

**Council Report to NRDCAA Meeting 21st March 2016 (Meeting cancelled).**

There were four meetings of Council since the February Report, February 18th and 23rd, 8th and 21st of March 2016.

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

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

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

**Council Extraordinary Meeting February 16 2016.**

**Apologies: Councillors, Lyons-Buckett, Paine, Porter and Williams.**

**Item 17 Submission- Merger Proposal Hawkesbury City Council and part of Hills Shire Council.**

There were three speakers, one for and two against.

The formal Council submission to the merger proposal between Hawkesbury City Council and part of the Hills Council was considered at this meeting.

The detailed submission covered aspects of Council's operations, Background to Merger Proposal, Financial Impacts, Communities of Interest and Geographic Cohesion, Historical and Traditional Values, Attitude of Residents, Local Representation, Provision of Services and Facilities, Impact on staff Employment, Impact on Rural Communities, Desirability of Wards, Representation of Diverse Communities, Other Factors and Conclusions.

**Resolved on the motion of Councillor Calvert, seconded Councillor Rasmussen.**

**That Council:**

**1) Endorse the submission in response to the merger proposal of Hawkesbury City Council and part of the Hills Shire Council, attached as Attachment 2 to the report.**

**2) Request that the NSW government adopt the recommendations of the Dollery Report being:**

**a) The NSW Government withdraw the KPMG (2015) in the Local Government Reform: Merger Impacts and Analysis from the fit for the Future process, entirely.**

**b) Undertake independent and accurate research into the costs and benefits of the proposed mergers based on empirical evidence and peer reviewed scholarly literature.**

**c) Suspend the current amalgamation process until the results of b) have been completed and circulated to the NSW local government sector for assessment.**

The motion was carried.

**Council Meeting 23rd of February 2015.**

**Apologies: Councillors Creed, Lyons-Buckett, Paine and Porter.**

Councillor Ford, Mayor of HCC spoke on the life of the late **Alan Eagle** and his huge contribution to the Hawkesbury community, especially Hawkesbury Harvest where he was the driving force behind the farm gate trails and its growth over a decade. In addition he was involved in the Arts, Small Business and Tourism.

**Alan has left a tremendous legacy to the Hawkesbury.**

Alan was a good friend of community groups and the NRDCAA.

He chaired significant meetings for the NRDCAA including the Candidates Forum we organised in February 2015. See below.

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Happy New Year.

We live in interesting times.

Happy to meet at the NRCC. I just googled NRCC and finished up at the home of the National Republican Congressional Committee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

When and what time suits. I am working the odd day here and then so will need to pencil it in soon.

Cheers

Alan

We also nominated Alan for a Community monthly award for his efforts. He was not aware of the nomination.

Alan will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. He was a gentleman and ever ready to help his community.

**Item 18: Jolly Frog Hotel Windsor.**

There were two speakers for and two against the recommendation.

The application seeks Council's approval to partially demolish the fire damage hotel.

It is proposed to conserve and support the four walls of the original brick hotel and demolish the later additions. Also it is proposed to remove asbestos material where ever located.

**Councillor Williams moved and Councillor Reardon seconded** the recommendation which included 18 General Conditions.

The eight Councillors present, supported the recommendation.

**Item 20: Planning Proposal (PP) to Amend HLEP 2012- 135 Longleaf Road Kurmond.**

The report outlined the outcome of the public authority and community consultation.

There were two public submissions. Issues raised included subdivision not in keeping with semi-rural area, proposal is inappropriate due to lack of infrastructure in Kurmond, serious concerns regarding water and sewerage capacity in Kurmond, Longleaf Lane not suitable for vehicular and heavy traffic

associated with the development. Safety improvements required and concern for pedestrian, additional development compounds the existing traffic problems and will add traffic to the already congested [North] Richmond Bridge. Noise and volumes of vehicles is unwelcomed. Proximity of future neighbours and possible impact on existing wholesale nursery is of concern.

**A six point resolution was moved by Councillor Conolly, seconded by Councillor Mackay** which indicates, the draft VPA be exhibited for 28 days, then reported back to Council, proceed to make plan to amend the HLEP to reflect application, request Parliamentary Counsel's Office prepare draft LEP and then proceed with necessary procedure to make it happen.

**Councillors, Ford, Reardon, Mackay, Conolly and Tree supported the motion, and Councillors Calvert, Rasmussen and Williams opposed.**

**Councillors Creed, Lyons-Buckett, Paine and Porter were absent from the meeting.**

**Items: 21, 22, Business signs.**

In very general terms the two items are about signage for Caltex and McDonald at South Windsor. The location is **a key gateway location to the Hawkesbury.**

Councillors rejected the Caltex application on the basis that more signs will have the effect of proliferation of the visual impacts of the area and that multi-tenant signs as approved previously is the way forward.

