



# **MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**19 September 2023**

**MINUTES OF NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ON TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 2.45 PM**

The Mayor declared the meeting opened at **2.45pm**, welcomed the Councillors, Staff, Media and those following via Live Streaming and apologised for the delay in commencing the meeting, advising this was due to wide spread power outage.

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present*

**2 HOUSE KEEPING**

*Advice provided of Council's Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Evacuation Plan and location of the Amenities.*

**3 DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL DONATIONS**

Advice provided to those present of the legislative requirement for Disclosure of Political Donations:

*The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Section 147 requires a person submitting planning applications or submissions regarding a planning application, to disclose any reportable political donation and/or gifts to any local Councillor or employee of Council. Reportable political donations include those of or above \$1,000. The Disclosure Statement forms are available on Council's website or from the Customer Service Centre and must be lodged in accordance with the Act.*

There were no Disclosures of Political Donations received by the Chairperson.

**4 REQUEST TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK**

No requests to join via audio-visual link in September.

**5 PRESENT**

Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka, Cr Narelle Payne, Cr Jenny Clarke OAM, Cr Kevin Morris, Cr Peter Dawson, Cr Sue Ruffles, Cr Braden Lyons, Cr Tracey Lewis

**In Attendance**

George Cowan (General Manager), Shane Wilson (Deputy General Manager Infrastructure), Martin Hiscox (Deputy General Manager Corporate & Community), Vicki Maher (Executive Assistant), Melissa Johnson (Council Administration Assistant/Minute Taker)

## **6 APOLOGIES**

### **RESOLUTION 23/156**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne  
Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That leave of absence from Cr Cameron Lander be received, accepted and that Leave of Absence be granted.

**CARRIED**

## **7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

## **8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **RESOLUTION 23/157**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne  
Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 August 2023 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

At this point, time being **2.47pm**, Mayor Neville Kschenka handed proceedings to the General Manager as Returning Officer and vacated the Mayoral Chair.

## **9 MAYORAL REPORT**

### **9.1 ELECTION OF MAYOR**

#### **RESOLUTION 23/158**

Moved: Cr Kevin Morris  
Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Determines the mid-term election of Mayor be held for a term ending 14 September 2024.

2. Chooses the method of voting as ordinary ballot.
3. Holds the election in accordance with Schedule 7 Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

**CARRIED**

The Returning Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

After receiving, the Returning Officer declared Nominations Closed and advised that one (1) nomination was received from Cr Kschenka.

The Returning Officer declared Cr Kschenka re-elected unopposed to the position of Mayor.

## **9.2 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

### **RESOLUTION 23/159**

Moved: Cr Kevin Morris

Seconded: Cr Narelle Payne

That Council:

1. Determines that it will elect a Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the current Council term concluding at the next Local Government Elections.
2. Chooses the method of voting as Ordinary ballot

**CARRIED**

The Returning Officer called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

After receiving, the Returning Officer declared Nominations Closed and advised that two (2) nomination was received from Cr Lander and Cr Ruffles.

Names placed on Ballot Paper and eight (8) copies printed. The Returning Officer initialled the back of each paper before they were distributed to each Councillor for voting.

Councillors recorded their votes on the ballot papers which were then collected and tallied.

The Returning Officer advised of a tied vote 4/4, with name to be drawn from the hat.

A paper was then drawn and the Returning Officer declared Cr Ruffles elected to the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Ruffles will assume the position in the Deputy Mayor Chair from next meeting.

**2023 Elected Mayor**

Cr Neville Kschenka

**2023 Elected Deputy Mayor**

Cr Sue Ruffles

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At this point, time being 3.10pm, the Returning Officer handed proceedings to the Mayor to chair the remainder of the meeting.

**9.3 DELEGATIONS TO THE MAYOR****RESOLUTION 23/160**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne

Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. In accordance with Section 377 of the NSW Local Government Act, 1993, approves the Delegations for the Mayor as contained in Attachment 1 – Draft Mayor Delegation of Authority.

**CARRIED****9.4 MAYORAL REPORT AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 23/161**

Moved: Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka

Seconded: Cr Narelle Payne

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Mayoral Report for August/September 2023.

**CARRIED****10 QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

Nil

**11 NOTICES OF RESCISSION**

Nil

**12 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**13 COUNCILLOR REPORTS****13.1 CR DAWSON - ATTENDANCE AT NEWELL HIGHWAY TASKFORCE COMMITTEE MEETING****RESOLUTION 23/162**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Receives and notes information provided in the report, Newell Highway Taskforce Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 August 2023 at Dubbo.

**CARRIED**

**14 COMMITTEE REPORTS****14.1 NARRANDERA FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 22 AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 23/163**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the **Error! No document variable supplied..**
2. Include the implementation of the Narrandera Stormwater Upgrade as the priority one measure in the Narrandera Risk Management Plan.
3. Submit an application to fund Voluntary House Purchasing in order of interest and consider including an allocation of funds in future budgets for Council's contribution if successful in gaining funding through the scheme.
4. Note the progress to date on the Barellan Flood Levee project. Receive a report from the Deputy General Manager Infrastructure on the investigation into a flood levee at Barellan including final designs, estimates, the level of flood protection proposed and the impacts/benefits on the community. The report to include financing options. If Council decides to proceed with the project, the proposal be placed on public exhibition for consideration by residents.
5. Submit an application to fund a feasibility study for the Narrandera Airport and Nallabooma estate ring levee and consider including an allocation of funds in 2024/2025 for Council's contribution if successful in gaining funding through the scheme.

