

**MINUTES for the MEETING of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES on THURSDAY 26 APRIL 2007 starting at 1.05pm.**

**PRESENT**

Cr. C. Manchester (Chair), Cr. P. Speirs, Cr. J. Macaulay, Cr. D. Palmer, Cr. J. McGregor, Cr. J. O'Brien and Cr. J. Edwards.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**A. APOLOGIES**

07/021 An apology for non-attendance was received from Cr. D Bolte and a leave of absence was granted on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Palmer.

**B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2007.**

07/022 The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2007 having been circulated and read by the Members, were confirmed on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Speirs.

**C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**NIL**

**D. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Electoral Commission of NSW      Calling for nominations for the position of President of the Shires Association of NSW  
**Recommendation;** That the information be noted

07/023 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Palmer that the information be noted.

2. Temora Community Radio Group      Seeking “in principle” support for the establishment of a Community Radio Station in Temora  
**Recommendation:** That “in principle” support be given for the project

07/024 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Palmer that “in principle” support be given for the project.

**E. FINANCIAL REPORT (P. Dwyer)**

**1. CHEQUE WARRANTS – FEBRUARY 2007 AND BANK RECONCILIATION**

**Warrant**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Voucher Numbers</b>	<b>\$</b>
Water	17096 – 17197	
	Autopays 600230-600231	
	70863 – 70905	\$1,575,397.78

**Bank Reconciliation**

Opening Balance	\$ 448,949.75
Deposits	\$1,247,258.50
	<u>\$1,696,208.25</u>
Withdrawals	\$1,575,397.78
Balance as at 28 February 2007	<u>\$120,810.47</u>

**2. CHEQUE WARRANTS – MARCH 2007 AND BANK RECONCILIATION**

**Warrant**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Voucher Numbers</b>	<b>\$</b>
Water	17198 – 17328	
	Autopays 600232-600233	
	70906 – 70956	\$948,826.60

**Bank Reconciliation**

Opening Balance	\$ 120,810.47
Deposits	\$ 940,953.40
	<u>\$1,061,763.87</u>
Withdrawals	\$ 948,826.60
Balance as at 31 March 2007	<u>\$ 112,937.27</u>

**3. REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS**

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 28 February 2007

<b>Financial Institution</b>	<b>Face Value</b>	<b>Annualised Interest Rate %</b>
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,562,537.27	6.53
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$14,236,945.54	6.38
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$1,025,043.11	6.20
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
CBA Term Deposit due 01.06.07	\$500,000.00	6.32
LGFS Term Deposit due 09.8.07-193412	\$500,000.00	6.50
LGFS Term Deposit due 20.8.07-191269	\$500,000.00	6.48
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.12.07-192778	\$500,000.00	6.60
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$25,524,525.92</b>	

## GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – APRIL 2007

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 31 March 2007

<b>Financial Institution</b>	<b>Face Value</b>	<b>Annualised Interest Rate %</b>
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,596,234.09	6.05
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$14,314,872.30	6.44
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$825,043.11	6.20
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
CBA Term Deposit due 01.06.07	\$500,000.00	6.32
LGFS Term Deposit due 09.8.07-193412	\$500,000.00	6.50
LGFS Term Deposit due 20.8.07-191269	\$500,000.00	6.48
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.12.07-192778	\$500,000.00	6.60
LGFS Term Deposit due 21.3.07-193928	\$500,000.00	6.75
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$25,436,149.50</b>	

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

Staff have been negotiating with Grange Securities for sometime on the possibility of this company managing part of the investment portfolio. They have put forward a proposal to manage about \$5m of Council's funds for a 6 month trial period on a no fee basis via their individually managed portfolio service. The benefits of this proposal are:

- Maintain a spread of investments and investment styles
- Maintain current investment relationships
- Improve current investment returns
- Assess in a live scenario both investment returns and service levels from different service providers.

All investments would be made in accordance with Council's policy.

### **Recommendation**

- i) That the information in respect of items E1 to E3 be noted.
- ii) That authority be given to place up to \$5m of Council's funds with Grange Securities via their individually managed portfolio service on a 6 month trial basis.
- iii) A review be conducted at the end of the Trial Period.

07/025 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Speirs that the information in respect to items E1 and E3 be noted, that authority be given to place up to \$5m of Council's funds with Grange Securities via their individually managed portfolio service on a 6 month trial basis and that a review be conducted at the end of the Trial Period.

