

NRDCAA CoM- Council Report- August 17, 2015.

The Council reports are as accurate as possible; however, they should not be relied upon. The information is taken from Council Business Papers (BP's) and Minutes.

BP's and Minutes are available on the Council website and should be referred to before acting on this information.

There were three Council Meetings since our last report.

Council Meeting, July 14, 2015.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tree and was accepted.

Item: 109; Council approved an Affordable Housing Policy, which concentrates on working together with others to meet its objectives.

Questions: Councillors, Paine 1, Calvert 1.

Item: 111; Council accepted the tender submitted by SMC Marine in the amount of \$499,142 GST exclusive for the Governor Phillip Reserve Bank Stabilisation and Jetty Construction.

Council Meeting July 28, 2015.

Item: 113; At the Council meeting 30th of June 2015, the Councillors deferred this item to a site inspection. Five Councillors, Ford, Porter, Lyons-Buckett, Paine and Reardon attended the site inspection on the 20th of July 2015, along with two staff members.

At the Council Meeting there was long debate about the issues, mainly landscaping,

Councillors approved the development with 25 conditions.

Councillors Calvert, Conolly, Creed, Ford, Lyons-Buckett, Paine, Porter, Reardon, Tree and Williams supported the development. Councillors Mackay and Rasmussen voted against the development.

Item: 114; Kurrajong and Kurmond Large Lot Area-Progress Report.

There was one individual speaker, two speakers from the NRDCAA and one from Kurrajong Forum.

This issue divided the Council. Some Councillors were confused. Three motions/amendments were considered before agreement was reached by a majority of Councillors.

The outcome was influenced by the speakers against the recommendation, although not to the level we would have liked.

The main issues were to be found at 3, a) and b) pages, 10, 11, and 13 of the minutes 28th July 2015.

Councillors who supported the final “motion” were Calvert, Conolly, Creed, Lyons-Buckett, Mackay, Paine, Reardon and Williams, opposed Ford, Porter, Rasmussen and Tree.

Item: 116; IPART Submission- Fit for the Future Proposal- Hills Shire Council.

The proposed submission by HCC is intended to advise IPART of Council’s concerns regarding the inclusion within the Hills Shire Council’s FFTF Proposal of a proposed boundary adjustment which would excise most of the HCC area lying north of Windsor road and east of the Hawkesbury River, and for these areas to be transferred to The Hills Shire Council.

Council endorsed the submission and added that **The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager meet with the Mayor and General**

Manager of the Hills Shire Council regarding the contents of the Fit For the Future proposals from both Councils.

Dialogue must occur if parties are to understand each other's approach. Common ground might be found, they may agree to disagree. Dialogue is essential.

Item: 120; Hawkesbury Horizon Initiative (HHI) Update.

The eleven page update contained actions to date with regards to initiatives taken to date and the plan going forward.

Four draft scoping studies have been prepared, they include 1) Equine Scoping Study; 2) Outdoor Recreation Scoping Study; 3) Agricultural Scoping Study; 4) Hubs Scoping Study.

The Business Papers recommend that all four studies require further technical research be undertaken.

The report also identifies that the Hawkesbury Horizon Initiative Working Group (HHIWG) met on the 29th of June 2015.

The NRDCAA is unaware of who the participants of HHIWG except Councillor Ford Mayor of HCC.

The report confirms the HHI is consistent with HCSP:

Have transparent, accountable and respected leadership and an engaged community.

All Councillors supported the recommendation proposed by Council staff.

Councillor Porter made a comment along the lines of activities associated with the river are not being recognised in so far as their financial contribution to the local economy.

Notice of Motion;

A five point motion was proposed by Councillor Porter, seconded Councillor Williams with regards..... **to severe damage being caused to the banks of the Hawkesbury river by the wash from wakeboards boats, including 'Malibu Boats'.....**

All Councillors supported the motion.

Questions; Councillors Reardon 1, Williams 2, Paine 4, Calvert 1, Tree 1, Rasmussen 4.

Council Meeting August 11 2015.

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Conolly and Creed and was accepted.

