

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY
COUNCIL held at CTC CENTRE, WEST WYALONG on
THURSDAY 24 AUGUST 2006 at 1.09pm.**

PRESENT

Cr. D. Bolte (Chair), Cr. J. Macaulay, Cr. D. Palmer, Cr. J. McGregor, Cr. J O'Brien and Cr. D. Edwards.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. P. Wearne, General Manager, Mr. P. Dwyer, Group Leader - Administration, Mr. N. Nasser, Group Leader - Production and Distribution and Mr. B. West - Group Leader – Engineering.

A. APOLOGIES

06/068 An apology for non-attendance was received from Crs. P. Speirs and C. Manchester and a leave of absence was granted on the motion of Crs. McGregor and O'Brien.

**B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
22 JUNE 2006**

06/069 The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2006 having been circulated and read by the Members, were confirmed on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Macaulay subject to the deletion of section J - Closed Session as no confidential matters were considered at the meeting.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

D. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Lachlan Catchment Management Authority.

Letter outlining the Terms of Reference for the formation of the Lachlan Local Government Reference Group and inviting Council to become a member.

Recommendation

That Council nominate a Councillor and a staff member to represent Council.

06/070 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and McGregor that the Chairman and General Manager represent Council at the Lachlan Local Government Reference Group.

2. Coolamon Shire Council.

Expressing its disappointment that the County Council has (in its opinion) continued with a rating structure that is decidedly weighted in favour of the bulk purchasing councils.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

06/071 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs Palmer and McGregor that the recommendation be adopted.

3. Attorney-General, Hon Philip Ruddock, MP.

Advising that Goldenfields application for funding under the Working Together to Manage Emergencies – Local Grant Scheme has been successful.

Recommendation

That the information be noted and that Council acknowledge the efforts of Council Officer, Alan Moston in securing the funding.

06/072 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Palmer that the recommendation be adopted and that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Attorney General.

4. REROC

Invitation to participate in the new Strategic Alliance Project

GM's Note – As the next REROC Meeting is to be held on the day prior to this meeting, a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the information be noted

06/073 The Chairman, who had attended the REROC meeting gave a verbal report on the Strategic Alliance project and advised Council that a review of the model and budget will be undertaken by the REROC Executive with a further report to be presented at the next REROC meeting

06/074 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs Palmer and O'Brien that the recommendation be adopted.

LATE ITEM OF CORRESPONDENCE

The General Manager enquired if Council wished to consider a late item of correspondence received the previous afternoon from the General Manager of Junee Shire Council in which it was requested its content be discussed at the meeting.

06/075 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs McGregor and O'Brien that the matter not be considered as due notice had not been given in accordance with Councils policy.

E. FINANCIAL REPORT (P. Dwyer)

1. CHEQUE WARRANTS – JUNE 2006 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	15833 – 16007 Autopays 600212-213	\$1,284,016.48

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$ 64,741.29
Deposits	<u>\$1,535,231.37</u>
	\$1,599,972.66
Withdrawals	<u>\$1,284,016.48</u>
Balance as at 30 June 2006	<u><u>\$315,956.18</u></u>

2. CHEQUE WARRANTS – JULY 2006 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	16008 – 16145 Autopays 600214-215 70700	\$1,455,082.27

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$315,956.18
Deposits	<u>\$1,835,839.02</u>
	\$2,151,795.20
Withdrawals	<u>\$1,455,082.27</u>
Balance as at 31 July 2006	<u><u>\$ 696,712.93</u></u>

3. REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 30 June 2006

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,594,005.99	5.70
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$13,670,089.66	5.71
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$41,207.71	5.70
CBA Term Deposit due 03.07.06	\$500,000.00	5.84
LGFS Term Deposit due 21.8.06-188980	\$521,309.99	5.65
CBA Term Deposit due 01.09.06	\$500,000.00	5.89
CBA Term Deposit due 03.10.06	\$500,000.00	5.92
CBA Term Deposit due 07.12.06	\$500,000.00	5.80
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.12.06-188203	\$500,000.00	5.86
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.02.07-190260	\$500,000.00	6.08
LGFS Term Deposit due 21.3.07-189365	\$500,000.00	5.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 26.4.07-189657	\$700,000.00	6.02
LGFS Term Deposit due 04.5.07-189919	\$500,000.00	6.20
TOTAL:	\$25,526,613.35	