**4. OUTSTANDING DEBTORS**

The balances outstanding as at 3 April 2007 (after the March bills raised) were:

	<b>Arrears</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Total</b>
Access Charges	51,560	6,926	422,447	480,933
Consumption Charges	133,592	36,021	2,219,505	2,389,118
Deferred headworks			65,100	65,100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>185,152</b>	<b>42,947</b>	<b>2,707,052</b>	<b>2,935,151</b>
Overpayments				<b>38,288</b>

The balances outstanding as at 2 March 2007 were:

	<b>Arrears</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Total</b>
Access Charges	40,835	6,699	134,851	182,385
Consumption Charges	120,005	35,362	335,491	490,858
Deferred headworks			65,100	65,100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>160,840</b>	<b>42,061</b>	<b>535,442</b>	<b>738,343</b>
Overpayments				<b>72,057</b>

The balances outstanding as at 5 February 2007 were:

	<b>Arrears</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Total</b>
Access Charges	89,149	6,819	217,259	313,227
Consumption Charges	81,884	35,035	673,228	790,147
Deferred headworks			65,100	65,100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>171,033</b>	<b>41,854</b>	<b>955,587</b>	<b>1,168,474</b>
Overpayments				<b>107,989</b>

**Recommendation**

That the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

07/026 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and O'Brien that the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

**5. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 31 MARCH 2007**

The Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 31 March 2007 is attached (yellow pages) for the consideration of Council.

Details of the main variations are as follows:

*Revenue*

- User Charges – sales increased by \$465,000 – increased sales to March as a result of the continued drought.
- Interest on Investments – increased by \$35,000 due to extra funds being invested with the anticipated drawn down for capital works not being as great as originally budgeted. Also interest rates are currently higher than budgeted.

- Rents, Fees etc – increased by \$25,510 – this is mainly increased revenue from disconnection fees as a direct result of increase debt recovery action by staff.

Operating revenue increase by \$528,360

*Expenditure*

The various areas of expenditure have been revised as part of the budget preparation and is the reason for all of the variations. It is difficult to budget for the operation and maintenance costs with the continuing drought. This has resulted in increases in both the revenue and expenditure sides of Council's operations. Changes are

- Management – net savings of \$30,280.
- Mains – net savings of \$90,500.
- Reservoirs – increased by \$76,500.
- Pumping Stations – increased by \$21,600.
- Treatment Works – net savings of \$58,833.
- Other Costs – increased by \$42,540.
- Depreciation & Miscellaneous – net savings of \$37,710

Operating expenditure decreased by \$76,683.

Changes to capital

- Headworks charges – decreased by \$7,800 – revised estimate.

The following changes are proposed to the budget:

<b>Adopted operating budget (surplus)</b>	<b>\$396,880</b>
Revision at 30 September 2006 – deficit	-\$193,533
Revision at 31 December 2006 – surplus	\$676,240
Revision at 31 March 2007 – surplus	\$605,043
<b>Revised result – 30 June 2007 – anticipated surplus</b>	<b>\$1,484,630</b>

At this stage there are no major areas of concern and the review indicates that Council's financial position is satisfactory.

**Recommendation**

That the quarterly budget review report as at 31 March 2007 be noted and that Council adopt the variations as listed.

07/027 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Speirs that the quarterly budget review report as at 31 March 2007 be noted and that Council adopt the variations as listed.

**6. PENSION REBATES (Gerard Carr)**

Council is required to write-off concessions granted to eligible pensioners for water supplied. Nineteen hundred and one concession claims are current and require the writing-off for the period: 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007. (Subsidy claimed \$24,249.97 – Claim 134)

**Recommendation**

That Council hereby write-off, as mandatory concessions, the amount of \$44,090.85 in pensioner concession rebates for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.

07/028 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Speirs that Council hereby write-off, as mandatory concessions, the amount of \$44,090.85 in pensioner concession rebates for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.

