

MINUTES for the MEETING of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at COOTAMUNDRA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS on THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2007 starting at 1.16pm.

PRESENT

Cr. D. Bolte (Chair), Cr. C. Manchester, Cr. D. Palmer, Cr. J Macaulay and Cr. J. Edwards.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

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

A. APOLOGIES

07/074 An apology for non-attendance was received from Cr. P. Speirs, Cr. J. O'Brien and Cr. J. McGregor and a leave of absence was granted on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Manchester.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2007.

07/075 The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2007 having been circulated and read by the Members, were confirmed on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

NIL

D. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Hon Paul Lynch, MP, Minister for Local Government (Received 9/7/07)	Acknowledging receipt of Goldenfields' correspondence of 11 May 2007 and advising that the he has referred it to Minister Koperberg. Recommendation That the information be noted.
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07/076 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the information be noted.

2. The Hon Phil Koperberg, MP, Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water (Received 11/7/07)	Acknowledging receipt of Goldenfields' correspondence of 11 May 2007 and advising that the he has referred it to the Murrumbidgee Critical Water Advisory Group. Recommendation That the information be noted.
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07/077 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the information be noted.

3. The Hon John Cobb, MP, Assistant Minister for the Environment and Water Resources
(Received 20/7/07)
- Acknowledging receipt of Goldenfields' correspondence of 11 May 2007.
Recommendation
That the information be noted.

07/078 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the information be noted.

4. The Hon Nathan Rees, MP Minister for Water Utilities
(Received 20/7/07)
- Acknowledging receipt of Goldenfields' correspondence of 11 May 2007 and advising that the he has referred it to the Department of Water & Energy.
Recommendation
That the information be noted.

07/079 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the information be noted.

5. Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Sustainability Programs, Department of Environment & Climate Change
(Received 10/7/07)
- Providing information on the NSW Government's Rainwater Tank Rebate Program.
GM's Note: An information pamphlet is included in Councillors Business Paper mail-out.
Recommendation
That the information be noted.

07/080 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the information be noted.

E. FINANCIAL REPORT (P. Dwyer)

1. CHEQUE WARRANTS – JUNE 2007 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	17585 – 17699	
	Autopays 600238-600239	
	71044 – 71119	\$1,356,702.51

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$ 340,104.50
Deposits	\$1,200,018.65
	<u>\$1,540,123.15</u>
Withdrawals	\$1,356,702.51
Balance as at 30 June 2007	<u>\$ 183,420.64</u>

2. CHEQUE WARRANTS – JULY 2007 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	17700 – 17811	
	Autopays 600240-600242	
	71120 – 71168	\$2,710,693.25

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$ 183,420.64
Deposits	\$2,797,738.85
	<u>\$2,981,159.49</u>
Withdrawals	\$2,710,693.25
Balance as at 31 July 2007	<u>\$ 270,466.24</u>

3. REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 30 June 2007

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,703,339.41	6.36
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$14,541,854.97	6.13
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$736,025.41	6.20
LGFS Term Deposit due 25.7.07-194296	\$700,000.00	6.39
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
CBA Term Deposit due 30.08.07	\$500,000.00	6.35
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.11.07-194418	\$500,000.00	6.50
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.12.07-192778	\$500,000.00	6.60
LGFS Term Deposit due 20.3.08-193928	\$500,000.00	6.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.6.08-194803	\$500,000.00	6.85
CBA Term Deposit due 06.06.08	\$500,000.00	6.77
TOTAL:	\$26,681,219.79	

GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – AUGUST 2007

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

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,738,237.99	6.13
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$14,613,268.51	5.79
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$1,758,987.21	6.20
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
CBA Term Deposit due 30.08.07	\$500,000.00	6.35
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.11.07-194418	\$500,000.00	6.50
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.12.07-192778	\$500,000.00	6.60
LGFS Term Deposit due 20.3.08-193928	\$500,000.00	6.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.6.08-194803	\$500,000.00	6.85
CBA Term Deposit due 06.06.08	\$500,000.00	6.77
TOTAL:	\$27,110,493.71	

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.

07/081 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Macaulay that the information in respect to items E1 and E3 be noted.

