



QUALITY NATURE - QUALITY HERITAGE - QUALITY LIFESTYLE

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2023

MINUTES OF THE **Ordinary Council Meeting** OF TENTERFIELD SHIRE held at the "Koreelah Room", Administration Building, 247 Rouse St, Tenterfield on Wednesday 25 October 2023 commencing at 9.30 am

ATTENDANCE

Councillor Bronwyn Petrie (Mayor)
Councillor John Macnish (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Peter Petty
Councillor Tim Bonner
Councillor Tom Peters
Councillor Kim Rhodes
Councillor Greg Sauer
Councillor Geoff Nye (ZOOM)
Councillor Peter Murphy

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager (Glenn Wilcox)
Acting Executive Assistant & Media (Hayley Ritchie)
Acting Chief Corporate Officer (Roy Jones)
Director Infrastructure (Fiona Keneally)

Clause 254(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires that the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment are recorded and shown in the Minutes of the meeting.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (PUBLIC ACCESS)

Nil.

WEBCASTING OF MEETING

I advise all present that this meeting is being recorded for placement on Council's website for the purposes of broadening knowledge and participation in Council issues, and demonstrating Council's commitment to openness and accountability.

All speakers must ensure their comments are relevant to the issue at hand and to refrain from making personal comments or criticisms or mentioning any private information.

No other persons are permitted to record the meeting, unless specifically authorised by Council to do so.

OPENING AND WELCOME

CIVIC PRAYER

We give thanks for the contribution by our pioneers, early settlers and those who fought in the various wars for the fabric of the Tenterfield Community we have today.

May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"Tenterfield Shire Council would like to acknowledge the Ngarabal people, the traditional custodians of this land that we are meeting on today, and also pay our respect to the Jukemba, Bundjalung, Kamilaroi, Githabul and Wahlbul people of our Shire, and extend our respect to all people."

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

DISCLOSURE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

That councillors now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

Name	Type	Item
Councillor Peter Petty	Less than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest	GOV65/23 – Monthly Operational Report, Page 143.

(ITEM MIN9/23) CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

184/23

Resolved

That the Minutes of the following Meetings of Tenterfield Shire Council:

- **Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 September 2023**

As typed and circulated, be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings of these meetings.

(Kim Rhodes/Greg Sauer)

Motion Carried

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil.

URGENT, LATE & SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Nil.

MAYOR MINUTE

ITEM 1 Bipartisan Support – Parliamentary Inquiry into Crime, Law and Order in Regional NSW and increased frontline policing numbers in Regional, Rural and Remote NSW

MAYORAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council endorse the following recommendations listed in the Country Mayors Association of NSW report into Crime, Law and Order and call on Ms Janelle Saffin, State Member for Lismore, to support the establishment of a Parliamentary Inquiry with the suggested terms of reference in the document.

1. That Tenterfield Shire Council call on all members of the NSW Parliament to commit to bipartisan support to establish a Parliamentary Inquiry into and report on the rate of crime in all categories reported on by the Bureau of Crime Statistical and Research (BOCSAR) in Regional, Rural and Remote New South Wales, specifically focussing on the inequity between Metro and Regional Local Government areas.
2. That Tenterfield Shire Council calls on all members of the NSW Parliament to commit to bipartisan support to increase spending on the NSW police force to increase front line policing numbers in Regional, Rural and Remote regions most at need.
3. That Tenterfield Shire Council call on the NSW Government to commit to the minimum staffing agreements (known in the NSW Police Force as First Response Agreements) for non-24 hour police stations, all of which are located in Regional, Rural and Remote Local Government areas.
4. That Tenterfield Shire Council calls on the NSW Government to review the current formula used to assess staffing levels including the universally agreed outdated current model for those Local Government areas that do have a First Response Agreement in place.

BACKGROUND

On 19 October 2023 Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) supported by the Police Association of NSW launched the CMA report into Crime, Law and Order in regional communities. The recommendations within the report call for the establishment of a Parliamentary inquiry, an increase in funding to enhance front line policing in regional communities in need, establishment of first response agreements in all police stations and that the formula used to determine the first response agreements in those stations with agreements are reviewed. The report also calls for bipartisan support from all State MP's.

COMMENTS

The Country Mayors Association of New South Wales joined forces with the Police Association of New South Wales to call for a Parliamentary Inquiry into crime, law and order in regional New South Wales.

CMA Chairman, Mayor Jamie Chaffey said statistics showed residents of rural, regional and remote New South Wales were more likely to be sexually assaulted, more likely to have their cars stolen, more likely to have their homes broken into and more likely to be impacted by domestic violence. When these crimes did occur, the Police response was delayed due to the resources available.

