 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein ADOPTED.

13.4 FINANCE REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 18/06/2021

369 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Scholes that:

The Minutes of the Finance Review and Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 18 June 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein ADOPTED.

13.5 STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT - 31/05/2021

370 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Woodruff that:

The Minutes of the State Significant Development Meeting held on Monday 31 May 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein ADOPTED.

13.6 ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE - 26/05/2021

371 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Ledlin and Eades that:

The Minutes of the Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein ADOPTED.

13.7 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 2/06/2021

372 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Woodruff that:

The Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2 June 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein ADOPTED.

6 NOTICES OF MOTION / RESCISSION

Nil

7 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

**15.1 CR QUESTION ARISING FROM 25 MAY, 2021 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING:
COLLECTION OF RESIDENTIAL WASTE BETWEEN SANDY HOLLOW AND GUNGAL**

373 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Bowditch and Scholes that:

The information contained in this report be noted.

15.2 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS TO MAY ORDINARY MEETING

Cr McNeill inquired whether the Delegation for the General Manager to make a submission to the DPIE automatically carry over the delegation to the IPC?

Cr Rush advised that the DPIE is the assessing administrative body the IPC is the determining body. All of the submissions made to the IPC are made through the DPIE so my view is that this

is one and the same thing although you may wish to make a supplementary submission to the IPC.

Further discussion took place on this matter.

374 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Scholes and Rush that:

The Meeting adjourn for five minutes to ensure order is maintained at the meeting.

At 7.11pm the meeting adjourned for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 7.16pm

Cr Reynolds advised the meeting that up until September, 2020 he would have been conflicted in this matter and asked that this be reviewed to determine whether he was present for resolution on this particular item.

Cr Rush advised that his would be taken on notice.

375 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rush and Scholes that:

The information be noted.

8 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

8.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Cr Jacinta Ledlin advised Council that she attended the Local Government Excellence Awards with the Manager - Community Services, Kim Manwarring which was held in Sydney. Council's Project in conjunction with the Aboriginal community "In Our Own Words" was chosen as a finalist in the category Community Partnership. Although the nomination did not win the Selection Committee noted that the nomination was a pleasure to review. Cr Ledlin thanked Council staff, particularly Ms Manwarring, for their work in relation to this project.

9 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

Nil

MAYOR'S VALEDICTORY SPEECH

376 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McNeill and Ledlin that:

Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow Cr Rush the opportunity to provide a short Valedictory Speech prior to the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Cr Rush:

Thank you, councillors, for the opportunity to say a few words before leaving Council about some of our achievements over the last twelve or so years and to acknowledge some key people.

Advocacy

I want to begin with advocacy. I think this has been one of the remarkable endeavours of Council when you look at some of the State Government initiatives but also at times Federal Government policy that this Council has engaged with and influenced and in the matters I read out now delivered on, that is to say changed State or Federal Government policy.

The first of these was Resources for Regions, which this Council lobbied for in 2009. Ultimately, we got the policy up as part of the policy mix of the then State Opposition which became the Government in 2011. It has delivered more than \$70m of funding to this community throughout those 10 years and we should be very proud of that.

Real Time Air Quality Monitoring – again an initiative of this Council Eventually, after considerable lobbying, the then Minister, Frank Sartor, rolled it out across the Upper Hunter. I think that has greatly improved literacy in the community about the standard\ of air quality in the Upper Hunter and it has also put some pressure on industry to improve their level of dust mitigation and compliance. It has certainly also allowed the Area Health Services to greatly improve its monitoring of dust and their analysis of the health impacts of it.