4. OUTSTANDING DEBTORS

The balances outstanding as at 2 July 2007 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	118,034	6,875	511,767	636,676
Consumption Charges	242,776	32,809	1,536,251	1,811,836
Deferred headworks			65,100	65,100
TOTAL:	360,810	39,684	2,113,118	2,513,612
Overpayments				37,621

The balances outstanding as at 8 August 2007 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	40,714	6,535	169,537	216,786
Consumption Charges	111,592	31,699	312,822	456,113
Deferred headworks			85,100	85,100
TOTAL:	152,306	38,234	567,459	757,999
Overpayments				60,953

Recommendation

That the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

- 07/082 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Macaulay that the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

5. AUDIT OF PERFORMANCE REPORTING

From information provided by the Department of Water and Energy the Commonwealth and States completed the signing of an intergovernmental Agreement on a National Water Initiative (NWI Agreement) in 2006. Under the agreement the parties agreed to report independently, publicly, and on an annual basis, on benchmarking of pricing and service quality for urban and rural water utilities. The national performance reports will provide for a comparison of water utility performance over time and between utilities.

Initially it appeared that Council would not come under the umbrella of the major utilities involved with this audit, however, Sam Samra advised that Goldenfields was indeed caught under this initiative.

Council would be aware that performance reports have been submitted on an annual basis to DEUS since Council's inception. Up until now these reports have not required independent verification. Now, however, the Audit of Council's performance reporting must be carried out by an independent qualified engineer/auditor with the first audit to be carried out on the 2006/2007 performance figures. Future comprehensive audits must be undertaken at a minimum of three yearly intervals.

To comply with the requirements quotations have been sought from selected Engineering firms qualified to conduct such audits. No provision has been made in the budget for this audit as Council was not informed of this requirement until after the budget was formulated. It is anticipated that the cost of the audit will be between \$10,000 and \$20,000. A further report on the quotations will be provided at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the report on the audit of performance reporting be noted.

- 07/083 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Palmer that the report on the audit of performance reporting be noted and the action of the staff be endorsed.

6. BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 JUNE

The Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 30 June 2007 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)	\$396,880
Revision at 30 September 2006 – deficit	-\$193,533
Revision at 31 December 2006 – surplus	\$676,240
Revision at 31 March 2007 – surplus	\$605,043
Anticipated surplus for year at 31 March 2007	\$1,484,630
Revision at 30 June	\$366,992
Anticipated result for year now – surplus	\$1,851,622

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

Revenue

- Service and user charges – increased by approximately \$223,000 – due to period being drier than anticipated.
- Interest on Investments – increased by approximately \$99,000 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.
- Other revenues – minor variations in some areas.

Operating revenue increased by \$327,696.

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. Energy & chemical costs increased as a result of more water being pumped/treated with higher consumption/sales.

Overall the operating expenditure shows a decrease of approximately \$39,000 from the figures anticipated in the March review.

Capital

- Headworks contributions – increased by \$18,000 – revised estimate.

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

Recommendation

That the information report at 30 June 2007 be noted.

07/084 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the information report at 30 June 2007 be noted.

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

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONS.	DIA/TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KL)	REASON
	Off	On					
4/6/07	-	-	Malebo Range	-	200	10	Split pipe
5/6/07	-	-	Marrar	-	100	5	Split pipe
7/6/07	11.30	2.00	Coursing Park	4	80	10	Cracked pipe
7/6/07	-	-	Cowangs to Bauloora	-	375	3	Joint failure
8/6/07	-	-	Hadrills Lane, Naradhan	-	80	5	Split pipe
11/6/07	1.00	5.30	Tallimba Retic	-	150	50	Split pipe
13/6/07	-	-	Malebo Range	-	80	2	Split pipe
15/6/07	-	-	Barellan Road, Weethalle	-	100	1	Failed SSRC
16/6/07	1.00	5.00	Temora Road, Marrar	5	50	10	Split pipe
18/6/07	-	-	Binya	-	100	20	Split pipe
18/6/07	-	-	Futter Park	-	375	50	Joint failure
18/6/07	-	-	Leeton Road, Binya	-	100	20	Hole in pipe
18/6/07	-	-	Cowangs to Bauloora	-	-	3	Joint failure
20/6/07	-	-	Frampton	-	100	12	Split pipe
20/6/07	-	-	Trunk main, West Wyalong	-	300	25	Joint failure
20/6/07	-	-	Gubbata Road, Weethalle	-	100	5	Hole in pipe
25/6/07	-	-	Cowangs to Bauloora	-	375	-	Joint failure
25/6/07	-	-	Malebo Range	-	200	500	Split pipe
25/6/07	-	-	June Silos	-	50	20	Split pipe
27/6/07	2.30	3.30	Ardlethan	15	100	20	Joint failure
27/6/07	2.00	3.30	Bygoo Street, Ardlethan	-	100	10	Failed joint
27/6/07	-	-	Ardlethan Retic	-	100	20	Joint failure
29/6/07	-	-	Malebo Range	1	50	10	Joint failure
29/6/07	12.00	2.00	Malebo Range	-	80	15	Split pipe
29/6/07	-	-	Cartwrights Hill	-	50	10	Split pipe

2. COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

01/06/07 Olympic Way Auto Port
18/06/07 29 Hill Street

Dirty Water – Other

13/06/07 10 Brampton Street, Temora
28/06/07 26 Gladstone Street, West Wyalong

Other Problems:

13/06/07 Lot 15 Logan Road, Junee – Chlorine smell in water.