Staff will endeavour to reach agreement with the applicant for further consideration by Council.

Councillors have requested more information with regards to the McDonalds application.

The decision was deferred.

**Item: 23 Modification of Development Consent- McDonald's South Windsor.**

The application seeks consent to delete a condition from the original development consent relating to the construction of a 2.5m wide pedestrian and cycleway from the McDonald site to Colonial Drive, Bligh Park.

Councillors have requested further information with regards to the McDonald's application.

**Item: 32 Acquisition of Crown Land.....(Bridge Street, Windsor)**

There was one speaker against the acquisition.

Roads & Maritime Services propose to commence the construction of the replacement of Windsor Bridge and require crown land to commence the construction.

The land in question is access to Windsor Wharf and covers two Trusts, Terrace Wharf Reserve Trust and the Thompson Square Reserve Trust.

Council carried a three point resolution agreeing with the acquisition.

**Consultants Six Monthly Cost:** Thirty one consultants were utilised, total cost \$422,589.77.

The biggest spend was with Worley Parsons, total \$71,490. Worley Parson was asked for advice on Pitt Town Development, SMP Review and Dredging Business Case.

**Notice of motion: Audit of RFS Infrastructure.**

**Councillor Lyons-Buckett lodged the NoM** but was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Ford Mayor of HCC deferred the NoM to the next meeting of Council in accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice.

**Questions:**

**Councillors Rasmussen 4, Williams 6.**

**Council Meeting 8th of March 2016.**

**Apologies: Councillor Tree and Williams.**

**Item 42; Temporary Use of Function Centre Powell's Lane, Richmond Lowlands. DA 0702/15.**

There were three speakers for the DA and three against the DA.

The DA seeks approval for the use of two existing buildings and surrounds for functions including weddings.

Council has previously approved the application, but the Land and Environment Court upheld an appeal relating to ownership and Clause 2.8 of the Hawkesbury Local Environment Plan (HLEP).

Council staff recommended approval with conditions. But, Councillors rejected the application six votes to four.

The CoM believes the main obstacle is the affect noise will have on the local residents. Other issues are possible flooding and the temporary use that is allowable under the planning rules.

**Councillors against the development were, Calvert, Paine, Porter, Lyons-Buckett, McKay, and Ford.**

**Councillors for the development were, Conolly, Creed, Rasmussen and Reardon.**

**Item 43; Temporary Use of Function Centre, 106 Ridges Lane, Richmond Lowlands. DA0703/15.**

There were three speakers for and three speakers against.

This item reflects item 42, similar application, same owners.

Item 43 was rejected by Council, although Council staff recommended approval with conditions.

**Councillors against the development were, Calvert, Paine, Porter, Lyons-Buckett, McKay, and Ford.**

**Councillors for the development were, Conolly, Creed, Rasmussen and Reardon.**

Please note, rescission motions were submitted by **Councillors Creed, Rasmussen and Reardon** regarding the decisions of Council.

**Notice of motions:**

**Audit of Rural Fire Service Infrastructure:**

The motion was **that Council carry out an audit on local RFS infrastructure and distribution of appliances among local brigades.**

After much discussion **Councillor Lyons-Buckett moved and Councillor Paine seconded:**

**That Council request the RFS superintendent Karen Hodges to attend a Councillor Briefing Session, after the 2016 fire season to explain the allocation of funds and RAPS system.**

All Councillors supported the motion.

**Questions: Councillors, Rasmussen 4, Paine 1, Reardon 1.**

**Council Extraordinary Meeting 21 March 2016.**

**Apologies: Councillor Paine**, who asked a letter she sent with regards to her apology is read out for all to hear.

**Rescission Motion 1):**

**Councillors Creed, Rasmussen and Reardon** submitted a recession motion pertaining to the decision taken by Council in regards to DA0702/15 (Powell's Lane) on the 8th of March 2016.

Following in depth debate from some, the rescission motion was lost 5 for and six against.

**Councillors, Conolly, Creed, Rasmussen, Reardon and Tree** supported the rescission motion.

**Councillors, Calvert, Ford, Lyons-Buckett, Porter, McKay and Williams** opposed the rescission motion against.

**Rescission Motion 2);** A mirror of rescission motion 1) was lodge for DA 0703/15 (Ridges Lane).

Councillors voted the same way to previous decision above.

Comment: the CoM believes the applicant will seek a judicial review.

Authorised by the Committee of Management NRDCAA March 2016

