



Draft Minutes Board Meeting

Date: 8 December 2023
Venue: Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo

ATTENDEES:

Derek Francis	General Manager Bogan Shire Council
Cr Glen Neill	Mayor Bogan Shire Council
Leonie Brown	General Manager Bourke Shire Council
Cr Barry Hollman	Mayor Bourke Shire Council
David Kirby	General Manager Brewarrina Shire Council
Cr Vivian Slack-Smith	Mayor Brewarrina Shire Council
Greg Hill	General Manager Central Darling Shire Council
Bob Stewart	Administrator Central Darling Shire Council
Peter Vlatko	General Manager Cobar Shire Council
Paul Gallagher	General Manager Coonamble Shire Council
Cr Richard Ivey	Deputy Mayor Dubbo Regional Council
Natasha Comber	Acting CEO Dubbo Regional Council
David Neeves	General Manager Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr Doug Batten	Mayor Gilgandra Shire Council
Brad Cam	General Manager Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr Craig Davies (Chair)	Mayor Narromine Shire Council
Jane Redden	General Manager Narromine Shire Council
Sally McDonnell	Secretariat Narromine Shire Council
Megan Dixon	General Manager Walgett Shire Council
Cr Jasen Ramien	Mayor Walgett Shire Council
Gary Woodman	General Manager Warren Shire Council
Cr Milton Quigley	Mayor Warren Shire Council
Roger Bailey	General Manager Warrumbungle Shire Council

GUESTS:

John Clements	Office of Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon
Miranda Fry	Office of Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon
Angus MacDonald	Positive Rugby Foundation
Ian George	Telstra
Mike Marom	Telstra
The Hon. Troy Grant	Inspector-General of Water Compliance
Dr Louisa Mamouney	Credit Supply Taskforce, Environment and Heritage Group – DPE
Sarah Carr	Director North West – DPE
Michael Wheatley	NSW Land and Housing Corporation



1 WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.04am.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Chair.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for:

Cr Jarrod Marsden	Mayor Cobar Shire Council
Cr Tim Horan	Mayor Coonamble Shire Council
Cr Mathew Dickerson	Mayor Dubbo Regional Council
Murray Wood	CEO Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Des Kennedy	Mayor Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr Ambrose Doolan	Mayor Warrumbungle Shire Council

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 CHAIRS REPORT

RESOLVED Cr Hollman/Cr Quigley that the information be noted.

2023/16

The meeting was adjourned at 9.07am to proceed with the Annual General Meeting.

6 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIRS

Jane Redden, General Manager Narromine Shire Council (Returning Officer) advised that there had been no nominations received via email.

Chair

Cr Hollman nominated Cr Davies for the position of Chair. The nomination was seconded by Cr Quigley. Being there was only one nominee, Cr Davies was elected Chair for the ensuing 12 months.

Deputy Chairs

Cr Batten nominated Cr Quigley for the position of Deputy Chair. The nomination was seconded by Peter Vlatko.

Gary Woodman nominated Cr Neill for the position of Deputy Chair. The nomination was seconded by Peter Vlatko.

There being no further nominations, Cr Quigley and Cr Neill were elected Deputy Chair for the ensuing 12 months.

Cr Davies assumed the role of Chair.

7 CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIALS

It was noted that AWC has yet to receive an invoice from Dubbo Regional Council for the AWC HR Professional Group.

RESOLVED that the 2022-2023 Financial Report and the 2023-2024 Budget be noted.

2023/17

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AWC BOARD MEETING HELD 8 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED David Kirby/Cr Hollman that the minutes of the AWC Board Meeting held on 8 September 2023 be adopted.

2023/18

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GMAC MEETING HELD 27 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED Cr Batten/Cr Hollman that the minutes of the GMAC Meeting held on 27 October 2023 be adopted.

2023/19

Discussion was held in relation to establishing a formal organisation from 1 July 2024, giving members the opportunity to join for an increased cost to cover the Executive Officer role.

It was noted that in addition to the recommendation in the minutes, GMAC will discuss the scope of work and costs associated with employing an Executive Officer and prepare a report for the March Board meeting.

Greg Hill and Bob Stewart joined the meeting at 9.23am.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 2024 Meeting Dates and Suggested Presenters

Discussion held regarding the meeting dates and suggested presenters, noting the following.

- GMAC meeting scheduled for 9 February 2024 to be rescheduled. Date to be advised.
- Invitations to be extended to each local member only for future Board meeting, not office staff.