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 31 July 2006

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,625,812.55	5.68
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$13,732,777.67	5.40
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$747,205.65	5.70
LGFS Term Deposit due 21.8.06-188980	\$521,309.99	5.65
CBA Term Deposit due 01.09.06	\$500,000.00	5.89
CBA Term Deposit due 03.10.06	\$500,000.00	5.92
CBA Term Deposit due 07.12.06	\$500,000.00	5.80
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.12.06-188203	\$500,000.00	5.86
CBA Term Deposit due 03.07.06	\$500,000.00	6.06
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.02.07-190260	\$500,000.00	6.08
LGFS Term Deposit due 21.3.07-189365	\$500,000.00	5.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 26.4.07-189657	\$700,000.00	6.02
LGFS Term Deposit due 04.5.07-189919	\$500,000.00	6.20
TOTAL:	\$26,327,105.86	

I hereby certify that the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's investment policy.

Recommendation

That the information in respect of items E1 to E3 be noted.

06/076 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs McGregor and Edwards that the recommendation be adopted.

4. OUTSTANDING DEBTORS

The balances outstanding as at 7 August 2006 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	162,719	37,266	243,897	443,882
Consumption Charges	57,400	6,778	92,518	156,696
Deferred headworks			44,000	44,000
TOTAL:	220,119	44,044	380,415	644,578
Overpayments				74,969

The balances outstanding as at 3 July 2006 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	214,144	39,841	1,649,844	1,903,829
Consumption Charges	81,335	8,263	510,982	600,580
Deferred headworks			50,000	50,000
TOTAL:	295,479	48,104	2,210,826	2,554,409
Overpayments				63,612

It is pleasing to note that with the continuing action by staff the amount outstanding is slowly being reduced.

Recommendation

That the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted

06/077 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs O'Brien and Palmer that the recommendation be adopted.

5. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 JUNE 2006

The Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 30 June 2006 is attached (yellow pages) for the consideration of Council. This is a preliminary result only and may be subject to change with end of year adjustments and audit.

The following changes were made to the budget last year:

Adopted operating budget (surplus)	\$88,710
Revision at 30 September 2005 – surplus	\$46,000
Revision at 31 December 2005 - surplus	\$31,500
Revision at 31 March 2006 – surplus	\$355,400
Anticipated surplus for year at 31 March 2006	\$521,610
Revision at 30 June – surplus	\$692,649
Anticipated result for year now - surplus	\$1,214,259

Variations in each section are shown in the last column of the report.

Details of the main variations since the last review are as follows:

Revenue

- Service and user charges – increased by approximately \$472,000 – due to period being drier than anticipated.

- Headworks charges – increased by approximately \$386,000 as a result of increased contributions from development in anticipation of charges increasing as a result of the DSP.

Operating revenue increased by \$840,421.

Expenditure

As the report shows some savings were made in the operations and maintenance areas. Savings were also made in the administration area, however, these may change with the end of year adjustments.

Overall the operating expenditure shows a decrease of approximately \$374,000 from the figures anticipated in the March review.

Recommendation

That the information report at 30 June 2006 be noted.

- 06/078 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs Edwards and McGregor that the recommendation be adopted.

6. PENSION REBATES

Council is required to write-off concessions granted to eligible pensioners for water supplied. Eighteen hundred and fifty six concession claims are current and require writing-off for the period: 1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006 (Subsidy claimed \$22,952.46 – Claim 131)

Recommendations

That Council hereby write-off, as mandatory concessions, the amount of \$41,731.74 in pensioner concession rebates for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006

- 06/079 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs Palmer and O'Brien that the recommendation be adopted.

7. PAYMENT OPTIONS

Staff are the process of setting up the necessary facilities to enable customers to pay their accounts using the BPAY facility. Requests have been received from customers seeking to pay their accounts by this method. This is one of the most popular and convenient ways of paying any accounts through internet facilities and it is planned to have this available for payment of the September quarterly accounts.

