

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE LOXTON ROOM, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, CAMPBELL'S CORNER, 60-82 BRIDGE STREET, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 26 APRIL, 2022 COMMENCING AT 6:00PM.**

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**PRESENT:** Cr S.M. Reynolds (Mayor), Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton (VC), Cr L. Dunn, Cr J.A. Lecky, Cr G.T. McNeill, Cr D.E. Marshall, Cr R.W. Scholes and Cr B.N. Woodruff.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms F. Plesman (General Manager (VC)), Mr D. Finnigan (Deputy General Manager (VC)), Mr D. Walsh (Manager – Corporate Services & Chief Financial Officer), Ms S. Pope (Executive Manager – Planning & Environment), Mr P. Chambers (Shire Engineer), Mr M. Lysaught (Manager – Works, Property & Building Services (VC)), Ms M. Cleary (Manager – Governance), Miss K. Cotter (Governance Officer), Mr H. McTaggart (Senior Development Co-Ordinator), Ms A. Hathway (Corporate Lawyer), Mrs M. Sandell-Hay (PA to General Manager) and 1 person in the public gallery via VC.

## **1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by Cr Mark Bowditch.

## **2 CIVIC PRAYER**

The Civic Prayer was read by Cr Louise Dunn.

## **3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

304 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Bowditch and McNeill that:

The apologies for inability to attend the meeting submitted by Mr R. Mahajan be ACCEPTED and the necessary Leave of Absence be GRANTED.

## **4 DISCLOSURE OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

**Cr J. Lecky** – declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8.3. Cr Lecky advised Council that she had provided sponsorship for this project.

**Cr G. McNeill** – declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.1. Cr McNeill advised Council that he was a client of the applicant.

**Cr B. Woodruff** – declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8.3. Cr Woodruff advised Council that his employer undertakes work for Bengalla who are one of the sponsors of the project.

**Cr M. Bowditch** – declared an insignificant non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.3. Cr Bowditch advised Council that one of the sponsors of the project also provides sponsorship of a sporting group that he is a member of.

## **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms Louise Wilson in support of Item 6.1

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **6.1 DA 2021-158 - CHANGE OF USE - HEALTH CARE SERVICE**

#### **Disclosure of Interest**

Cr McNeill declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item. Cr McNeill advised Council that he was a client of the applicant.

At 06:04pm Cr McNeill left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or

voting on this item.

**305** RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Woodruff and Marshall that:

This item be deferred to the May Ordinary Council meeting to allow Council Officers the opportunity to review further information provided by the applicant prior to the meeting.

In Favour: Crs A Barry, M. Bowditch, D. Douglas, J. Drayton, L. Dunn, J. Lecky, D. Marshall, S. Reynolds, R. Scholes and B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

At 6.07pm Cr McNeill returned to Council Chambers and resumed his chair at the meeting table.

## **7 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **7.1 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL RESOURCING STRATEGY**

**306** RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Barry and Lecky that:

Council endorses the revised Muswellbrook Shire Council Resourcing Strategy (DRAFT 2022-2032 *Long-term Financial Plan*, DRAFT 2022-2032 *Strategic Asset Management Plan* and DRAFT 2022-2026 *Workforce Management Plan*) for public exhibition from 27 April 2022 to 24 May 2022.

In Favour: Crs A Barry, M. Bowditch, D. Douglas, J. Drayton, L. Dunn, J. Lecky, D. Marshall, G. McNeill, S. Reynolds, R. Scholes and B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

## **8 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **8.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - ROUND 1 2022**

**307** RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Reynolds and Bowditch that:

1. Council endorses the formation of a Community Grants sub-Committee to determine the successful applications for receipt of funds from the 2021-22 Budget for Sundry Donations and Community Halls.
2. Council nominates the following three Councillors as members of the Community Grants Sub Committee to assess and determine the successful applications to receive funds as part of Round 1, 2022 of Council's Community Grants program;
  - Cr De-anne Douglas, Cr Louise Dunn and Cr Rod Scholes

In Favour: Crs A Barry, M. Bowditch, D. Douglas, J. Drayton, L. Dunn, J. Lecky, D. Marshall, G. McNeill, S. Reynolds, R. Scholes and B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

### **8.2 ADDITIONAL RATE VARIATION - APPLICATION PROPOSAL**

**308** RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Lecky and Scholes that:

Council endorse an application to IPART seeking a permanent additional rate variation of 1.8%.

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In Favour: Crs A Barry, M. Bowditch, D. Douglas, J. Drayton, L. Dunn, J. Lecky, D. Marshall, G. McNeill, S. Reynolds, R. Scholes and B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

### **8.3 ADAPT PROJECT**

#### **Disclosure of Interest**

Cr Lecky declared a pecuniary interest in this Item. Cr Lecky advised Council that she had provided sponsorship to this proposal.

Cr Bowditch declared an insignificant non-pecuniary interest in this item. Cr Bowditch advised Council that one of the sponsors also provides sponsorship to a sporting club that he is a member of.

Cr Woodruff declared a pecuniary interest in this item. Cr Woodruff advised Council that his employer undertakes work for a sponsor of the proposal.

At 6.12pm Cr Lecky and Cr Woodruff left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this matter.

**309** RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McNeill and Bowditch that:

Council considers the ADAPT project to have merit. However Council needs time to review the Business Plan in more detail and, as such, will hold the ADAPT report over until the May Ordinary Meeting of Council. Council is concerned about the projected cost of the ADAPT development at \$38M and how Government funding for this project may limit funding opportunities for Council's priority projects, such as the proposed Town Centre Precinct and that the General Manager arranges a workshop be held for Councillors between now and the May Council Meeting.

In Favour: Crs A Barry, M. Bowditch, D. Douglas, J. Drayton, L. Dunn, D. Marshall, G. McNeill, S. Reynolds and R. Scholes.

Against: Nil.

At 6.18pm Cr Lecky and Cr Woodruff returned to Council Chambers and resumed their chairs at the meeting table.

### **8.4 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT 2022-2026 DELIVERY PROGRAM**

**310** RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Marshall and Scholes that:

Council endorses the *DRAFT 2022-2026 Muswellbrook Shire Delivery Program* for public exhibition from 27 April 2022 to 24 May 2022.

In Favour: Crs A Barry, M. Bowditch, D. Douglas, J. Drayton, L. Dunn, D. Marshall, G. McNeill, S. Reynolds, R. Scholes and B. Woodruff.

Against: Cr J. Lecky.

## **9 CLOSURE**

The meeting was declared closed at 6.19pm.

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Ms F. Plesman  
**General Manager**

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Cr S. Reynolds  
**Chairperson**