"It is estimated one-third of New South Wales' population live outside metropolitan areas," Mayor Chaffey said. "But we are still second-class citizens when it comes to the safety of our communities.

"For the first time, our CMA annual survey has revealed that crime, law and order is now in the top five emerging issues for New South Wales local governments.

"We knew crime was increasing, but we looked to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) data to clarify the situation. We were shocked to learn that as well as the alarming incident counts in regional New South Wales, the rate of incidents per 100,000 people was, in some cases, horrifying when compared to metropolitan figures. Up to 90% of crimes including vehicle theft, breaking and entering, sexual assault and domestic assault are happening here, in our regional communities", Mayor Chaffey added.

"We also have significantly fewer Police than our city cousins, and as a whole, New South Wales has less Police per head of population than Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. Our Police officers are already facing an incredible workload, with only one Police officer per 467 NSW residents.

"We have not been heard by our state leaders, and our people - particularly the elderly and the vulnerable - are scared. They need to feel safe. They deserve to feel safe."

"The Country Mayors Association of New South Wales report, endorsed by the Police Association of New South Wales, is calling for change. The report paints a very clear picture of a law and order crisis in regional communities. Our already-

stretched Police officers cannot continue to try to address this impossible challenge alone.”, Mayor Chaffey concluded.

PANSW President Kevin Morton said the report showed that additional police resources were needed to manage crime rates and ensure that communities could be effectively serviced.

“Our regional police officers are expected to be the 24/7 problem solvers. Police in these regional and remote locations are required to attend emergency situations that cover huge geographical areas with limited staff and resources with little to no back up. When they do call for assistance, it can be an hour away or more.”

Mr. Morton said that staffing levels and resources needed to be re-evaluated to reflect contemporary requirements for policing in regional and remote areas.

“Minimum staffing levels must be improved in regional and remote areas where police stations do not operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr. Morton said that police officers were required to pick up the workload of other government departments, which also needed to be scrutinized.

“Police officers are spending hours transporting prisoners hundreds of kilometres across remote areas to correctional facilities, while other government departments close their doors once business hours are over and shift the workload onto our already stretched frontline workers. This is not our job and is taking police officers away from serving their communities.”

CONCLUSION

Following the success of the Parliamentary Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health services in regional New South Wales that was established in 2020, we know the only way forward is to seek the bipartisan support of our state Members of Parliament to commit to the establishment of a Parliamentary inquiry, an increase in funding to enhance front line policing in regional communities in need, establishment of first response agreements in all police stations and that the formula used to determine the first response agreements in those stations with agreements are reviewed.

This is what we need to make a difference in crime, law and order in our regional, rural and remote communities. We need a bold, hard look at everything from Police numbers, to the experiences of people who have suffered at the hands of this inequity. We need a clear way forward.

Bronwyn Petrie

MAYOR

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN
CONFIDENTIAL SECTION**

Nil.

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

Nil.

OUR COMMUNITY

David Counsell, Manager Asset & Program Planning, entered the meeting, the time being 9:55am.

(ITEM COM9/23) ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

SUMMARY

This report presents a review of the Road Asset Management Plan 2021 with the aim to meet financial sustainability constraints for the community in the Transport operations area over the forward ten-year planning projection.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- a) Note the draft Road Asset Management Plan October 2023 review; and**
- b) Place the Road Asset Management Plan October 2023 review on public display on Council's website for 28 days to allow for any submissions to be considered; and**
- c) That following the 28 day period, a further report be submitted to Council to consider submissions and to adopt a revised Road Asset Management Plan that complements Council's financial constraints for the ten year projections.**

AMENDMENT:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Road Asset Management Plan Review report be deferred to a future meeting of Council.

(John Macnish/Tim Bonner)

Amendment Carried

185/23 **Resolved** that the Road Asset Management Plan Review report be deferred to a future meeting of Council.

(Bronwyn Petrie/Peter Petty)

Motion Carried

David Counsell, Manager Asset & Program Planning, left the meeting, the time being 9:59am

OUR ECONOMY

Nil.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Nil.

OUR GOVERNANCE

Nil.

(ITEM GOV65/23) MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

186/23

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Report is to provide a standing monthly report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council that demonstrates staff accountabilities and actions taken against Council's 2023/2024 Operational Plan.

Resolved

That Council receive this report for Discussion.

(Peter Petty/Greg Sauer)

187/23

Motion Carried

Resolved

That Council:

Receives and notes the status of the Monthly Operational Report for September 2023.

(Peter Petty/Greg Sauer)

Motion Carried

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

188/23 **Resolved**

that Standing Orders be suspended at 11:06am for Morning Tea.

(Peter Petty/Kim Rhodes)

Motion Carried

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

189/23 **Resolved**

that Standing Orders be resumed at 11:36am.

