

Council Report to NRDCAA Meeting 16th May 2016.

There were two meetings of Council since the April Report, 19th of April (Extra-Ordinary) and 10th of May, 2016.

The report covers main issues as determined by the CoM that could affect residents and ratepayers, or could be a matter of public interest.

This report should not be relied upon by residents and ratepayers. The Reports, motions and resolutions are mostly truncated.

Council Business Papers and Minutes of each meeting are available on the Council website.

Extraordinary Council Meeting 19th April 2016.

Apologies: Councillors, Mackay, Creed, Paine and Tree.

The meeting was a closed session. Residents and Ratepayers “locked” out.

Item: 72- Legal Advice relating to Current Merger Proposal.

Whilst in closed session Council resolved on the motion of Councillor Williams, seconded Councillor Rasmussen, that the Council proceed with legal action as outlined in the report.

Councillor Porter requested his name be recorded has having voted against the motion.

Item: 73- Resignation of General Manager and appointment of Acting General Manager.

Whilst in closed session, Council resolved on the motion of Councillor Conolly, seconded Councillor Williams, that the GM (Mr Peter Jackson) submitted resignation be accepted, close of business 6th of May 2016 and Mr Laurie Mifsud Director of Support Services be appointed acting GM until the current merger proposal be finalised or otherwise.

The position will be advertised if the merger does not proceed. *And, we now know the Government has decided at this time the merger proposal will not proceed.*

Council Meeting 10th of May 2016

Apologies: Councillors, Calvert, Ford (Mayor) and Tree.

Item: 74- Development Application- Subdivision Grose Wold.

The application seeks Council approval for a two lot Torrens title subdivision at Grose Wold. The property consists of 10ha.

Councillor Conolly moved and Councillor Reardon seconded, that Council advise the Department of Planning (DoP) that it supports the proposal and if the DoP concurs, then, the determination be delegated to the GM.

All Councillors present supported the motion.

Item: 75- Development Report-Child Care Centre- South Windsor.

There were two speakers for and one against the recommendation.

The application seeks approval for the conversion of an existing dwelling into a child care centre at 691 George St, South Windsor.

The speaker against raised traffic congestion, flood levels, safety, and concern for the animals she trains for films etc;

Councillors Williams and Paine indicated they had been to inspect the site and its surrounds. Councillor Williams expressed grave concerns, about the appropriateness of the site for the Childcare Centre.

Councillors rejected the staff recommendation for approval subject to conditions and voted for a site inspection.

Councillors, Conolly, Lyons-Buckett, Mackay, Paine, Porter Rasmussen, Reardon and Williams supported the motion for a site inspection. Councillor Creed voted against the motion.

Item: 76- Planning Proposal to amend HLEP 2012-1041 GVR Kurrajong.

There were two speakers in support.

The planning proposal was to develop the land for rural residential subdivision with a minimum lot size of not less than 4,000 m².

Planning Proposals west of the river bring divisive debate within Council because of poor transport infrastructure and other services.

The NRDCAA is opposed to rezoning land west of the river because of the massive traffic congestion, lack of transport infrastructure and poor services.

After much debate and an adjournment to create an acceptable motion that was subsequently unsuccessful, Councillors rejected the staff recommendation and deferred the matter to a future meeting.

Councillors reach that point after voting on three motions.

Councillors, Conolly, Mackay, Creed, Paine and Reardon supported the motion and Councillors, Lyons-Buckett, Rasmussen, Porter and Williams voted against the motion.

Item: 77- Planning Proposal to amend HLEP 2012-280 Castlereagh Rd Agnes Banks.

There was one speaker in support.

The Planning Proposal is to subdivide land at Agnes Banks into four blocks with lot sizes not less than 4,000m².

The major concern for Councillors was whether the land was flood prone.

After much discussion Councillors supported the staff recommendation to support the Planning Proposal to allow development of the land for a large lot rural subdivision with a minimum lot size of 4,000 m².

In addition, Council advise the DoP&E that Council support will only be given if the Council is satisfied satisfactory progress is being made towards a Section 94 Developer contribution or a VPA.

Councillors Conolly, Mackay, Paine, Rasmussen, Reardon and Williams supported the motion and Councillors Creed, Lyons-Buckett and Porter voted against the motion.