Recommendations

That Council note the report on the implementation of BPAY option for payment of water accounts.

- 06/080 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs McGregor and Palmer that the recommendation be adopted.

**F. WORKS REPORT
JUNE 2006**

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONS.	DIA/TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KI)	REASON
	Off	On					
1/6/06	4.30	6.00	Waterview Road, Matong	14	100	10	Split pipe
2/6/06	-	-	Cootamundra 375mm Line	-	375	20	Hole in pipe
3/6/06	-	-	Ariah Park Main	-	150	40	Split pipe
3/6/06	-	-	North Weethalle	-	100	10	Hole in pipe
3/6/06	-	-	Mirrool	-	100	10	Hole in pipe
4/6/06	2.50	3.30	Last Street, Ganmain	20	100	100	Leaking joint
5/6/06	8.00	11.00	Grong Grong	4	100	10	Split pipe
7/6/06	-	-	Garoolgan	-	100	5	Hole in pipe
8/6/06	-	-	Trunk Main, Barmedman	-	300	10	Joint failure
9/6/06	-	-	Gubbata Road, Naradhan	-	100	20	Hole in pipe
9/6/06	1.00	8.30	Frampton	-	100	30	Split pipe
13/6/06	-	-	Stockinbingal Road	-	375	10	Joint failure
15/6/06	8.30	11.30	Trunk Main, Ganmain/Coolamon	-	250	50	Split pipe
15/6/06	-	-	Thanowring Road, Temora	-	250	50	Cracked pipe
18/6/06	-	-	Cowangs – Bauloora Main	-	375	20	Joint Failure
19/6/06	4.30	6.00	Temora	-	150	5	Cracked pipe
19/6/06	3.00	11.00	Lower Showground Road, Ganmain	50	150	50	Split pipe
21/6/06	-	-	Trunk Main, Barmedman	-	300	30	Joint failure
24/6/06	1.30	4.00	Queen Street, Barmedman	15	100	50	Split pipe
26/6/06	-	-	Trunk Main, Wyalong	-	300	20	Joint failure
27/6/06	-	-	Temora – Stockinbingal	-	375	10	Joint failure
28/6/06	-	-	Stockinbingal –	-	375	300	Hole in

GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – AUGUST 2006

		Springdale				pipe
--	--	------------	--	--	--	------

2. COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – June

8/6/06 Hart Street
22/6/06 Commins Street

Dirty Water – Other

6/6/06 Waterview Street, Ganmain
7/6/06 Binya Street, Grong Grong
8/6/06 Tower Street & Showground Road, Ganmain
16/6/06 Ganmain
16/6/06 Berry Jerry Lane, Marrar
23/6/06 Coolamon

Other Problems:

A total of 74 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of June.

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant Works were undertaken in June 2006:-

- Service control valves across scheme
- Overhaul North Weethalle No. 2 Pump and Motor
- Overhaul Demondrille No. 2 pump
- Overhaul Aria Park No. 1 pump
- Commence repairs to scraper and flocculator No. 1 clarifier at Jugiong Water Treatment Plant
- Remove and dismantle No. 2 pump Barmedman for overhaul
- Install new bulk meters at 4 off takes in Cootamundra Area
- Install 200m of 200mm main Wagga Road, Coolamon
- Complete maintenance/upgrade of valves and fittings on Aria Park – Coolamon line
- Assist contractors with repairs to Oura Collection tank
- Install 7 new air valves Bauloora to Cootamundra

G. WORKS REPORT JULY 2006

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONNS.	DIA/ TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KI)	REASON
	Off	On					

GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – AUGUST 2006

3/7/06	-	-	Barmedman	-	100	30	Joint failure
3/7/06	-	-	Trunk Main, Barmedman	-	300	25	Joint failure
3/7/06	-	-	Garoolgan	-	100	2	Hole in pipe
4/7/06	-	-	Trunk Main, Barmedman	-	300	10	Joint failure
4/7/06	-	-	Cootamundra – Temora	-	375	50	Hole in pipe
4/7/06	-	-	Ardlethan Retic	-	100	20	Hole in pipe
10/7/06	-	-	Garoolgan	-	100	50	Split pipe
11/7/06	8.30	5.30	Coolamon	8	100	50	Split pipe
11/7/06	-	-	Trunk Main	-	300	-	Hole in pipe
13/7/06	-	-	Trunk Main	-	300	5	Joint failure
14/7/06	-	-	Hadrills Lane, Naradhan	-	80	10	Cracked pipe
18/7/06	10.30	2.30	Springdale – Temora	50	375	30	Hole in pipe
18/7/06	-	-	Barellan Road, Weethalle	-	100	10	Hole in pipe
26/7/06	11.00	2.00	Airport Road, Temora	-	100	20	Split pipe
26/7/06	-	-	Warri Street, Ardlethan	-	100	1	Split pipe
28/7/06	7.00	12.00	Wagga Road, Coolamon	20	100	50	Split pipe

2.COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

6/7/06 Crown Street

Dirty Water – Other

4/7/06 Anzac Street, Temora

Other Problems:

A total of 60 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of July 2006.

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant Works were undertaken in July 2006:-

- Cleaned the following reservoirs: -

- Calleen – Wyalong Balance Tank - Eurollie Road – Dirnaseer – Mannings – Bethungra – Olympic Way – Brawlin – Bauloora – Ungarie – Condobolin Road – Reservoirs
- Cut in valves at rail crossing – Mirrool
- Continue valve and fitting upgrade on Ardlethan – Barellan section and Eurongilly Area
- Service control valves across the scheme
- Continue repairs to scrapers and flocculators No. 1 clarifier at Jugiong
- Jugiong No. 2 pump station No. 1 pump motor removed and sent to service agent for overhaul
- No. 1 pump and No. 1 pump station removed and sent to service agent for major rebuild
- No. 2 pump and motor – Hylands Bridge removed for overhaul
- No. 1 pump motor Garoolgan removed for bearing change
- Renew No. 3 pump D.E. bearing due to pending failure (noisy)
- Jugiong low lift pump standby units installed – one found to be faulty and sent to repairer for repairs
- Install new 300mm main Ungarie Road, West Wyalong

Recommendation

That the information be noted

06/081 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs Palmer and O'Brien that the recommendation be adopted.

H. OTHER REPORTS

1. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT

Attached for the information of Councillors are the Capital Works Progress Reports for the year ending 30 June 2006 (Attachment 1) and for the period ending 31 July 2006 (Attachment 2).

In reviewing the report for the year ending 30 June 2006 the following points are made:-

- 30 Projects completed during the year. Overall savings of \$537,280 on budgeted amounts.
- 7 projects are in excess of 90% completed with it anticipated that they will be finalised within the first quarter of this financial year.
- 26 projects incomplete
- Of the incomplete projects \$5,082,989 remains unexpended as at 30/06/06 and will require carrying forward into the 2006/07 year

To allow completion of these projects it is now necessary for Council to authorise the carry over of unexpended amounts from the 2005/06 year to the 2006/07 year. The balance unexpended from completed projects as at 30/06/06 (\$537,280) will remain in Restricted Assets for use in future years either to complete projects from the adopted Capital Works Program or to be allocated at some future date.

Subject to Council approval of the above, Staff have incorporated these carry over amounts into the 2006/07 Capital Works Program. The revised program is broadly as follows:-

Capital Works Program (as adopted 2006/07 Management Plan)	\$7,651,912
Plus Amounts Carried Forward from 2004/05 Budget	5,082,989

Revised Capital Works Program for 2006/07	\$12,724,901

While it is industry standard to review the budget at the end of the September quarter, it is requested that these additions to the Capital Works Program for 2006/07 be adopted in principal at this meeting and then formally adopted at the October meeting to give direction to staff in the ensuing period.