**7. WATER ACCOUNT WRITE OFFS (Gerard Carr)**

**Account 75430**

The account supplies "The Roundhouse", Railway Parade, Junee and concerns the property owners, State Rail Authority (Crown), a lessee Austrac (Australian Traction Corp Pty Ltd) and a sub lessee Regional Heritage Transport Assoc (RHTA). The relevant details are:-

Date		Account balance
June 1997	Charges unpaid	\$1,731.00
Oct 1997	RWCC issued account:- State Rail C/- Austrac (Australian Traction Corp)	\$3,054.00
Jan 1998	RWCC issued account :- State Rail C/- Austrac	\$4,569.00
Jan 1998	Austrac issued an invoice to RHTA for \$2,284.50	
28 Jan 1998	GWCC GM wrote to Austrac with cc to RHTA "Unreasonable to pursue" and "no interest"	
April 1998	RWCC issued account :- State Rail C/- Austrac	\$5,998.00
14 April 1998	Meter changed	
28 April 1998	Austrac letter received querying account	
From 1998 to 2000	Supply continued with charges raised and no evidence of further correspondence or payment	
28/12/2000	Austrac (Australian Traction Corp) Deed of Company arrangement executed	\$13,161.88
March 2001 and March 2007	The prescribed deed payments have now been completed totaling \$4,718.56	\$8,443.32
Since Jan 2001 to March 2007	GWCC issued accounts:- State Rail c/- Austrac With all current charges being paid	
8 Feb 2001	Additional Administrator payment of \$ 127.09	\$8316.23
6 June 2006	State Rail overpayment transferred \$1,182.49	\$7,133.74
From Jan 2001 to 29 March 2007	Interest on outstanding balance \$6,890.27	\$14,024.01
29 March 2007	Outstanding balance	\$14,024.01

For all intents the Deed is complete with a further payment to occur only if litigation is successful including substantial compensation. Any further recovery of the unpaid charges rests with the now unlikely discovery of the

commencement of the lease arrangements between the parties along with resolution of the unidentified account queries of late 1997 and early 1998.

While all current charges are presently being met, Council will write to State Rail Authority to confirm what leasing arrangements currently exist for the Roundhouse and its environs to avoid any potential future difficulties.

**Recommendation**

That interest levied totalling \$6,890.27 and charges totalling \$7,133.76 on water account 75430 be written off as unrecoverable.

07/029 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. O'Brien and McGregor that interest levied totalling \$6,890.27 and charges totalling \$7,133.76 on water account 75430 be written off as unrecoverable.

**Account 72753**

In February 2006 Council received an application for a Section 603 Certificate. After ownership surname and property title searches of Council's records a no record Section 603 Certificate was issued. It has now come to light that a water account permanently disconnected for non payment in July 2002 previously supplied this property. Its outstanding balance is \$2,817.37. This water account was in another persons name and included only a partial part lot property description. As S603(4) states that a certificate is taken as conclusive proof to the purchaser of the outstanding debt the recovery of this amount would not be possible. It is therefore prudent to now write it off.

**Recommendation**

1. That an amount of \$2,817.37 in outstanding charges and interest be written off water account 72753 and
2. As the issued certificate showed no water service connection existed should application be made for any water service connection then full charges as at the time of application will apply.

07/030 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. McGregor and Speirs that an amount of \$2,817.37 in outstanding charges and interest be written off water account 72753 and as the issued certificate showed no water service connection existed should application be made for any water service connection then full charges as at the time of application will apply.

**8. GST COMPLIANCE – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT (P Dwyer)**

As previously reported, Council is required to supply a certificate of confirmation to the Department of Local Government in lieu of an external audit of its GST accounts. Normally this matter would be referred to the next meeting of Council, however, it is not intended to hold a May meeting of Council. Council has properly accounted for its GST liabilities and input tax credits during the period of certification.

Accordingly, the required certificate has been prepared and now requires a resolution of Council for completion.

**Recommendation**

That authority be given to complete the Goods and Services Tax Certificate for the period 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007.

- 07/031 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and McGregor that authority be given to complete the Goods and Services Tax Certificate for the period 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007.