The Hospital – Whilst others may lay claim for the lobbying, the truth of the matter is it was this Council that first raised the need to upgrade the hospital and the woeful state of the then Emergency Department which at the time was no bigger than a bedroom. We worked in tandem with the Newcastle Herald to make sure that there was a sequence of high-profile articles and within twelve months the first slew of money to greatly improve the Emergency Department was obtained. We have successfully lobbied for each of stages 2A, 2B, and 3. Although there are those in the community who might not be entirely happy that a brand new hospital in a new location wasn't built, I think we can be very proud of the fact that once those three stages are delivered it will essentially be a new hospital and of course I hope future Councils will now turn their attention as to how it will be staffed and how it will be administered. We have wonderful nurses and doctors but they are simply not appropriately resourced to deliver a first rate health system locally.

The Bypass – which has been the advocacy project of this Council for at least 20 – and possibly 30 years – but I am absolutely proud that it was during the life of this Council that it was fully committed to in terms of its funding and of course recently in the by-election, the last piece of that funding – the \$25m grade separated interchange at Coal Road. That interchange is critical for the long-term economic development of the Muswellbrook Coal site. I particularly, at this point, want to thank the State and Federal Members, particularly Joel Fitzgibbon, who I have been privileged to work with over the last twelve years and particularly Josh Brown, my senior policy officer and the author of many of the advocacy submissions we made.

Industry Policy

In terms of industry policy, much will be said about me and the mining industry, and I do want to talk about some of those things tonight but it worth pointing out that it was this Council that lobbied for minimum local apprenticeships at some of these mines eight or so years ago and more than 200 young miners from this community have been employed now under that scheme. It is a scheme that is unique to the Shire of Muswellbrook and over time has meant that more miners live locally than would have otherwise lived here and of course more miners than proportionately live in our surrounding LGAs. I am proud of that scheme, it was a good initiative.

Micro-relief of overburden emplacements – again an initiative of this Council. Natural form micro-relief as the means by which the rehabilitation of open cut spoil is conceptually undertaken is much older than the work of this Council but it was this Council that made it best practice in NSW and insisted that, the then Department of

Planning, really make sure that every mine, in terms of its forward rehabilitation was to implementing micro-relief. We had some advantages of course, our mines tend to be younger than some of the mines down the Valley, and mines like Mangoola have less overburden to move but nonetheless, we can be very proud of the fact that the Council lobbied for that micro-relief and a reduction in number final voids and also the size of the voids.

VPAs – at least in the present form – was another initiative of this Council. Whilst we received some very modest lump-sums in 2008, the sums were pitifully small compared to the impact of these international scale industries on the local community. Earlier on, the mining industry fought tooth and nail against the introduction of annual cents per tonne, but I think now recognise the importance of making those contributions in terms of their social licences and building capacity in the communities in which they operate. Today we receive almost \$3m a year in Voluntary Planning Agreements payments, as well as additional road contributions as well. Additionally, more than \$80m in reconstructed roads across the Shire have resulted by the forceful but fair negotiation of VPAs.

In terms of industry policy more broadly, the Pumped Hydro Energy Scheme at Bells Mountain – A great initiative of this Council, now of course, sold as a concept to AGL and it is AGL's only pumped hydro energy project left in Australia. From a cost benefit ratio point of view, it is possibly the best such project on the eastern seaboard and that includes Snowy 2.0. This Council identified that site and I might say that I had some closer involvement in that identification process. We should be very proud that a small rural Council developed that up to the point at which it could be sold to Australia's largest energy provider.

The establishment of the Upper Hunter Economic Development Corporation, by the the MELT as part of a tender process, will leave a strong legacy that this Council can be very proud of. Its skill-based Board is already identifying key projects that will drive job creation, economic diversification and an upskilled workforce into the future. At this point, I want to pay tribute to that Board and thank them for their input into the development of that in the first few months.

STEM Education – not just the Richard Gill School, but also the STEM Learning Centre that will be delivered through the Upper Hunter Economic Development Corporation. These are initiatives that are a strong investment by this Council in a workforce 15 years hence.

The Town TAFE Campus is also an initiative of this Council as is the Sam Adams College, as is the University of Newcastle's presence now in the Town centre. We can be proud over the last 10 years of all those achievements which continue to add to Muswellbrook's strategic position at the centre of Upper Hunter education.