Item: 127; Heritage of Western Sydney-Colonial heritage Mobile App.

There was one speaker in support.

The report advised Councillors of a current project being development by a regional group of Council employees and heritage advisors.

They are in the process of developing a colonial mobile application for the Western Sydney area and HCC has been invited to participate.

A contribution of up to \$5,000.00 is available from the budget if required plus staff resources.

Councillor supported the participation of HCC in the project.

Item: 128; Hawkesbury Youth Summit.

The Youth Summit was held on the 31 March 2015.

The report was prepared to advise Councillors of the findings and recommendations of the Hawkesbury Youth Summit held on 31 March 2015, and also outline the outcomes of the previous Youth Summit held in 2012.

The six recommendations from the summit are at p's 15 and 16 of the BP.

Councillors supported the recommendations at p16.

Item: 129; Impact of Freeze on Indexation of Financial Assistance Grants.

There was one speaker from the NRDCAA.

The report at p25 was submitted to Council following a NoM moved by Councillor Rasmussen and seconded by Councillor Calvert.

The report in our view is comprehensive and detailed. We strongly recommend perusal of the report.

At p 28 impacts of FAGs freeze on Council, second paragraph **over a period of three years Council could receive at least approximately \$480,000.00 less than it would have if the freeze was not in place.**

The NRDCAA CoM was concerned with the weak recommendation from Council staff and suggested beefing up the recommendation.

The majority of Councillors led by Councillors Rasmussen and Lyons-Buckett picked up some of the comments made by the NRDCAA and adopted a stronger motion; 1) reflecting the importance of Federal Assistance Grants (FAG), 2) confirming HCC will receive \$4.202m in 2015/16, 3) Federal funding is properly identified in publications and reports and 4) embark on a publicity campaign regarding FAG received and contact State and Federal members of Parliament

outing the effects of the freezing of the FAG has on Council's ability to fund infrastructure and services to its community.

Councillors Ford and Tree voted against the motion.

Notice of Motion;

1) the original NoM was withdrawn by Councillor Paine and replaced with a five point motion concentrating on; 1) the serious issues arising from the lack of health and support services, 2) ensure grandstands are accessible and clean at all times, 3) seek more advice on the steps to address homelessness in the Hawkesbury (*see Council's homeless policy*), 4) seek support from the Hawkesbury MP,s to assist alleviate this growing issue of homelessness, and 5) submit a motion to the Local Government NSW Annual Conference requesting a commitment from the State Government to provide financial assistance with addressing the growing issue of homelessness.

Councillor Tree seconded the proposition which all Councillors supported.

2) Councillor Lyons-Buckett moved and Councillor Paine seconded a motion that had four points; 1) Council acknowledge its concerns regarding proposal and approval for coal mines in the Liverpool plains and greater Sydney water catchment area, 2) Express support for the NSW Farmers Federation in its endeavours to protect the interest of farmers in the Liverpool Plains and the food and water security for the people of NSW, 3) Correspond with Premier of NSW, Minister for Resources, Minister for the Environment and the NSW Farmers Federation outlining Council's position on the Shenua Watermark mine. 4) Support resolutions raised at the LG Conference which aligns with Council's position.

Supported.

3) Councillor Lyons-Buckett moved and Councillor Paine seconded a motion that called for an investigation into the feasibility of obtaining rates from properties within the LGA owned by State and Federal Governments and submit a NoM to 2015 LG Conference seeking support for rates to be paid by all Governments which own property in NSW.

Supported.

4) Councillor Lyons-Buckett moved and Councillor Williams seconded a motion that the Hawkesbury Residential Land Strategy (HRLS) be presented to a Councillor Briefing Session with a view to expand its review and include consideration of 1) Lowering the targeted number of dwellings from 5,000-6,000 to 4,000, 2) Placing a cap on the number of dwellings west of the Hawkesbury River, 3) Increase development in the Oakville/Maraylya area.

Supported.

Questions; Councillors Paine 5, Reardon 2, Tree 1.

Authorised by the CoM NRDCAA 17 August 2015.