**F. WORKS REPORT** *(Nick Nasser)*  
**FEBRUARY 2007**

**1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS**

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONS.	DIA/TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KI)	REASON
	Off	On					
5/2/07	-	-	Dumaresq Street, West Wyalong	-	100	-	Hole in pipe
7/2/07	-	-	Trunk Main, Temora - Wyalong	-	300	5	Cracked pipe
7/2/07	4.00	5.45	Stockinbingal town	30	150	5	Damaged pipe
8/2/07	-	-	Barellan Road, Weethalle	-	100	40	Hole in pipe
8/2/07	-	-	Trunk main, Barmedman	-	300	5	Cracked pipe
10/2/07	10.00	1.00	Malebo Range	8	80	20	Split pipe
11/2/07	-	-	Trunk main to Bauloora	-	375	40	Hole in pipe
13/2/07	-	-	Bethungra	-	150	10	Split pipe
14/2/07	2.30	7.30	Barellan	6	100	40	Split pipe
16/2/07	-	-	Trunk main, Wyalong	-	300	15	Hole in main
19/2/07	-	-	Garoolgan	-	100	5	Hole in pipe
19/2/07	9.30	1.00	Junee	20	100	50	Split pipe
19/2/07	2.00	4.00	Malebo Range	10	80	100	Split pipe
19/2/07	-	-	Binya	-	100	15	Split pipe
20/2/07	-	-	Trunk main, Wyalong	-	300	20	Hole in pipe
21/2/07	10.00	10.20	Beckom Township	-	100	10	Leaking hydrant
21/2/07	-	-	Eurongilly	-	25	5	Split pipe
24/2/07	10.30	4.30	Matong Forest	15	250	50	Split pipe
27/2/07	-	-	Barellan Road, Weethalle	-	100	25	Cracked pipe

**2. COMPLAINTS**

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

Dirty Water – Other

6/2/07 Wallace Street, Coolamon

27/2/07 Kiaree Lane, Eurongilly

Other Problems:

5/2/07 Barmedman Road, Temora – White, frothy water

A total of 64 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of February.

**3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE**

The following significant Works were undertaken in February 2007:-

- Install cut-ins for new Reservoirs at Ganmain.
- Remove No. 1 Transfer pump at Temora for overhaul.
- Commissioned new No2 Pump and motor at Ganmain.
- Install new butterfly valve and Reflux valve on No.3 Pump at Demondrille.
- Major overhaul of soda ash auger - Jugiong Plant.
- Install new ACV at Marrar Town Reservoir.
- Reefton No. 2 Pump removed for overhaul.
- Installed new section of 200mm main under railway line – Pucawan.
- Commenced filling and chlorinating new tanks at Ganmain.
- Continued valve maintenance Ariah Park to Barellan.
- Continued fire hydrant maintenance.
- Installed 130 metres of new main in Gwynne Place, Junee.
- Continued with pipeline upgrades in Junee, Beach Street area.

**Recommendation**

That the information be noted.

07/032 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. Speirs and Palmer that the information be noted.

**G. WORKS REPORT (Nick Nasser)  
MARCH 2007**

**1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS**

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONNS.	DIA/ TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KI)	REASON
	Off	On					
2/3/07	10.00	12.00	Mann Street, Coolamon	10	100	20	Spilt pipe
6/3/07	10.00	1.00	Harefield Road, Junee	-	100	10	Cracked pipe
7/3/07	-	-	Garoolgan	1	100	10	Split pipe
9/3/07	-	-	Cootamundra	-	375	5	Joint

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			Temora 375 Line				failure
9/3/02	-	-	Barmedman Retic	-	100	2	Cracked pipe
12/3/07	-	-	Trunk main, Temora	-	300	15	Joint failure
12/3/07	-	-	Turners Lane, Cootamundra	-	375	5	Joint failure
12/3/07	-	-	Harefield Road, Junee	-	100	1	Split pipe
14/3/07	-	-	Kikoira Road, Naradhan	-	150	10	Split pipe
16/3/07	-	-	South Weethalle	-	100	5	Hole in pipe
18/3/07	-	-	Crawley Street, Junee	-	100	1	Split pipe
19/3/07	-	-	Garoolgan	-	100	5	Hole in pipe
22/3/07	-	-	Harefield Road, Junee	-	100	1	Split pipe
22/3/07	9.00	1.00	Malebo Range	10	50	5	Failed fitting
25/3/07	1.30	2.30	Fitzroy Street, Junee	1	20	2	Split pipe
26/3/07	-	-	Malebo Range	-	50	5	Split pipe
27/3/07	-	-	Cowangs – Bauloora	-	375	10	Joint failure
30/3/07	-	-	Thanowring Road, Temora	-	250	50	Split pipe

**2. COMPLAINTS**

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

Dirty Water – Other

14/3/07 Wattle Lane, Coolamon

15/3/07 Queen Street, Barmedman

Other Problems:

A total of 66 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of March.