The Upper Hunter Innovation Hub at Loxton House is also to be completed in the next few months and, having said all of that, I particularly want to pay tribute at this point to the Late Richard Gill for his enthusiasm to bring his school here and Kim Williams who picked up that bat when sadly Richard fell ill.

Town centres

There has been enormous effort to improve the Central Business Districts, both in Muswellbrook and Denman, much of that work is still continuing particularly in terms of

Muswellbrook. This year's Budget again focuses on Muswellbrook after three years of focus in Denman. In both Denman and Muswellbrook, those works have made an enormous difference. We know in Denman, for example, that tourism has increased markedly since the deployment of those works. I particularly want to thank at this point the collegiality I've been able to share in my time with the business chambers in both Denman and Muswellbrook.

Finance

In terms of finance, it is perhaps useful to begin by recalling that, when I began, there was no funding, from our own general revenues, of any recurrent capital – none. I remember, and I'm sure Cr Woodruff would remember, that at the first strategic planning sessions held for the 2008 Council we made a commitment to try to at least get to 50% of recurrent capital funded from our own General Fund revenue by the end of the term. Well we accomplished that in just three years. I remember one of the then councillors, who shall remain nameless – and is no longer a councillor, said in an article in the Muswellbrook Chronicle: "Where will he get the money from for all these things, we've got no money. He'll cut councillors from 12 to nine, sell the mayoral car that gets him \$30,000 – where will he find the money?" Well we did find it, we backed ourselves and we found it and we are now in a position not where we fund just 50% of our own recurrent capital from our own revenues but 100% and I am very proud of that. It is unfair to other levels of Government that local government, as an industry, thinks that it should be able to fund its recurrent capital from State and Federal grants. Councils must aspire, as we have aspired and as we have achieved, to fund all of its recurrent capital needs from its own general revenues. I am proud that we have achieved surplus budgets since 2011. Today we have \$65m in cash investments which excludes the commercial investments in the Future Fund.

Future Fund

The Future Fund has been a particular initiative of this Council. Today it has around \$90m in commercial assets. It has leveraged debt, in about half that amount, to pursue an aggressive growth strategy. It is the second largest dedicated wealth fund held by a council in Australia. Critically, its dividend is now is \$4m a year. In just seven years we have put this community in a position where, if we never needed the Fund for any other purpose, it is capable of providing a dividend to the General Fund in an amount more than four times the total Shire's business rating. More than the business and farming rates combined and not far shy now of the residential rating. In simple terms that means, were we never to need the Fund for the purpose for which it was created, we would almost be in the position where we would never need residential rates ever again and be no worse off. We should be proud of that as a Council.

Infrastructure

Replacing timber bridges is a priority for all rural councils. They are expensive to maintain and do not provide the same resilience and safety. We have largely completed our timber bridge replacement program with a further four bridges replaced over the last decade. It's a good position to be in.

When I began, many of our rural collector roads were virtually single lane heavily potholed roads – Thomas Mitchell Drive, Wybong Road, Edderton Road to name a few. All of these roads have received enormous funding and upgrades. I remember there was always potholes but you are flat out finding one today on our roads. I am

enormously proud of our road's crew – its safety and efficiency improvements over the last decade have been considerable. I was on Sandy Creek Road the other day going out to my farm, there were two young female operators of the heavy plant and I think we are one of the few councils that has really encouraged and promoted females in our workforce plan and it was really pleasing to see.

The sealing of unsealed roads – this is an initiative of this year's budget. It's only 2km of the 98 we've got left but it's great to be in a position where we can recommence the new sealing program. It's had an almost three-decade hiatus. The return is not great on these things, it's less than 1% but when you've got a low interest rate and a bit of grant funding floating around, it's nice to be able to reduce the unsealed road asset. I hope that is something Council continues if it can in the future.