Recommendation

1. That the incomplete capital works as at 30/06/06 totalling \$5,082,989 be revoted in the 2006/07 budget.
2. That the Revised Capital Works Program for 2006/07 as detailed in Attachment 2 totalling \$13,224,901 be adopted in principal prior to formal adoption as part of the next Quarterly Budget Review.

06/082 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs O'Brien and Macaulay:

1. That the incomplete capital works as at 30/06/06 totalling \$5,082,989 be revoted in the 2006/07 budget.
2. That the Revised Capital Works Program for 2006/07 as detailed in Attachment 2 totalling \$13,224,901 be adopted in principal prior to formal adoption as part of the next Quarterly Budget Review.

2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND PRICING STRUCTURE

As Councillors would be well aware, a number of issues have arisen since the Pricing Structure Workshops were held in February and March of this year. It would be reasonable to say that the one thing that is now evident is that the current method of water pricing lacks a defensible structure other than it does include an element of cross-subsidisation between different GWCC schemes. Minute 06/041 of Council's meeting of 27 April 2006 resolved that the present pricing structure is to be reviewed prior to the development of the 2007/08 Draft Management Plan.

Councillors would also be aware that in accordance with the Ministerial Proclamation that formed Goldenfields we "*must review the relative efficiencies and economies of the reticulation and distribution of water*" by Cootamundra, Harden and Young Shire Councils "*compared with reticulation and distribution of water*" by GWCC and report to the Minister not later than three years after the date of constitution and each three years thereafter "*so long as the arrangement*" continues. One of these reviews is due during 2006. To commence both these processes it is suggested that some fundamental principles be determined. A suggested strategy could be as follows:

1. Review the legislative requirements as per the Ministerial Proclamation.
2. Undertake the required review of the relative efficiencies and economies of our reticulation systems and those of our three Bulk Consumer Councils and prepare a report for the Minister.
3. Based on the results of 2 above, make a determination of our future direction.
4. Develop a pricing structure subject to the outcome of 3 above.

Recommendation

That the above strategy be adopted.

06/083 It was MOVED on the motion of Crs Edwards and O'Brien that the recommendation be adopted.

Cr. Edwards MOVED that the motion be PUT.

On being PUT the motion was CARRIED.

3. REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Subject to the adoption of the recommendation from Item 2 above, a copy of the Ministerial Proclamation that formed Goldenfields is attached for the information of Council. The following clauses are very explicit in what the roles and responsibilities of Goldenfields Water County Council are:-

Schedule A

- **Clause 2** – Goldenfields area of operations is the WHOLE of the areas of the seven shires listed plus that part of Narrandera covered by the Hylands Bridge scheme and supplied by the Oura scheme.
- **Clause 3** – Goldenfields governing body is to consist of eight persons, one from each of the eight councils who is elected from amongst the

councillors of their respective Council to be “a member of the County Council’s governing body”. There is no reference to a GWCC Councillor being a “delegate” of the Constituent Council.

- **Clause 4** – Sets out the functions of Goldenfields with specific reference to the shires of Cootamundra, Harden and Young as per Schedule C. These are “*to comprise the functions of a council for the provision, care, control and management of water supply works, services and facilities within its area of operations*”.

Schedule C

- **Clause 16** – Requires that GWCC “*must review the relative efficiencies and economies of the reticulation and distribution of water*” by Cootamundra, Harden and Young Shire Councils “*compared with reticulation and distribution of water*” by GWCC and report to the Minister not later than three years after the date of constitution and each three years thereafter “*so long as the arrangement*” continues. One of these reviews is due during 2006.

Schedule D

- **Clause 5** – This clause states what the principal objectives of Goldenfields are:-
 - “(a) *To be a successful business and, to this end-*
 - (i) *to operate at least as efficiently as any comparable business; and*
 - (ii) *to exhibit a sense of social responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates;”*

However, the clause below is not so explicit and can be opened to different interpretations.

Schedule C

- **Clause 15** – Clause 15(a) states that GWCC will undertake the functions formerly undertaken by SWTWS. Clause 15(b) states that Harden and Young Shire Councils will “*undertake the functions of the County Council with regard to the reticulation and distribution of water*” within their respective areas. Clause 15(c) states that Cootamundra Council will “*undertake the functions of the County Council with regard to the reticulation of water*” within the town of Cootamundra.