A total of 51 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of June.

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant works were undertaken in June 2007:-

- Remove No. 1 pump at Tara Pump Station for overhaul.
- Remove No. 3 pump at Demondrille for overhaul.
- Continue ACV and PRV servicing across scheme.
- Complete services to new main in Nottingham Street, Temora.
- Cut-in new valves for replacement of rail crossing Kanaley Street, Junee.
- Complete new power supply to Cowangs telemetry including road under-bore.
- Replaced 700mts of 100mm pipe along Harefield Road, Junee.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/085 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Palmer that the information be noted.

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

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONS.	DIA/TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KL)	REASON
	Off	On					
3/7/07	8.30	12.30	Dirnaseer Road, Frampton	3	100	5	Split pipe
5/7/07	-	-	Thanowring Road, Temora	-	250	20	Split pipe
5/7/07	-	-	Thanowring Road, Temora	100	250	20	Cracked pipe
8/7/07	-	-	Sutton Lane, Cootamundra	-	100	15	Split pipe
9/7/07	12.00	4.30	Cowangs/Bauloora	10	375	20	Joint failure
9/7/07	11.00	1.00	Bell Hill	10	375	20	Joint failure
10/7/07	9.30	3.30	Cowangs/Bauloora	4	375	8	Joint failure
12/7/07	-	-	Trunk Main West Wyalong	-	300	15	Joint failure
12/7/07	2.20	4.30	Trunk Main Wyalong	3	300	35	Hole in main
13/7/07	-	-	Barmedman Line	20	300	20	Joint failure
13/7/07	-	-	Bauloora – Stockinbingal	-	375	20	Joint failure
13/7/07	-	-	Barmedman	-	300	20	Joint failure
15/7/07	-	-	Temora Retic	-	100	5	Split in pipe
15/7/07	-	-	Tallimba Line	-	150	50	Split in pipe
16/7/07	-	-	Cootamundra	-	375	10	Hole in pipe
16/7/07	-	-	Ganmain	-	100	2	Split pipe
17/7/07	-	-	Cowangs/Bauloora	-	375	10	Hole in pipe
18/7/07	-	-	Cowangs/Bauloora	-	375	20	Joint failure
18/7/07	-	-	Illabo Rural Retic	-	100	5	Split pipe
19/7/07	-	-	Main line Wyalong	-	300	5	Joint failure
20/7/07	-	-	Trunk Main Wyalong	-	300	15	Joint failure
23/07/07	-	-	Bootoowa Road, Mt Daylight	-	80	5	Hole in pipe
23/7/07	-	-	Trunk Main Wyalong	-	300	5	Joint failure
23/7/07	-	-	Cowangs/Bauloora	-	375	10	Joint failure
24/7/07	-	-	Cowangs/Bauloora	-	375	5	Joint failure
25/7/07	-	-	Trunk Main Wyalong	-	300	10	Joint failure
25/7/07	-	-	Cowangs/Bauloora	-	375	20	Joint failure

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26/7/07	8.00	10.00	Emu Street, Wyalong	45	100	10	Burst main
26/7/07	8.30	11.00	York Street, Marrar	-	100	5	Split pipe
26/7/07	8.00	12.00	Coolamon Road, Marrar	20	100	15	Split pipe
31/7/07	-	-	Sturt Street, Wyalong	15	100	10	Cut-in new main

2. COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

Nil

Dirty Water – Other

09/07/07 18 Wilga Street, West Wyalong

25/07/07 4 Showground Road, Ganmain

26/07/07 Barellan Road, Moomboodool

Other Problems:

06/07/07 15 Logan Road, Junee – bad chemical smell in water.