The Recycled Water Treatment Plant – A \$30m project during the life of this Council and the Water Pipeline to Sandy Hollow. Both extremely important infrastructure projects and of course the Works Depot, which I hope will also be constructed shortly, greatly improving not only the accommodation of our workforce but also the productivity of the workforce.

Sport and Recreation

In terms of Sport and Recreation – Roy & HG say “too much sport is barely enough”, well I think they would be well-pleased with this Council. We have been a Council that has invested significant funds in sport and recreation. I am going to go through some of these but virtually all our sport infrastructure has been upgraded at some point in the last 10 years in some significant way: –

- The Aquatic Centre,
- Denman League ovals,
- Cricket – the levelling of the oval, fencing, site screens, the dedication of Volunteer Oval for junior cricket, new pitches and three new sets of nets,
- Olympic Park,
- Netball – courts and the doubling in size of the amenities block,
- Soccer – lighting, fencing and amenity block improvements,
- Skateparks – none in 2008 but we have two today,
- AFL – considerable improvements to the Weeraman playing service and to the amenity block.
- Rugby League – new lighting, irrigation and field improvements,
- The Highbrook Park Playground – a genuinely Regional quality playground,

There's been other things as well:

- The Race Club contribution, which I am pleased to see, has leveraged significant State Government Funding in the last fortnight and will see an enormous upgrade to that important sport infrastructure,
- Golf and squash – More than \$1m in contributions to golf course irrigation and other improvements and to the facilitation of new squash courts.

I'm sure there are many things I've left out!

Companion Animal Management

We have overseen vast improvements to rehoming rates of abandoned or impounded animals which is of particular concern and should be a particular concern for people right across the community. There is still a lot of work to be done there. A new Animal Shelter is coming and of course we have introduced a dedicated dog park which I'm pleased to see is very active particularly on weekends.

Emergency Services

We purchased and, with a combination of new builds and upgrades, developed a dedicated emergency services compound in Muswellbrook. A refurbished but dedicated SES building, a new Edinglassie Rural Fire Service Brigade and Mangoola Brigade in Denman and of course we have completed the flood mapping – and have backed it up with sufficient future funding to make sure we are in a position to better manage flooding going forward.

Environment and Sustainability

We created a Sustainability Team which has done enormous amounts of work on Muscle Creek, Karoola and Denman Wetlands, Denman Lookout, in the introduction of FOGO Bins which is to come as part of our present tender and dealing also composting and problem waste. We have a Renewable Energy Target which has largely been achieved and will be fully achieved with the last roll out of funding for that this year. There have been many other sustainability wins – Denman Memorial Hall was reconstructed in straw bales becoming the first commercially approved straw bale building in Australia. We should be proud of that. Its energy efficiency is second to none. We reformed and created land care groups across the Shire – I think there was just one left in 2008. I take this opportunity to thank them for their collegiality and work and volunteering over the last 13 years.

Community Services

When the State Government announced it intended to privatise the Muswellbrook nursing home at the hospital, Council was quick to act. It put together a working group which identified suitable land for a new facility and offered the land at a subsidised rate to help facilitate the construction of a new facility. I am confident that had Council not acted with that swiftness and purpose, we would not enjoy the Calvary Care facility we have in this community today. I want to pay tribute and thank the wonderful Board and volunteers at Merton Living and note that Council has, during my time and before, happily partnered with this exceptional organisation on funding initiatives. I'm confident that partnership will continue.

There has been considerable work completed in the aged care and services space. Better planning with the focus on continuing inclusion will continue to produce great initiatives over the next few years.

Council has funded the construction of two mens' sheds in each of Muswellbrook and Denman. They are first rate facilities that allow men of all ages to come together and discuss issues they might not otherwise be comfortable discussing.

Council has funded the upgrade of the Upper Hunter Youth Services into a new build adjoining the Indoor Sport Stadium. The UHYS is marvellous service that does much of the heavy lifting in our community when it comes to youth inclusion. I thank all the

community services groups with which I've had the pleasure of working over the last decade.