(Kim Rhodes/Peter Petty)

Motion Carried

(ITEM GOV66/23) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURNS 2022/2023

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Report is to document the tabling of the Disclosure of Interest Returns for the period 2022/2023.

190/23 **Resolved**

That Council note the tabling of the Disclosure of Interest Returns for the period 2022/2023.

(Kim Rhodes/Tom Peters)

Motion Carried

(ITEM GOV56/21) LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 12 TO 14 NOVEMBER 2023

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider Council representation and Council's voting delegate at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference and Board Election to be held in Sydney from Sunday 12 to Tuesday 14 November 2023.

191/23 **Resolved**

That Council:

(1) Approve the attendance of the Mayor to represent Council at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference and Board Election in Sydney, from Sunday 12 to Tuesday 14 November 2023.

(2) Endorse the Mayor as the voting delegate of Tenterfield Shire Council for the upcoming Annual Conference and Board Election.

It was noted that the Conference Dinner Ticket has been removed from this registration since the production of Business Papers, as requested by the Mayor.

(Greg Sauer/John Macnish)

Motion Carried

(ITEM GOV67/23) FINANCE & ACCOUNTS - PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Report is for the Responsible Accounting Officer to provide, in accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 a written report setting out details of all money that the Council has invested under Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993. The Report must be made up to the last day of the month immediately preceding the meeting.

192/23

Resolved

That Council receive and note the Finance and Accounts Report for the period ended 30 September 2023.

(Peter Murphy/Kim Rhodes)

Motion Carried

(ITEM GOV68/23) CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

193/23

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Report is to show the Year-to-date (YTD) financial progress of Capital Works projects against the budget.

Resolved

That Council receive this report for Discussion.

(Peter Petty/Kim Rhodes)

Motion Carried

194/23

Resolved

That Council receive and note the Capital Expenditure Report for the period ended 30 September 2023.

(Peter Petty/Kim Rhodes)

Motion Carried

Cr Geoff Nye left the meeting via Zoom, the time being 11:55 am.

(ITEM GOV69/23) REPORT ON LOAN BALANCES 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

195/23

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Report is to inform Council of its loan balances as at 30 September 2023

Resolved

That Council receive this report for Discussion

(Peter Petty/Peter Murphy)

Motion Carried

196/23

Resolved

That Council notes the loan balance as at 30 September was \$20,681,751.53 (\$21,078,245.54 as at 30 June 2023).

(Kim Rhodes/Peter Murphy)

Motion Carried

REPORTS OF DELEGATES & COMMITTEES

David Counsell, Manager Asset & Program Planning, entered the meeting, the time being 12:07pm.

(ITEM RC16/23) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & DELEGATES - TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL - LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES - THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023

197/23

Resolved

That Council receive this report for Discussion

(Kim Rhodes/Tim Bonner)

Motion Carried

RECOMMENDATION

That the report and recommendations from the Tenterfield Shire Local Traffic Committee meeting of 5 October 2023 be received and noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- **LIGHTING REQUEST IN ROUSE STREET (NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY)**
Noted that Transport NSW will continue to progress this matter with new consultants.
- **DRAKE REVITALISATION – BRUXNER HIGHWAY**
Noted that Council staff will meet with Transport NSW staff in relation to the Bruxner Highway aspects of the project in Drake.
- **HIGH STREET BUS ZONE**
The Committee recommended that the existing bus zone be removed and that the two bus zone signs be removed.
- **AMOSFIELD ROAD ACCIDENT**
- Noted the accident details and recommended that an assessment be undertaken of curve signage along the road for any required maintenance and safety enhancement, particularly along Dalmoak Road.
- **STANTHORPE STREET CLOSURE, LISTON**
That no objection be made to a temporary closure of Stanthorpe Street in Liston for the event, subject to concurrence from Council staff and NSW police once documents are received to hold a public event, closing of road including traffic control arrangements, notification of the public by the organisers, public liability insurance and payment of any applicable fees and charges.
- **MT LINDESAY ROAD CULVERT**
That the committee recommended that the widening of the culvert be considered with any road formation upgrading through the village if external grant funding can be obtained for design or construction.
- **MT LINDESAY ROAD TREES**
It was noted that this would be referred to the works department to assess for any maintenance required to ensure the path of large vehicles is not obstructed.
- **MT LINDESAY ROAD SURFACE DEPRESSIONS**
It was noted that the works department has already been assessing these locations for a program of maintenance the correct the surface travel condition.
- **B DOUBLE ROUTE ASSESSMENTS**
The Committee recommended that if external grant funding can be obtained, assessment be undertaken of future B-Double Routes along the Regional Road Network within the Shire to identify any likely restrictions and opportunities.