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

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant works were undertaken in July 2007:-

- Commenced installation of 375m main in Loftus Street, Temora (Stage 2).
- Install new reflux valve at Dirnaseer Reservoirs.
- Commenced major maintenance of all valves on Tenandra Line.
- Remove No. 6 Bore at Oura for overhaul.
- No. 2 pump at Jugiong removed for major overhaul.
- Install new meters on No. 1 and No. 2 pumps at Thanowring Road.
- Fabricate new tray and tool boxes for construction truck.
- Overhaul No. 3 pump at Demondrille.
- Continue service of ACV's and PRV's across the scheme.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/086 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Palmer that the information be noted.

H. OTHER REPORTS

1. PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

(Cr David Bolte)

To Councillor Members of Goldenfields Water

At the February meeting of Goldenfields Water it was indicated that the Performance Review of the General Manager was due.

Due to a number of circumstances it was not possible to do this review earlier and I apologise for this delay.

Councillor Manchester and I conducted this review on the 28th June 2007.

The General Manager's contract details certain position responsibilities and performance measures for assessment.

The table includes the General Manager's comments as to how these criteria are being met, as well as the ratings Councillor Manchester and I have awarded. The ratings range from A – D... C & D indicate ratings below expectation.

The Review assessment gave an overall rating of B+. A copy of this will be handed to members at our August meeting for perusal.

The contract also allows for a review of the General Manager's salary package. Councillor Manchester and I would like to recommend an increase of \$7,500 bringing the total package to \$127,500. We would also like to recommend that the increase be effective from the 27th March 2007.

The review and its recommendations are presented to you as members of Goldenfields Water County Council for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,
David I Bolte (Chairman)

Recommendation

That the recommendations of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be adopted.

The General Manager and other staff members left the meeting whilst the item was considered, the time being 1.40pm.

The General Manager and other staff members returned to the meeting, the time being 1.48pm.

07/087 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Manchester that the recommendations of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be adopted.

2. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT (Paul Wearne)

Attached for the information of Councillors are the Capital Works Progress Reports for the period ending 30 June 2007 (Attachment 1) and 31 July 2007 (Attachment 2)

The year ending 30 June 2007 can be summarised by the following table:-

Number	Status	2006/07 Budget	Expenditure	Variation	Carried Forward	Additional Required
14	Completed	2,082,196	2,159,057	-76,861		0
4	Construction completed - minor works still required	3,729,669	3,526,529	203,141	203,141	-48,584
1	Construction completed over budget minor works still required	1,361,446	1,483,771	-122,325		20,000
8	Multi Year Projects	3,855,528	601,814	3,253,714	3,253,714	350,000
8	Projects incomplete	3,270,017	1,408,690	1,861,327	1,861,327	100,000
6	Ongoing	1,080,897	475,257	605,640		0
41		15,379,753	9,655,117	5,724,636	5,318,181	421,416

To allow completion of unfinished and multi-year projects it is now necessary for Council to authorise the carry over of unexpended amounts totalling \$5,318,181 from the 2006/07 year to the 2007/08 year. It is also requested that Council formally vote the additional expenditure incurred in 2006/07 on particular projects totalling \$199,186.

Staff have reviewed the estimates for incomplete and multi-year projects and identified additional funds required to complete these projects totalling \$671,416 which will need to be voted.

Given the above end of year result, a review of the 2007/08 Capital Works program has been undertaken. Whilst staff are optimistic in reaching strategic goals we are also realistic given matters outside Council's control such as delivery time for materials and skills shortages. It is therefore suggested that the following multi-year projects included in the adopted 2007/08 Management Plan be deferred by the amounts detailed for one (1) year:-

Location	Description	Amount Deferred	Comment
Oura & Matong Systems	Install iron/manganese minimisation systems	50,000	Deferred until results of baffles at Ganmain can be assessed
Various	Site Acquisition & Construction of Radio Facilities	100,000	Priority placed on land and easement acquisition
Oura	Additional Storage	90,000	Design unlikely to be completed during the year. \$10,000 retained for investigation

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Oura Bores	Additional or Replacement Bore	200,000	Delay in resolving land matters
Jugiong #1 Pumping Station	Major Upgrade	1,000,000	Design unlikely to be completed during the year. Funds carried forward from 2006/07 sufficient for cost of design
Reefton Barmedman -	Mains Replacement	2,400,000	\$95,000 retained for design and tender process. Construction unlikely to commence this year given delays in supply of materials
Yiddah Wyalong -	Mains Replacement	2,400,000	\$95,000 retained for design and tender process. Construction unlikely to commence this year given delays in supply of materials
To be determined	Site/Easement Acquisition	100,000	\$100,000 retained. Legal processes slow
Cootamundra - Bauloora	Mains Replacement	95,000	\$5,000 retained for investigation. Design unlikely to be completed during the year
Total		6,435,000	