**3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE**

The following significant Works were undertaken in March 2007:-

- Continued with mains upgrade Beach Street area, Junee.
- Completed new ACV installation Marrar Town Reservoir.
- Dismantled No. 2 Reefton Pump.
- Installed new transfer pump at Ganmain.
- Replaced reflux valve at Coolamon Low Level Reservoir.
- Continued fire hydrant maintenance across scheme.
- Replaced damaged door and joints on Chlorine room at Jugiong.

- Fabricated new pipe work for transfer pump at Ganmain.
- Replaced timber door joints on several pump stations with steel and new doors.

**Recommendation**

That the information be noted.

07/033 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. Speirs and O'Brien that the information be noted.

**H. OTHER REPORTS**

**1. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT** (*Paul Wearne*)

Attached for the information of Councillors is the Capital Works Progress Reports for the period ending 31 March 2007.

**Recommendation**

That the information be noted.

07/034 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. O'Brien and Speirs that the information be noted.

**2. WATER PRODUCTION AND BULK SALES** (*Paul Wearne*)

The Water Production and Bulk Sales graphs to 31 March 2007 are attached to the Business Paper. The Level C Restrictions imposed on 1 December 2006 for consumers within the Jugiong and Oura schemes coupled with rain events since then has seen the consumption within these schemes reduce to within acceptable levels. Level D Restrictions imposed at the same time on consumers within the Mt Arthur and Mount Daylight schemes has seen the consumption within these schemes reduce to within acceptable levels. Level D Restrictions imposed at the same time on consumers within the Hylands Bridge scheme whilst reducing consumption, has continued to remain at above allocation however with the additional water obtained from Narrandera Shire Council, consumption is not expected to surpass the revised allocation.

In consultation with the Chairman, restrictions in all areas were lifted on 4 April 2007 and press releases issued at that time. Consumption is still being closely monitored.

**Recommendation**

That the information be noted.

**2. WATER PRODUCTION AND BULK SALES - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT** (*Paul Wearne*)

Since the preparation of the Business Paper for today's meeting the Prime Minister announced on 19 April 2007 that there is the possibility of no water

being available for irrigation within the Murray – Darling Basin next financial year unless significant rainfall occurs prior to the end of May 2007.

The continuing drought, and in particular the very dry spring required Council to impose restrictions during the summer period so that consumption would remain within sustainable levels (i.e. within allocation). This has been achieved as is evident from the attached graphs and resulted in restrictions being lifted as of 4 April 2007.

The Group Leader, Production & Distribution and the General Manager will be attending a meeting in Leeton on 30 April convened by the Executive Director of Water Management for the Department of Natural Resources. The meeting has been convened “to provide information and the opportunity to discuss water resources in the Murrumbidgee Valley for the coming year.” It is hoped that this meeting will give a better understanding of what the ensuing year may hold. High Security allocations for the current water year have not been reduced and General Security allocations for this year were set at 10% of entitlement. General Security allocations for next year could be set at 0% but there has been no announcement with respect to High Security (and Local Water Authorities) allocations.

Local Water Utilities account for less than 5% of the allocated water from within the Murrumbidgee Valley with Goldenfields Water only having one (1) extraction point for surface water, that being the Jugiong Filtration Plant that has an entitlement of 5,590 megalitres per year.

Routine reservoir cleaning was programmed to commence on Monday 23 April but this has been suspended at least until after today’s meeting. The routine swabbing and flushing of the Oura header mains, Junee, Coolamon and Ganmain townships was deferred from early April, due to the dry conditions, and programmed for early May. Council has continued to be proactive rather than reactive in respect of its flushing and cleaning program which has seen the number of dirty water complaints significantly reduced to those of our early days. Whilst it is possible to ‘skip’ the cleaning of some reservoirs programmed for this year without having an adverse effect on water quality, the cleaning of some mains and reservoirs particularly those close to bore source(s) may still be required. The amount of water ‘lost’ during this process is not significant however the public perception of seeing water ‘running down the streets’ is difficult to manage.

Taking into consideration the recent announcement by the Prime Minister, the question that now has to be asked is does Council have a social responsibility to set an example to the broader community by endeavouring to reduce water consumption? It is suggested that the position be closely monitored and that the General Manager, in consultation with the Chairman or in his absence, the Deputy Chairman, be authorised to take whatever action is deemed appropriate once more information is available.