The issue that arises here is that of “seniority”. It would appear that GWCC is responsible for the whole of the former SWTWS area (including Cootamundra, Harden and Young) and the whole of the former NRCC area. Cootamundra, Harden and Young Shire Councils undertake the functions of GWCC within their respective areas *for so long as the arrangement continues* (cl 16). While it does not state that the three Bulk Consumer Councils are undertaking these functions on behalf of GWCC, I believe that this was the original intent of the Proclamation given Clause 2 of Schedule A.

The two questions that are raised are:-

1. Is it reasonable to assume that this “arrangement” is at the discretion of GWCC; and
2. Is the current arrangement still in the best interests of the whole of the Goldenfields area and in particular its customers?

In response to the first question, I am of the opinion that it is reasonable to assume that the continuation of the current arrangement is at the discretion of GWCC but is subject to us providing sufficient evidence to the Minister to substantiate either its continuation or otherwise.

The second question is somewhat more difficult. Clause 16 of Schedule C of the proclamation charges GWCC with the responsibility of reviewing the *efficiencies and economies* of the different reticulations and in doing so would provide a purely financial perspective. However, Clause 5 of Schedule D requires GWCC to *exhibit a sense of social responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates*.

How does Goldenfields quantify and/or qualify “*a sense of social responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates*”?

Pursuant to Clause 2 of Schedule A, the GWCC area of operations includes the three Bulk Consumer Council areas and therefore when looking at our social responsibilities I believe we must take into consideration the levels of service and prices that our retail customers are subject to and also take into consideration the levels of service and prices that consumers within those areas are subject to. We should also consider whether GWCC could provide a similar or better service at the same or lower price than is currently provided by the individual shire councils.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the above interpretation of the Ministerial Proclamation as its formal position.

- 06/084 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Palmer that Council have an open discussion of Item H3.
- 06/085 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Palmer and Edwards that Council adopt the interpretation of the Ministerial proclamation, detailed in Item H3 as its formal position subject to receiving a legal opinion confirming its accuracy.

4. FIRE HYDRANTS WITHIN JUNEE SHIRE

Consultation between Junee Shire Council, NSW Rural Fire Service and Goldenfields has been ongoing for some time regarding the number and positioning of Fire Hydrants within the rural areas of Junee Shire. In April and May of this year onsite meetings were held which resulted in agreement that additional hydrants over and above those already available within the shire were required and could satisfactorily be supplied from Goldenfields infrastructure. The following list, in priority order, was determined:-

1. Eurongilly School – Wantiool Rd
2. Wantabadgery – McGledes Rd
3. Stanyer Rd or Ballengorah Ln
4. Coffin Rock Ln – Bremers Ln
5. Dirnaseer – Blackgate Rd / Pinchgut Ln
6. Old Junee – Jailbreak Inn

With each hydrant costing between \$2,000 and \$2,500 to install the capital cost is significant. To date Goldenfields Water has not allocated any funds for such construction. I have written to both the NSW Rural Fire Service and Junee Shire Council seeking a contribution(s) towards installation. The responses received are attached for the information of Council. It is acknowledged that Junee Shire Council's commitment to the project, that of providing road access works at their cost, is not insignificant however the response from NSW Rural Fire Service is disappointing.

One of the issues that became evident from the recent disastrous bushfires in the Junee area was the misconception by some Bushfire Brigade members that the quickest way to obtain water is from a hydrant connected to our mains. By doing so, the continued supply to towns and villages was put at risk. This issue has been addressed with the RFS and it is hoped that ongoing training of brigade members will alleviate this problem in the future. It also raises the question of just how much social responsibility does Goldenfields have in respect of the provision of hydrants in rural areas.

Rural areas within Junee Shire are currently serviced by 12 hydrants which generally provide coverage where our mains exist of 5 to 10 kilometres. A map showing their locations will be tabled at the meeting. The additional six requested hydrants will, in the opinion of staff, provide exceptionally good coverage once installed and will finalise the issue. To accommodate the installation of the additional hydrants it is suggested that they be phased in over three years with the required funds coming from within the maintenance budget for the relevant schemes.