Subject to Council approval of the above, the revised Capital Works Program for 2007/08 can be summarised as follows:-

Capital Works Program (as adopted 2007/08 Management Plan)	\$15,115,000
Plus Amounts Carried Forward from 2006/07	5,318,181
Additional Amounts to be voted in 2007/08	421,416
Less 2007/08 budget items deferred to 2008/09	(6,435,000)

Revised Capital Works Program for 2007/08	\$14,419,597

While it is industry standard to review the budget at the end of the September quarter, it is requested that these amendments to the Capital Works program for 2007/08 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 additional expenditure incurred on completed project as at 30/06/07 totalling \$199,186 be formally approved.
2. That the incomplete capital works as at 30/06/07 totalling \$5,318,181 be revoted in the 2007/08 budget.
3. That additional funds of \$421,416 be adopted in principal for inclusion in the 2007/08 Budget.
4. That the Revised Capital Works Program for 2007/08 totalling \$14,419,597 be adopted in principal prior to formal adoption as part of the next Quarterly Budget Review.

07/088 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Macaulay that:

1. The additional expenditure incurred on completed project as at 30/06/07 totalling \$199,186 be formally approved.
2. The incomplete capital works as at 30/06/07 totalling \$5,318,181 be revoked in the 2007/08 budget.
3. Additional funds of \$421,416 be adopted in principal for inclusion in the 2007/08 Budget.
4. The Revised Capital Works Program for 2007/08 totalling \$14,419,597 be adopted in principal prior to formal adoption as part of the next Quarterly Budget Review.

3. CRITICAL WATER AVAILABILITY FOR 2007-08 (*Paul Wearne*)

Councillors will be aware, through regular updates from the General Manager, of the ongoing matter of availability of water for the 2007/08 water year. A Public Notice in *Daily Advertiser* on Thursday 5 July 2007 advised that the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water had made an Available Water Determination (AWD) for Local Water Utility (LWU) access licences in the Murrumbidgee Regulated River Source effective from 1 July 2007. The AWD Order has allocated (effectively) 50% of LWU's annual licence entitlement for the 2007/08 water year.

Representatives including the chairman/mayors and general managers of Goldenfields Water and Cootamundra, Harden and Young Shire Councils met on Wednesday 11 July 2007 and agreed to recommend to their respective councils that the following restrictions be imposed on customers supplied from the Jugiong Water Treatment Plant. It was also recommended that these restrictions will be effective from Friday 20 July 2007 until further notice.

Under delegated authority, the Chairman and General Manager of Goldenfields Water have accepted its recommendations.

Accordingly, the following water restrictions were imposed:-

Goldenfields Water Customers east of (but not including) Temora township and including the villages of Springdale, Stockinbingal, and Wallendbeen and surrounding areas and Goldenfields Water rural customers within Cootamundra Shire are advised that these water restrictions will come into effect on Friday 20 July 2007 until further notice.

Those restrictions are:-

- Domestic garden watering is limited to the use of hand held hoses for one (1) hour per day
- The filling and topping up of private swimming pools is prohibited
- The washing of paved areas and roofs by buckets only except as required by law
- Public gardens, sports grounds and bowling greens are limited to sprinklers for one (1) hour per day
- Water cartage from Goldenfields Water Supply is only from Council's public standpipes
- There is presently no restrictions on the washing of motor vehicles but customers are urged to do so on lawn areas

- There is no restriction on ready mixed concrete or Abattoirs and other industrial activities with these users strongly encouraged to adopt water saving measures.

All other Goldenfields Water Customers including the townships and villages of Junee, Illabo, Bethungra, Marrar, Temora, Aria Park, Mirrool, Beckom, Ardlethan, West Wyalong, Wyalong, Barmedman, Calleen, Ungarie, Tallimba, Weethalle, Naradhan, Barellan, Binya, Coolamon, Ganmain, Matong, and Grong Grong and all rural customers are reminded that the following previously imposed water restrictions remain in force until further notice.

These restrictions are:-

- The use of sprinklers, fixed hoses and fixed sprinkler systems are prohibited for all domestic garden watering
- The filling and topping up of private swimming pools is prohibited
- The washing of paved areas and roofs by buckets only except as required by law
- Public gardens, sports grounds and bowling greens are limited to sprinklers for one (1) hour per day
- Water cartage from Goldenfields Water Supply is only from Council's public standpipes
- There is presently no restrictions on the washing of motor vehicles but customers are urged to do so on lawn areas
- There are no restrictions on ready mixed concrete or Abattoirs and other industrial activities with these users strongly encouraged to adopt water saving measures.