198/23

Resolved

That Council receive this report for Discussion.

(Kim Rhodes/Tim Bonner)

Motion Carried

AMENDMENT

That the report and recommendations from the Tenterfield Shire Local Traffic Committee meeting of 5 October 2023 be received and noted, with an amendment to HIGH STREET BUS ZONE item as outlined below.

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- **LIGHTING REQUEST IN ROUSE STREET (NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY)**
Noted that Transport NSW will continue to progress this matter with new consultants.
- **DRAKE REVITALISATION – BRUXNER HIGHWAY**
Noted that Council staff will meet with Transport NSW staff in relation to the Bruxner Highway aspects of the project in Drake.
- **HIGH STREET BUS ZONE**
The Committee recommended that the existing bus zone be removed and that the two bus zone signs be removed. ***Council wishes to defer this decision to allow further consultation.***
- **AMOSFIELD ROAD ACCIDENT**
- Noted the accident details and recommended that an assessment be undertaken of curve signage along the road for any required maintenance and safety enhancement, particularly along Dalmoak Road.
- **STANTHORPE STREET CLOSURE, LISTON**
That no objection be made to a temporary closure of Stanthorpe Street in Liston for the event, subject to concurrence from Council staff and NSW police once documents are received to hold a public event, closing of road including traffic control arrangements, notification of the public by the organisers, public liability insurance and payment of any applicable fees and charges.
- **MT LINDESAY ROAD CULVERT**
That the committee recommended that the widening of the culvert be considered with any road formation upgrading through the village if external grant funding can be obtained for design or construction.
- **MT LINDESAY ROAD TREES**
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It was noted that the works department has already been assessing these locations for a program of maintenance the correct the surface travel condition.
- **B DOUBLE ROUTE ASSESSMENTS**
The Committee recommended that if external grant funding can be obtained, assessment be undertaken of future B-Double Routes along the Regional Road Network within the Shire to identify any likely restrictions and opportunities.

(Bronwyn Petrie/Greg Sauer)

Amendment Carried

199/23

Resolved that the report and recommendations from the Tenterfield Shire Local Traffic Committee meeting of 5 October 2023 be received and noted, with an amendment to HIGH STREET BUS ZONE item as outlined below.

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- **LIGHTING REQUEST IN ROUSE STREET (NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY)**
Noted that Transport NSW will continue to progress this matter with new consultants.
- **DRAKE REVITALISATION – BRUXNER HIGHWAY**

Noted that Council staff will meet with Transport NSW staff in relation to the Bruxner Highway aspects of the project in Drake.

- **HIGH STREET BUS ZONE**

The Committee recommended that the existing bus zone be removed and that the two bus zone signs be removed. ***Council wishes to defer this decision to allow further consultation.***

- **AMOSFIELD ROAD ACCIDENT**

- Noted the accident details and recommended that an assessment be undertaken of curve signage along the road for any required maintenance and safety enhancement, particularly along Dalmoak Road.

- **STANTHORPE STREET CLOSURE, LISTON**

That no objection be made to a temporary closure of Stanthorpe Street in Liston for the event, subject to concurrence from Council staff and NSW police once documents are received to hold a public event, closing of road including traffic control arrangements, notification of the public by the organisers, public liability insurance and payment of any applicable fees and charges.

- **MT LINDESAY ROAD CULVERT**

That the committee recommended that the widening of the culvert be considered with any road formation upgrading through the village if external grant funding can be obtained for design or construction.

- **MT LINDESAY ROAD TREES**

It was noted that this would be referred to the works department to assess for any maintenance required to ensure the path of large vehicles is not obstructed.

- **MT LINDESAY ROAD SURFACE DEPRESSIONS**

It was noted that the works department has already been assessing these locations for a program of maintenance to correct the surface travel condition.

- **B DOUBLE ROUTE ASSESSMENTS**

The Committee recommended that if external grant funding can be obtained, assessment be undertaken of future B-Double Routes along the Regional Road Network within the Shire to identify any likely restrictions and opportunities.

(Bronwyn Petrie/Greg Sauer)

Motion Carried

David Counsell, Manager Asset & Program Planning, left the meeting, the time being 12:14pm.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

RESOLUTION REGISTER

(ITEM RES9/23) COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGISTER - SEPTEMBER 2023

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Report is to provide a standing monthly report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council that outlines all Resolutions of Council previously adopted and yet to be finalised.

200/23

Resolved

That Council notes the status of the Council Resolution Register to September 2023.

(Peter Petty/Kim Rhodes)

Motion Carried

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil.

MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 12:19pm.

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Councillor Bronwyn Petrie
Mayor/Chairperson