**CARRIED**

**14.2 BETTERING BARELLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 29 AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 23/164**

Moved: Cr Kevin Morris

Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Bettering Barellan Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 29 August 2023.
2. Note that Donna Robertson has been elected as Chairperson for the next term.
3. Investigate the back door security at the Hall.

**CARRIED**

**15 PROCUREMENT**

Nil

**16 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION**

Nil

**17 OUR COMMUNITY**

Nil

**18 OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Nil

**19 OUR ECONOMY**

Nil

**20 OUR INFRASTRUCTURE****20.1 BARELLAN SEWER CHARGES****RESOLUTION 23/165**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne

Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Resolves that all capital works for the physical connection of existing premises to the new scheme be included within the project cost with no contribution required by property owners.

2. Allows the \$1,622.30 standard sewer connection charge to be paid by the property owner over a period not exceeding three years from the date that the charge is raised, with the charge indexed by the increase as set by Council annually.

**CARRIED**

## **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

### **RESOLUTION 23/166**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne  
Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

A motion was moved that Council suspend standing orders.

**CARRIED**

Discussion held and the General Manager spoke to a powerpoint presentation concerning Item 21.1, Special Variation.

## **RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

### **RESOLUTION 23/167**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne  
Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

A motion was moved that Council resume standing orders.

**CARRIED**

## **21 OUR LEADERSHIP**

### **21.1 CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF COUNCIL AND THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL VARIATION**

#### **RESOLUTION 23/168**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne  
Seconded: Cr Kevin Morris

That Council:

1. Endorses the revised draft Long-Term Financial Plan as part of the Updated Resourcing Strategy, appended at Attachment 5, for public exhibition for a period, commencing 21 September 2023 and ending 31 October 2023.
2. Endorses the revised draft Delivery Program, appended at Attachment 2, for public exhibition for a period, commencing 21 September 2023 and ending 31 October 2023.
3. Endorses the undertaking of community consultation on a potential application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a proposed permanent Special



Variation (SV) of either a one year SV of 41.5% in 2024-25 (including the forecasted rate peg of 3.5 per cent) or a two year SV of 25.5% in 2024-25 (including the forecasted rate peg of 3.5 per cent) and 18.0 per cent in 2025-26 (including the forecasted rate peg of 2.5 per cent), representing a cumulative Special Variation of 48.1 per cent over two years, as detailed in the report

4. Receives a further report regarding community consultation undertaken to determine any final application to be made to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a Special Variation.

**CARRIED**

## **21.2 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

### **RESOLUTION 23/169**

Moved: Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Narelle Payne

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the report noting that the LGNSW Annual Conference will be held 12-14 November 2023.
2. Endorses attendance by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Day and General Manager.
3. Considers nominating one (1) additional Councillor to attend.  
(A councillor will be appointed in the coming weeks)
4. Identifies any matters it considers should be included in Draft Motions for consideration by the conference.

**CARRIED**

## **21.3 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2022-26 - HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE REVIEW - 30 JUNE 2023**

### **RESOLUTION 23/170**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Adopts the Delivery Program 2022-26 half year performance review at 30 June 2023 as presented and publishes the report to the community via Council's website.

**CARRIED**

**22 POLICY**

Nil

**23 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORTS****23.1 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES - AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 23/171**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne

Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Development Services Activities Report for August 2023.

**CARRIED****24 STATUTORY AND COMPULSORY REPORTING – FINANCIAL / AUDIT REPORTS****24.1 INCOME STATEMENT - AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 23/172**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne

Seconded: Cr Peter Dawson

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Income Statement report for the period ending 31 August 2023.

**CARRIED****24.2 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 23/173**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the report indicating Council's Fund Management position.
2. Notes the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer and adopts the report as at 31 August 2023.

**CARRIED**

**24.3 STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - AUGUST 2023**

**RESOLUTION 23/174**

Moved: Cr Narelle Payne  
Seconded: Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Statement of Bank Balances report as of 31 August 2023.

**CARRIED**

**24.4 STATEMENT OF RATES AND RECEIPTS - AUGUST 2023**

**RESOLUTION 23/175**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis  
Seconded: Cr Peter Dawson

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Statement of Rates and Receipts report as at 31 August 2023.

**CARRIED**

**24.5 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - AUGUST 2023**

**RESOLUTION 23/176**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis  
Seconded: Cr Braden Lyons

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained in the Capital Works report as at 31 August 2023.

**CARRIED**

25 Statutory and Compulsory Reporting – Other Reports

Nil


**26 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS PAPER REPORTS**

Nil

**The Meeting closed at 4.52pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 October 2023.**

  
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**GENERAL MANAGER**

  
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**CHAIRPERSON**