At the meeting of 11 July it was agreed that the GWCC General Manager, on behalf of the four councils, write to Minister Koperberg to express disappointment at the manner in which we became aware of the AWD Order (i.e. by way of Public Notice as opposed to direct contact, written or verbal) and the lack of communication and consultation with Local Water Utilities (LWU) during recent months. Clarification was also sought as to how the percentage contained within the AWD was derived. Given that Town Water Supplies are entitled to 0.85% of the Total Water Allocation for the Murrumbidgee River, it is difficult to comprehend how a 50% reduction in that allocation will have a measurable positive impact on available water. At the time of writing this report, no response has been received.

Katrina Hodgkinson, MP, Member for Burrinjuck convened a meeting of Local Water Authorities from within her electorate and Minister Koperberg in Harden on 30 July 2007. Goldenfields was represented by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and General Manager. Unfortunately, Minister Koperberg was a last minute apology for the meeting, citing a more important matter in Sydney and also was not represented by anyone from his Department. A copy of the Communiqué released after the meeting is attached for the information of Council.

Minister Koperberg rescheduled the above meeting and met with Local Water Utilities at Young on 8 August 2007. Goldenfields was again represented by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and General Manager. Information provided by the Minister did help explain the present circumstances a little better and what levels

must be reached for water to become available for other licence holders. He did not however (in my opinion) adequately respond when asked what levels must be reached for town water supplies to receive an increase in allocation. Rather he responded by stating “town water supply, and domestic and stock will remain at 50 per cent of entitlement at this stage. Local councils and water supply authorities in the Murrumbidgee Valley that were previously requested to voluntarily implement Level 4 restrictions may consider relaxing these restrictions in the coming months”. The Minister did undertake to keep LWU’s better informed of developments as they occur.

At present, Council still has only been allocated 50% of its surface water entitlements. The restrictions presently in place have been imposed based on that 50% allocation and I would suggest to Council that they remain so until such time as the allocation is increased and a further review is undertaken.

Recommendation

That the information be noted and that Council endorse the action taken by the Chairman and General Manager.

07/089 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Palmer that the information be noted and that Council endorse the action taken by the Chairman and General Manager.

4. RENEWAL OF GOLDENFIELDS “AWARD” (Paul Wearne)

Further to the report to the June Meeting regarding the above and in accordance with Minute 07/063 from that meeting, the Work Choices, Where to from Here Discussion Paper June 2007 was distributed to all permanent employees on 3 July with the request that they vote for or against “in principal” support for the paper by close of business on 20 July. The results of that vote are depicted in the table below:-

Total Number of Voting Slips	53
GIVE “in principal” support for the Paper	24
DO NOT GIVE “in principal” support for the Paper	14
Informal Votes	Nil
Total Votes Received	38
Voting Slips not returned	15

Nominations have been called for the five (5) Employee Representatives on the proposed working party with these closing on Friday 17 August. An election will be conducted soon after that date.

Pursuant to Minute 07/063 Council is now required to nominate a councillor to be its representative on the proposed working party. Council is also required to determine the level of “interim wage increase” to be granted to the current Preserved State Award (PSA) effective from the first full pay period after 1 November 2007.

The Australian Fair Pay Commission Wage-Setting Decision (July 2007) was handed down on 5 July 2007. An extract from the *Local Government Weekly*

28/07, *Items 5* of 13 July 2007 is reproduced below for the information of Council.

“...the AFPC’s Wage-Setting Decision (the Decision) for 2007 increased preserved Pay and Classification Scales as follows:

- *Pay scales that provide for a basic periodic rate of pay of up to and including \$18.42 per hour are increased by \$0.27 per hour; and*
- *Pay scales that provide for a basic periodic rate of pay that is more than \$18.42 per hour are increased by \$0.14 per hour.*

The Decision takes effect from the first full pay period (ffpp) to commence on or after 1 October 2007 and applies to councils that are constitutional corporations covered by the Notional Agreement Preserving the Local Government (State) Award 2004 and its associated Australian Pay and Classification Scales.

Councils that are constitutional corporations covered by a Preserved State Award (PSA) are not affected by the Decision if the PSA provides for basic rates of pay.....”

As the Goldenfields Water County Council Enterprise Award 2004 is a Preserved State Award the Decision referred to above does not apply. However, the AFPC do intend to hand down future decisions in July of each year with these to be effective from the following 1 October and there may be some merit in Goldenfields aligning any future pay increases with the 1 October date.