Recommendation

That the additional six (6) fire hydrants requested for the rural areas of Junee Shire be installed in priority order over the next three years with the funds for such coming from the operations and maintenance budget for the respective schemes.

- 06/086 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGregor and Edwards that the additional six (6) fire hydrants requested for the rural areas of Junee Shire be installed in priority order during the current financial year.

5. OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW OFFICE COMPLEX

Practical completion of the new office complex in Parkes Street, Temora was effected on 3 August 2006. Some minor works are still to be carried out with these expected to be completed shortly. The projected date for relocation of staff has been tentatively set from 26th to 29th August.

With respect to an Official Opening and after consultation with the Chairman the following is proposed:-

- An Official Opening be conducted on Thursday 26 October 2006 which coincides with our next scheduled Ordinary Meeting.
- An invitation is extended to either the Member for Lachlan, Ian Armstrong, the Minister for Water Utilities, David Campbell or the

Minister for Local Government, Kerry Hickey to officially open the building.

- Invitations to be extended to the relevant Federal and State Members within the Goldenfields area, the Mayors and General Managers of the eight shire councils within the Goldenfields area along with the Chairman and General Managers of our two neighbouring Water County Councils (i.e. Riverina Water and Central Tablelands Water), representatives from NW Bland and Son and representatives from Barnsons.
- A plaque commemorating the occasion be prepared for unveiling.
- A morning or afternoon tea be made available for Councillors, staff and invited guests at the conclusion of the official ceremony.

Recommendation

1. That the Official opening of the new office complex be held on Thursday 26 October 2006.
2. That Council determine whom it wishes to undertake the official opening and at what time of day it is to be held

06/087 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Macaulay and Edwards that the recommendation be adopted.

6.NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Council would normally be held in October however it will be necessary for us to meet to formally adopt the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June and refer them for audit. The election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson could also be undertaken at the meeting. Given that the new office complex will be available it is suggested that the meeting be held at Temora in the new building.

Recommendation

That the next Council Meeting be held on Thursday 28 September 2006 at Goldenfields Water Temora Offices.

06/088 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Edwards that the recommendation be adopted.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Cr O'Brien sought and received information relating to the colour coding of valve pits.

CLOSED SESSION – 3.20pm(Pink pages)

06/089 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and McGregor that the Council meet in Closed Session.

In accordance with Clause 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 the following item is to be considered in Closed Session as it relates to:

GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – AUGUST 2006

“...(c) Information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposed to conduct) business,”

- 06/090 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. McGregor and O’Brien that the lowest conforming tender of Economy Concrete Tanks be accepted for Contract 07/2005 being the Design and Construction of One 750 kl, 15.5 m diam by 4 m high Potable Water Storage Reservoir & Associated Works at Matong for the cost of \$321,470.00 excluding GST.
- 06/091 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. McGregor and O’Brien that the lowest conforming tender of A1 Quality Concrete Tanks Pty Ltd be accepted for Contract 02/2006 Design and Construction of Two, 2, 000 kl, 23 m diam, 5 m high Potable Water Storage Reservoir & Associated Works at Aria Park for the cost of \$879,600.00 excluding GST.
- 06/092 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. McGregor and O’Brien t that the lowest conforming tender for a concrete reservoir from Precision Pipelines Pty Ltd be accepted for Contract 03/2006 Design and Construction of One 10 m diam, 28 m high Potable Water Standpipe Reservoir at Coolamon for the cost of \$920,180.00 excluding GST.
- 06/093 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. McGregor and Palmer that the lowest quotation of Economy Concrete Tanks be accepted for the construction of 2 No concrete tanks at Lonsdale Lane for \$52,980.00 and that ancillary works of approximately \$27,000.00 be authorised.

OPEN SESSION – 3.25pm.

- 06/094 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Palmer that the Council revert to Open Session and that the resolutions made in closed session be made public.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Council, the Meeting closed at 3.40pm.