### **Recommendation**

That the General Manager, in consultation with the Chairman or in his absence, the Deputy Chairman, be authorised to take whatever action is deemed appropriate once more information is available.

07/035 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Macaulay and Speirs that the General Manager, in consultation with the Chairman or in his absence, the Deputy Chairman, be authorised to take whatever action is deemed appropriate once more information is available.

### 3. FIRE HYDRANTS (*Paul Wearne*)

Recent correspondence has been received from the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) regarding the possible installation of Fire Hydrants along the new Stockinbingal to Temora pipeline. Staff have met on site with representatives from the RFS (both zones), the Stockinbingal Brigade and Cootamundra Shire Council (CSC). There are three requested sites within Cootamundra Shire and one within Temora Shire. These are:-

*Opposite Access Road to Stockinbingal Tip.*

- The new main is to be located within private property at this point.
- The location is 2.3 km from the nearest hydrant which is in Stockinbingal

*Intersection of Burley Griffin Way and Clifford's Lane*

- The location is 2.9 km from the nearest hydrant in Stockinbingal

*Intersection of Burley Griffin Way and Smiths Lane*

- The location is 8.3 km from Stockinbingal and 5.8 km from Springdale

*Springdam Road*

- The location is 1.1 km from Springdale Rural Fire Brigade station.

In considering their installation the following is noted:

- ❖ Only one (1) site (Smiths Lane) meets the five (5) kilometre convention applied elsewhere within the GWCC area
- ❖ Representatives from Cootamundra and Temora Shire Councils have verbally agreed to provide and maintain the hardstand area at the sites at their cost.
- ❖ The operating pressures of the new trunk main are close to or in excess of the recommended safe operating pressures of RFS equipment necessitating the installation of a Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) at each site.
- ❖ Estimated installation of each hydrant is \$4,000 to \$5,000 with it expected that GWCC will meet the full cost of installation and also maintenance
- ❖ The Stockinbingal reticulation does give access to hydrants
- ❖ Springdale is currently serviced by one hydrant and one public standpipe.

Taking the above into consideration and in particular the operating pressures it is the view of staff that the request for the installation of these hydrants should be denied.

**Recommendation**

That, having particular regard for personal safety, the request(s) for the installation of hydrants on the Stockinbingal to Temora pipeline be denied.

07/036 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and O'Brien that having particular regard for personal safety, the request(s) for the installation of hydrants on the Stockinbingal to Temora pipeline be denied

**4. REPORT TO MINISTER – REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES** (*Paul Wearne*)

In accordance Minute 07/012, the Report to the Minister for Water Utilities on Review of Relative Efficiencies and Economies of the Reticulation and Distribution of Water was placed on public display for comment. Submissions closed on Monday 26 March 2007 with 8 responses being received. Copies of responses received are included in the Business Paper mail out and can be summarised as follows:-

- 4 in support of the recommendations contained in the report;
- 1 opposed to the recommendations in the report; and
- 3 advising that the submissions had been forwarded directly to the Minister

The Report along with copies of the submissions has been forwarded to the Minister for Water Utilities for consideration.

**Recommendation**

That the information be noted.

07/037 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Speirs and O'Brien that the information be noted.

**5. CONNECTIONS BY ADJACENT WATER AUTHORITIES** (*Paul Wearne*)

The ongoing dry conditions have seen the number of applications for rural connections increase. Whilst Council investigates each application individually and assesses it on its merits, many applications have to be denied. A number of applications have been received from the Coursing Park area of Junee Shire. The scheme in this area was constructed in the 1980's and has reached its capacity some years ago.

One particular landholder in the area has made application in February 2001, September 2002 and February 2006 and on each occasion has been advised that a connection could not be provided. They have again applied in February 2007 and have enquired whether Goldenfields would permit them to be connected to Riverina Water County Council mains that are "close" to the property boundary.

Informal discussions have been held with the General Manager of Riverina Water who has advised that this particular connection may be possible subject to further investigation but would not be considered without written permission from Goldenfields. Connection would only be made on the clear understanding that were Goldenfields to upgrade the system in that area at some time in the future

that would enable a connection to be provided to this individual then the customer would be transferred back to Goldenfields.

Whilst each water utility is responsible for the provision of services within their respective area by legislation, there is a good working relationship between Goldenfields and Riverina Water that could enable arrangements to be made in this instance. Of concern is the precedent it may set and the subjectiveness of the decision. This particular property may be “close” to the boundary however what is the definition of “close”? Should this arrangement be approved, then it is anticipated that other applications for similar connections would be forthcoming.