To assist Council in determining the level of “interim wage increase” it is advised that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) percentage increase to 30 June 2007 was 2.1%. The Local Government and Shires Association of NSW (LGSA) have advised that other Local Government Authorities who have opted for an interim wage increase have ranged between 2.1 % and 4.0% depending on their individual circumstances. The following points are raised for consideration:-

- The current skills shortage within the Local Government industry
- Salaries need to be competitive to attract and retain good calibre staff
- Council’s ability to attract suitable applicants for vacant positions
- Council’s ability to retain expertise and experience within the organization
- Encourage minimum staffing levels to maximise use of skills and acceptance of responsibilities
- Disparity between Local Government, other tiers of government and Private Sector wage scales
- The expectations of current employees to receive a “reasonable” increase
- An above minimum increment will encourage genuine contributions from staff

The United Services Union (USU) has written to Council requesting that the two parties enter into a Referral Agreement (RA) in accordance with Section 146A of the Industrial Relations Act 1996. The proposed RA is significantly different to the model prepared by the LGSA and further advice is being sought before a recommendation is made to Council.

The Minister for Industrial Relations, John Della Bosca issued a Media Release on 6 August 2007 warning councils “they will face legal action if they attempt to force their workers into the unfair Work Choices regime”. A copy of the Media Release and the referenced letter to Mayors and General Managers is attached for the information of Council.

A further verbal report will be provided at the meeting.

Recommendation

1. That Council nominates one Councillor to join the General Manager as its representatives on the Work Choices Working Party.
2. That Council determine an interim wage increase to all non-contracted employees.
3. That this increase be effective from the first full pay period on or after 1 October 2007.

07/090 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Macaulay that:

1. Council nominates one Councillor to join the General Manager as its representatives on the Work Choices Working Party.
2. Council determine an interim wage increase to all non-contracted employees.
3. This increase be effective from the first full pay period on or after 1 October 2007.

07/091 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that Councils representative on the Working Party be Cr. Bolte and that Cr. Speirs be the alternate representative.

07/092 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Macaulay and Manchester that an interim wage increase of four (4) percent be granted to all non-contracted employees and that this increase be effective from the first full pay period on or after 1 October 2007.

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

At the time of preparation of this Business Paper no response to the abovementioned report forwarded to the Minister for Water Utilities on 3 April 2007 has been received.

Recommendation

That the information be noted

07/093 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Macaulay that the information be noted.

6. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM JUNE MEETING
(Paul Wearne)

In the Questions and Statements section of the June 2007 meeting Cr Speirs raised the issue of the Department of Local Government’s Guidelines on Closed

Sessions of Council Meetings and the potential impact of changes to the State Records Act. Information has been sought from the Department of Local Government and Records. The sample records management policy provided by State Records is some fourteen (14) pages and staff is presently condensing this into a draft policy that will be placed before a future council meeting for consideration.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/094 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Edwards that the information be noted.

7. THANOWRING ROAD – BARELLAN ELECTRICAL UPGRADE
(Nick Nasser)

Quotations have been received for two projects in relation to electricals/control upgrading and telemetry installation on the section from Thanowring Road pumping station to Barellan.

The budgets for 2007/08 were \$155,000 and \$100,000 respectively.

The quotation considered best value for the electrical/control upgrade is \$111,640 with an additional \$40,000 in GWCC costs, making a total of \$151,640, leaving a \$3,360 surplus on budget estimates.

The quotation considered best value for the telemetry upgrade is \$95,360, with no GWCC costs associated, leaving a surplus on budgeted estimates of \$4,640.

During the preparation of specifications for the above projects it became evident that savings may be made if telemetry work on the Binya/Brobenah system programmed for 2008/09 were carried out in conjunction with the above projects. Additional quotations were asked for at the time the initial quotes were called.

The estimate for the Binya/Brobenah works was \$100,000. The quote considered best value for this work was \$73,000 with \$10,000 GWCC costs estimated, giving a total of \$83,000. The potential saving on this project of \$17,000 together with surplus from the initial projects of \$8,000 will represent a total saving on the projects of \$25,000. This saving is mainly due to sharing of software development and combined system hardware.

Recommendation

That the Binya/Brobenah works programmed for 2008/09 be brought forward and funding of \$75,000 be made available.

07/095 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Edwards that the Binya/Brobenah works programmed for 2008/09 be brought forward and funding of \$75,000 be made available.