Item: 78- Draft VPA 396 BloR Kurmond-p82.

The BP confirmed the public exhibition period for the draft VPA was complete and the report recommended the execution of the agreement under Council's seal with some minor adjustment.

The VPA is for 32 blocks at \$30,000 per block=\$960,000 paid over three instalments.

Councillors supported the staff recommendation.

Councillors in support, Conolly, Creed, Lyons-Buckett, Mackay, Paine, Porter and Reardon, opposed Rasmussen and Williams.

Item: 79- Regional Strategic Alliance (p104 of the BP)

In short, the Regional Strategic Alliance brings together Blue Mountain City Council, Penrith City Council and Hawkesbury City Council to work together to obtain better efficiencies, stronger purchasing power and exchange services between the three Councils for the common good of residents and ratepayers and work together in a Regional Tourism Strategy.

When the Council met on the 10th of May 2016, Council was not aware of the State Government's pending announcement that the proposed merger with Hills Shire Council would not proceed.

Now, as a result of the announcement HCC will be an active participant in the Alliance.

In addition, the Councils have supported a business case supporting the formation of a Regional Tourism Organisation with the two other Councils.

Council endorsed the actions outlined in the report.

Item: 81- Hawkesbury Horizon Project (p118 of the BP)

There were two speakers against the staff recommendation.

Hawkesbury Horizon is a project to identify a big project that would assist the growth of the local economy.

The contribution by the two speakers was very positive and constructive.

However, Councillors had been briefed some time before the meeting by staff and did not pick up the theme of the speakers.

It appeared there was a huge gap on what Councillors had been briefed on and what the public knows.

The Councillors supported the staff recommendation which identify the River Precinct be endorsed as the preferred concept, further lobbying and discussion with the NSW Government regarding the North Richmond Emergency Service Centre, support a stakeholder working party to develop an Equine Industry Strategy, discuss with Western Sydney University the Clarendon Innovation Technology and Recreation Precinct Concept and a progress report be submitted to Council second half of 2016.

Item: 87- Review of local Government Rating System in NSW.

The Business Paper at p163 is worth a read, if you are interested in how your rates will be set in the future, have a read.

Councillors supported the Council's staff submission to IPART.

Questions for the next meeting.

The questions for the next meeting caused Councillor Mackay, Deputy Mayor to adjourn the meeting because Councillor Porter would not comply with the chairs direction.

Councillor Porter questioned staff with regard to detached dual occupancy buildings, question 5.

On resumption, the chair suggested an answer be provided in the business Paper scheduled for 31 May 2016.

An Urgency motion was moved by Councillor Porter to no avail.

Councillor Lyons-Buckett also sought better particulars on question 2.

Questions: Councillors Reardon 1, Lyons-Buckett 1, Williams 2, Paine 3, Mackay 2.

Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP)-consider DA \$20 million or more.

DA0467/15-Belmont.

The NRDCAA made a submission to the Council and also sought assistance from the Environmental Defenders Office. They made a very significant submission which was prepared by Dr Renata Bali.

There were four speakers against and three for the application

At the hearing on the 3rd of March the JRPP deferred the approval as a result of Dr Bali's submission and for clarification of the number of trees to be removed.

However when the JRPP reconvened on the 5th of May 2016 the application was approved. They refused to consider Dr Bali's additional submission because of the late arrival of the submission (two days before the hearing)

There were four speakers against and two for approval.

At point 6 of the decision they say; **the panel has given particular consideration to the ecological impacts of the proposed development and including the specific number of trees to be removed and those to be retained and is satisfied that no unacceptable impacts will result.**

That is very difficult to accept when over 75% of the trees are being removed.

DA0216/16 Yeoman's-currently on exhibition.

The NRDCAA made approaches to the JRPP at the hearing on the 5th of May for an extension of 28 days for exhibition.

We have been advised the extension has been granted.

The NRDCAA has made a submission and will assist where we can the "Village Peoples" concerns. We hope to arrange a meeting with their CoM and a Councillor to determine the best way forward.

DA 0263/16 Grose River Crossing at Navua-currently on exhibition.

The Council has received an application for the bridge crossing at Navua.

The information is on the Council website's DA tracker.

Authorised NRDCAA CoM May 2016.