It is standard industry practice that neighbouring water authorities do not encroach across boundaries other than in exceptional circumstances and by formal agreement. It is therefore suggested that, whilst sympathetic of the circumstances individuals may be facing, Council not allow individual connection by neighbouring water authorities in the Goldenfields area.

### **Recommendation**

That the provision, by adjacent water authorities, of individual connections to lands within the Goldenfields Water County Council area not be permitted.

It was MOVED on the motion of Crs. Macaulay and Speirs that the provision, by adjacent water authorities, of individual connections to lands within the Goldenfields Water County Council area not be permitted

Cr. O’Brien FORESHADOWED a motion, that Council not oppose the applicant negotiating with Riverina Water in this instance where they have no other option

07/038 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Macaulay and Speirs that the provision, by adjacent water authorities, of individual connections to lands within the Goldenfields Water County Council area not be permitted.

## **6. 2007/08 DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN (Paul Wearne)**

The Draft Management Plan and Budget for the 2007/08 Financial Year is included in the Business Paper mail out. The plan is generically similar to previous year with the exception of the following:-

- *Headworks (Infrastructure) Charges* or Developer Charges have been amended in line with the adopted Development Servicing Plans for standard (20mm) connections. Headworks Contributions for connections above 20mm are calculated on a Peak Day Demand basis.
- *Pricing Structure* – In accordance with Minute 07/013 of the February 2007 meeting of Council the Draft Management Plan and Budget have been prepared using the following criteria.
  - Access charges for Retail customers remain unchanged from previous years at \$204 per annum.
  - Consumption charges for Retail Customers for Potable and Non-Potable water have been increased by 3.63% from \$1.10 per kilolitre to \$1.14 per kilolitre

- Access charges to Bulk Council customers have remained unchanged from previous years
  - Consumption charges for Bulk Council customers have been set at 54% of the Retail Consumption charge resulting in an increase of 3.63% from \$0.5940 per kilolitre to \$0.6156 per kilolitre up to the predetermined monthly amount.
- *Capital Works Program* – The three year Capital Works Program is based on Council’s adopted 30 year Capital Works Program with some minor adjustment to the timing of projects. It is anticipated that some projects within the 2006/07 Program will not be completed by June 30 and unexpended votes at the end of the year will be carried forward into the 2007/08 year subject to the approval of Council. A detailed report on these projects will be submitted to Council for consideration at the end of the current financial year.
- *Non Reticulated Headworks Contributions for the Naradhan/Weethalle/Tallimba system* – The contribution has been reduced by a further 10% in line with Council’s decision to ultimately align these contributions with the standard non-reticulated headworks contribution.
- *Tapping, Service and Meter Charge* – The tapping fee for a standard 20mm connection has been increased by \$100 and sizes from 25mm to 50mm have been increased by the same amount. This is still approximately half of the average cost.
- *Sundry Fees and Charges* – Regulatory fees and charges have remained unchanged as no advice of change has yet been received from the relevant authorities. Should advice be received prior to the adoption of the Plan then amendments will be made and reported to Council. Other sundry charges have been amended to better reflect the actual cost of providing the service.
- *Organisational Structure* – The proposed organisation structure is generally similar to the current adopted structure but with the inclusion of one (1) additional position. Some title changes have been made to better reflect the roles and responsibilities of the incumbent. Three (3) currently vacant positions have been removed from the structure and replaced with positions more reflective of Councils needs with it hoped they will appear more attractive to applicants.
- *Draft Budget* – The Draft Budget has been prepared using the pricing structure referred to above resulting in an anticipated decrease in revenue on the current year of 7.5%. Estimated Expenditure line items have generally increased in line with CPI and some specific maintenance projects have been included. Operating Expenses overall have been anticipated to increase by 3.47% from those of the current year. The projected operating results are viewed as reasonable but will obviously be dependant on factors outside the control of Council, namely, the weather.

**Recommendation**

That the Draft Management Plan, as amended, be adopted and exhibited, and that Council make a final Management Plan for the 2007/2008 year at its June Meeting.

- 07/039 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Speirs that the Draft Management Plan, as amended, be adopted and exhibited, and that Council make a final Management Plan for the 2007/2008 year at its June Meeting.