10.2 2024 Meeting Dates and Suggested Presenters (Cont'd)

Discussion held, and a final list of potential presenters for 2024 is detailed below:

- **Senator Deborah O'Neill** – Senator for NSW
- **The Hon Dr Anne Aly, MP** – Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Youth
- **The Hon Tanya Plibersek, MP** - Minister for the Environment and Water
- **The Hon Prue Car, MP**, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
- **The Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC**, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales
- **The Hon Rose Jackson, MLC**, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth
- **Assistant Commissioner Brett Greentree** - Regional Commander
- **Simon Banks**, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH)
- **Stephen Lawrence** – Member of Legislative Council
- **Dugald Saunders, MP**, Local Member for Dubbo Electorate
- **Roy Butler, MP**, Member for Barwon
- **The Hon Jenny Aitchison, MP**, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
- **The Hon Ryan Park, MP**, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health
- **The Hon Yasmin Catley, MP**, Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism
- **The Hon Paul Scully, MP**, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
- **The Hon Catherine King, MP**, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- **The Hon Kristy McBain, MP**, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

10.3 Update on REZ Project

Brad Cam provided an update on the REZ project noting the following:

- EnergyCo NSW have released their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and are responding to submissions.
- Mid-Western Regional Council have recently engaged consultants to undertake an Impact Assessment Report. This document has been provided to the Government providing evidence of extra services etc required to accommodate this project moving forward, for example extra emergency department beds, additional paramedics, police, teachers and additional drinking water.

Adjournment of General Business.

11 PRESENTATIONS

11.1 *John Clements and Miranda Fry, Office of Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon*

John Clements provided an update from the Office of Roy Butler, MP. The following items were discussed:

- **Regional Development Trust Fund** - following the restructuring of the Resources for Region funding an interim committee will oversee the grant process with local government representatives to be appointed by the Government. The office of Roy Butler, MP is working to ensure there is good representation on the interim committee, however there will not be local government representation on the long term committee as it would be a conflict of interest.
- **Housing** – with a major focus on housing, they are working to ensure there is appropriate access to the high amount of funding available. Homes NSW has been announced and begins in February 2024, bringing together various agencies to improve outcomes.

GENERAL BUSINESS resumed.

10.4 *Cyber Security: Opportunity for shared services/learnings*

Natasha Comber provided details on Dubbo Regional Council's recently adopted Cyber Security Framework. ASDA is the framework, and they see benefit from sharing information learnings and services with this group.

It was noted that the information should be discussed at the next GMAC meeting with a report to be prepared for Board.

10.5 *LGNSW Conference*

Cr Slack-Smith shared her disappointment to the group in relation to the recent LGNSW Conference, specifically that they didn't make it through all of the motions and the ones they did were more favourable toward the city. It was suggested that perhaps dividing the conference into a city one and a country one may be beneficial.

It was noted that the Chair would write to the CEO of Local Government NSW to provide this feedback.

11 PRESENTATIONS resumed.

11.2 *Angus MacDonald, Positive Rugby Foundation*

Angus provided an overview of the Positive Rugby Foundation and their work in using rugby as a vehicle for promoting positive health and wellbeing, while improving access to high quality resources and programs.

Moving forward they will work on building relationships with communities and would appreciate letters of support and community assistance to continue with their work.

11.3 Ian George, Regional Engagement Manager and Mike Marom, Regional General Manager Northern NSW – Telstra

Ian and Mike delivered a powerpoint presentation (Attachment No. 1) to the group providing an update from Telstra. The following points were noted:

- 5G is now reaching 80% of the population, with a hope to be at 96% by 2025.
- Closure of the 3G network will happen at the end of next year.
- Introduction to Connectivity Planning for Successful Regions, designed to help support the vision of thriving, successful regional communities. Working with Local Government to record specifics on their visions and strategic plans, so that together you can plan on how technology and connectivity can best contribute to your region's overall success. Telstra are happy to meet with Council's on an individual basis to assist in developing the plan. It will be your plan and free of charge. **(Attachment No. 2)**

11.4 The Hon. Troy Grant – Inspector-General of Water Compliance

Troy delivered a powerpoint presentation **(Attachment No. 3)** and provided an overview of the structure and the functions of his office, along with work plan priorities.

11.5 Dr Louisa Mamouney – Credit Supply Taskforce, Environment and Heritage Group and Sarah Carr, Regional Director North West – DPE

Louisa delivered a powerpoint presentation **(Attachment No. 4)** providing information and tips on reducing costs for biodiversity offsets along with an update on Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 review. The following points were noted:

- The Supply Fund ensures that the right type of credits are available for developers.
- Biodiversity assessments for in demand credits comes at no cost. If you know of any landholders that are interested in this, please encourage them to get an assessment in the new year.
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 review was tabled in Parliament in August 2023, where it was concluded that the Act is not meeting its primary purpose. With 58 recommendations, a response from the government is expected mid next year following stakeholder consultation.

Further discussion was held in relation to the impacts of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme on developments within the AWC Shires. Louisa encouraged the group to contact her with any concerns, so she is able to assist with providing a solution where possible.

11.6 Michael Wheatley – Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation – Modular Housing Taskforce

Michael delivered a presentation in relation to the newly formed Modular Housing Taskforce. The following points were noted:

- The Taskforce will work toward delivering social housing faster using modern methods of construction (MMC), including modular housing.
- The taskforce will work with Councils, there will also be workgroups and other opportunities for everyone to be involved.
- The cost of building the modular homes is expected to decrease as efficiencies get better.
- The Taskforce plans to work with the Department of Planning and the Local Government to get planning rules in place to support MMC.

12 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.22pm

The Minutes (pages 1 to 7) were confirmed at a meeting held on the day of _____ 2024, and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 8 December 2023.

CHAIR