Arts and Culture

Our work in this space began really with the expansion of the Library. It was a \$2m job. It was the first significant capital project during my time as Mayor. There are a range of other initiatives too that I think are worthy of mentioning:

- the doubling in size of the Muswellbrook Art Prize and making it year,
- the Campbell's Corner upgrade giving the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music a dedicated and fit for purpose home, and
- seed funding to bring a cinema to Muswellbrook.

These significant investments will shortly be followed by an investment across the road in the Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre and a public square adjoining it. This is critical identity and cultural infrastructure for Muswellbrook.

I want to thank Cr Ledlin and the staff who have been involved in the Aboriginal Treaty Project – this has been a fantastic initiative of the Council, I suspect it will be a challenging and ongoing process, I certainly support that initiative and I want to see how it ends of course – I will be looking on with much interest albeit from the sideline.

The Muswellbrook Amateur Theatrical Society. We have now provided MATS a purpose built home and can I take this opportunity to thank MATS for the wonderful work it does in this community and also the Board of the Conservatorium and its directors.

I also pay tribute and thank the Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal Elders for their collegiality and the wonderful job that they do in this community.

Some closing comments

If I can turn now to just some broader issues, I think having heard that list of projects you will agree that it has been a busy and transformative decade for the for Muswellbrook Shire communities. If I can say, however, within a broader and longer term context, I think really, when people look back it will be assessed to have been a period in which we simply laid the foundations for transformation. I actually think much of the transformation of Muswellbrook is in front of us. The Future Fund, the UHEDC, the Richard Gill School, the investment in STEM generally, the correcting of our finances, the University and TAFE and other education infrastructure – Sam Adams College and the investment in tourism and the main street, I think people will look back and say that this was really just laying the foundation of transformation. The transformation is very much in front of us.

In terms of other things of a general nature, I think it has been much more collaborative Council. One of the things that we introduced was the Councillor Spokespersons role and this was to make sure that all councillors were engaged with the work ethic of the Council in the Community. I think that has been very successful and I thank all the Councillor spokespersons for the enormous work that you have done.

When I first came to Council, the General Manager and indeed all of Council's directors were men. I am absolutely proud that Fiona is the first woman General Manager of this Council and that many of the senior staff are women. If I have a small regret on that front it is that we have not yet succeeded in getting a gender balance on

the Council itself. I hope that happens and I certainly encourage women in the community to think about standing for Council. I suspect the poor financial remuneration which councillors receive is an enormous impediment to women in local government because of the valuable price placed by women on other competing and equally if not more valuable pursuits.

I now want to thank quite a few people. Firstly to deputy mayors and councillors, particularly to Rod, Karen Portolan, Jeff Drayton who were extremely loyal deputies, thank you for that, and to councillors more generally, I have certainly been afforded enormous freedom and of course that comes with the freedom at times to fail, it must do, but it's also allowed me to do things which I think this Council, when it looks back, will think were really quite remarkable and transformative. I thank councillors for that enormous loyalty and for the support and encouragement, particularly to Cr Woodruff who of course is our longest serving councillor and has been a bit of a rock at difficult times.

To the General Manager and senior staff, much has been made at times, of the relationship I've had with General Managers. I don't propose to comment on it except to say that I have had an enormously good working relationship with both the General Manager with which I have served. There is intended to be a degree of tension between the leaders of the Elected and Executive arms of any government. Advice should be frank and fearless. The execution of policy, regardless of whether staff agree with it or not, should be equally frank and fearless.

I want to pay tribute to the exceptional dedication of our General Manager and to all our senior staff. We are very much blessed with some senior staff here who are not only extraordinary professionals but many of them absolutely would work nowhere else because of their love of this community. I am not going to name who they are but we are extremely lucky and I think we are somewhat unique among Hunter Councils in that regard.

I want to thank my personal staff. I've had a number over the last 13 years. I already mentioned Joshua Brown earlier who was with me for about seven years and in more recent times Aleks Mitreski has been my senior policy officer. For those that don't know Aleks is also leaving today. I want to thank all my personal assistants. I've been extraordinarily well supported. It is, at times, a very busy office with often very controversial issues and emotions running high and the 'phones running hot. All my assistants have navigated those difficulties with professionalism.