**7. 2007 ANNUAL SHIRES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE***(Paul Wearne)*

The Shires Association Annual Conference will be held at the Sofitel Wentworth Sydney from 4 – 6 June. Details of the Conference Program are not yet available however, so that registrations forms can be submitted, I seek an indication from Council who will be attending on behalf of Goldenfields and who will be our Voting Delegate at the conference. In past years the General Manager has also attended as an observer.

**Recommendation**

1. That Council nominates a voting delegate for the 2007 Shires Association Annual Conference.
2. That Council nominate an observer(s) for the 2007 Shires Association Annual Conference

- 07/040 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and O'Brien that Council nominates a voting delegate, Cr. Macaulay for the 2007 Shires Association Annual Conference and that Council nominates observer(s), Cr Palmer and Mr P. Wearne, General Manager for the 2007 Shires Association Annual Conference.

**8. STOCKINBINGAL TO TEMORA PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT: UPDATE** *(Bill West)*

Council resolved at the February meeting to accept, subject to the resolution of several contractual issues, the tender of Templemichael Constructions Pty Ltd for the construction of the Stockinbinal to Temora Replacement Pipeline.

The issues relating to the Development Application Consent from the Cootamundra Shire Council and an outstanding landowner approval to access and construct through private property have now been resolved, with no additional cost to the Templemichael Construction Pty Ltd contract.

Despite the delay in awarding the contract exceeding the validity period, the contractor has confirmed that the tender price and duration remains unchanged, with completion of the contract expected to be in November.

The existing pipeline will remain in service until all the rural property connections have been transferred to the new pipeline by GWCC. When all services have been connected to the new pipeline, the existing pipeline will be

disconnected at Shoards Pit with the section of existing pipeline through Springdale to be end capped by GWCC to continue servicing Springdale.

**Recommendation**

That the information be noted.

- 07/041 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Speirs and O'Brien that the information be noted and that the affixing of the Council Seal to relevant documents be authorised.

**9. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS** (*Paul Wearne*)

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for June 2007 and it is suggested that this meeting be held in Temora.

**Recommendation**

That the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Thursday 28 June 2007 at Council's Temora offices.

- 07/042 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and McGregor that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Thursday 28 June 2007 at Council's Temora offices.

**I. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

Cr. McGregor advised Council that he had written to Malcolm Turnbull, Federal Minister for Water, about the management of noxious weeds in creeks and rivers.

Cr. Palmer sought and was provided with information relating to the starting time for the Stockinbingal to Temora Pipeline Replacement Project.

Cr. Speirs sought and was provided with information relating to fire hydrants, mains repairs and Fire Brigade notification.

**J. CLOSED SESSION** (*Pink pages*) – **3.16pm**

- 07/043 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Macaulay and Speirs that the Council meet in Closed Session.

**1. OURA BORE NO 2 REPLACEMENT** (*Paul Wearne*)

*This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:*

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

- 07/044 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Speirs that the offer made by Walsh & Blair, Lawyers, acting on behalf of Mr Kelly be accepted on the basis that it represents the best value for money for Council.

**2. TENANDRA PUMPING STATION**

*This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:*

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

07/045 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and O'Brien that the Tenandra Pumping Station site be retained by Council for potential future development.

**3. DEFERMENT OF HEADWORKS CONTRIBUTION***(Paul Wearne)*

*This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under section 10A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:*

*(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer*

07/046 RESOLVED on the motions of Crs. Edwards and Speirs that to resolve the illegal multiple premises connection matter raised, deferment of the Headworks contribution be permitted in this instance, subject to the acceptance of the following terms and conditions:

1. That with the exception of the payment of charges, all other conditions set out in Council's Letter of Offer dated 5 February 2007 are to be complied with prior to connection
2. That an initial payment of \$3,700 be made prior to connection. This payment includes a \$600 Tapping Fee and a Headworks Contribution of \$3,100 which is equivalent to the standard 20mm Reticulated connection Headworks Contribution.
3. That the outstanding amount of \$4,400 be raised as a debt on the land, attract interest until paid and be repaid by way of eight (8) quarterly instalments of \$550 (plus interest).

**OPEN SESSION – 3.30pm**

07/047 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Speirs that Council revert to Open Session and that the resolutions made in closed session be made public.

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There being no further business requiring the attention of the Council, the Meeting closed at 3.30pm.

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