I wanted to say just a few words about the Muswellbrook community generally before I go. The first is that as some may belittle Muswellbrook -- call it industrial and all sorts of other things. I have long believed that a person's worth is the difference that they make to the lives of others and that must involve sacrifice to some degree. I think that's scaled up, aggregated, to all communities too, it's about the difference a community makes to other communities. Muswellbrook, on that front, has everything to be proud of and nothing to be ashamed of. It really does, in peace and war when you look at the contribution that our community has made to social disadvantage and lifting people out of social disadvantage with good jobs in the power and mining industry we've got nothing to be ashamed of. We have done all the heavily lifting in the social services space with two thirds of the Upper Hunter's community housing. Other towns might consider this a burden, it's not a burden, it's a privilege and opportunity and we've grasped and we have performed magically. We should be proud of that. St Helier's

deals with core issues of recidivism and again changing lives and providing livelihoods to those who might otherwise have been left behind. It's no coincidence that St Heliers has the highest rate of reducing recidivism in NSW and is yet one of the most efficient correctional centres in NSW. It's because of the support of this community and the way in which it leads in the corrective services space. This community for more than 100 years has provided essential services for the State and National economy and that's before we come to the contributions this community has made in war time and I am certainly not going to go into that in great detail except to say we should be very proud of the contribution we have offered in the service of our Nation. Lest we Forget.

Finally, I just want to say some words that were given to me which I fundamentally believe to be true. I am going to read them. It is about Leadership and appeared in an Iowa newspaper column. It was given to me by a member of staff and I have had it in the top drawer of my desk ever since and I will return it there for whoever succeeds me. It reads:

I do not believe that the fate of any given small town will be decided by its location in the State or by its access to water or highways or resources or other objective characteristics. These factors can help or hurt economic survival, but the essential ingredient is something human, unpredictable and immeasurable. It is that elusive thing that we call leadership. Leadership is vision, some notion of where the future lies and how to get there. Leadership is guts, the willingness to step up and make hard decisions, take risks, step on toes and maybe fall flat on your face trying, but nonetheless try. Leadership is energy, the determination to keep going when everyone else tells you that it's a lost cause. Leadership is looking in the mirror every morning and saying 'It's up to me'; nobody's going to do it for me'. You do not have to be elected to be a leader. You have to care to decide to do something and to enlist like-minded people in the doing. In my view, that's what small town needs to survive – a spark of leadership by committed local people willing to risk failure to reach success."

It has been an absolute privilege to serve this community as the fifth Mayor of the currently constituted Council, the 33rd holder of the Office Mayor of Muswellbrook. I wish whoever succeeds me and future councils the absolute best of wishes. And that is it, the end, Goodbye!

Cr Ledlin read a quote from a book written by Walter Isaacson – "Here's to the ones who see things differently - they have no respect for the status quo. ... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, about the only thing you cannot do is ignore them because they change things. ... They push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, others see genius, because the people who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do."

Cr Rush left the meeting at 7.58pm

The Mayor vacated the chair and the General Manager, as Returning Officer, conducted the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor until the Local Government Elections on 4 September, 2021.

21 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

21.1 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Cr Rod Scholes was the only nomination received for the Office of Mayor and was elected as Mayor until the Local Government Elections on 4 September, 2021

Cr Jacinta Ledlin was the only nomination received for the Office of Deputy Mayor and was elected as Deputy Mayor until the Local Government Elections on 4 September, 2021.

10 CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 8.04pm.

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PAGES 1 TO 26) WERE CONFIRMED AT THE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 27 JULY, 2021 AND ARE A FULL AND ACCURATE RECORD OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29 JUNE, 2021**

.....
Ms F. Plesman

General Manager

.....
Cr R. Scholes

Chairperson