8. REEFTON – BARMEDMAN & YIDDAH – WYALONG PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS (*Bill West*)

Due to the current workload and impending retirement of Senior Engineering Officer, Bernie Robinson, GHD the consultants who are project managers for the current Stockinbingal to Temora Pipeline Replacement Project have been requested to provide quotation for the survey, design and preparation of tender documents for both the Reefton to Barmedman & Yiddah to Wyalong projects.

Recommendation

That the action taken in requesting a quotation for the survey, design and preparation of tender documents for both the Reefton to Barmedman & Yiddah to Wyalong projects be endorsed.

07/096 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Edwards that the action taken in requesting a quotation for the survey, design and preparation of tender documents for both the Reefton to Barmedman & Yiddah to Wyalong projects be endorsed

9. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS (*Paul Wearne*)

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.

Recommendation

That the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Thursday 27 September 2007 at Temora.

07/097 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Manchester that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Thursday 27 September 2007 at Temora, beginning at 1.00pm.

07/098 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the Late Item relating to the 2007 Local Government Water Management Conference be considered.

10. LATE ITEM: 2007 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE – INVERELL (*Paul Wearne*)

The Chairman, General Manager and Manager Engineering attended the 2007 Local Government Water Management Conference in Inverell between 15 and 17 August.

A number of important and significant issues were addressed at the Conference, namely:

1. Impacts of water reform on Local Government and future challenges.

2. Challenges and priorities for a sustainable water industry.
3. Water Recycling Projects.
4. Understanding water loss management.
5. Section 64 determinations/Developer Charges.
6. Reaching the whole community – Education and Demand Management.
7. Innovation in the Water Industry.
8. Statewide Initiatives.
9. Possible regionalisation of the water industry.

An address was given by the Minister for Water Utilities, the Hon. Nathan Rees MP, who stated that his Government is supportive of building new dams provided they are in the right place and feasible.

Minister Rees also stated that local water utilities needed to take action in regards to ageing water and sewerage infrastructure and he invited councils to meet with him on a one to one basis with views as to how the water industry could be improved.

In response to a question from the floor, the Minister indicated that his Government was clearly looking at ways to improve the water industry but that he had an open mind as to what would be the best model.

During the Conference the NSW Water Directorate conducted its annual Water Managers' Forum at which the possibility of the Government separating water and sewerage from general-purpose councils was discussed. The Directorate was instructed to look into the various models that may be considered, such as Regional, County Council etc, and report back to its members.

The General Manager had a private meeting with the General Managers of Central Tablelands County Council, MidCoast Water County Council and Rous Water County Council and all were in agreement that, on information available, the State Government was clearly contemplating a reform of the water industry by way of a possible regionalisation of water and sewerage activities but that a preferred model was yet to be decided. The four General Managers were of the opinion that local government should be on the front foot and be proactive in making sure that water and sewerage activities remain within local government by promoting the County Council model on a regional basis perhaps, but not necessarily, determined by water catchment boundaries.

The four General Managers agreed that, with the approval of their respective councils, each one would take up the Minister's offer to meet with him on a one to one basis and, if it is clear that the Government is intending to regionalise the water and sewerage industry, promote the County Council model.

Recommendation

That approval is given for the General Manager to meet with the Minister for Water Utilities, the Hon. Nathan Rees MP, to establish his Government's intent with the water industry and, if it is clear that regionalisation of the water industry is on the

agenda, to promote a County Council model as the preferred option.

07/099 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that approval be given for the General Manager to meet with the Minister for Water Utilities, the Hon. Nathan Rees MP, to establish his Government's intent with the water industry and, if it is clear that regionalisation of the water industry is on the agenda, to promote a County Council model as the preferred option

I. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Cr. Edwards requested that water be made available on the table for future meetings.

Cr. Palmer sought and was provided with information relating to the process required to obtain an increase in Water Licence Entitlements.

Cr. Macaulay enquired whether the provision of additional fire hydrants in rural areas of Junee Shire had been completed to which the General Manager replied that the work had been completed.

J. CLOSED SESSION (*Pink pages*) – 3.17pm

07/100 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Edwards that the Council meet in Closed Session.

1. CONTRACT NO. 1/2008 – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A 25M HIGH BY 12M DIAMETER RESERVOIR AT TEMORA

(Bill West)

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.

07/101 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the lowest conforming tender of PMT Water Engineering be accepted for Contract 1/2008 Design and Construction of a 25m High by 12 m Diameter Reservoir at Temora for the cost of \$910,350.00 plus GST.

OPEN SESSION – 3.22pm

07/102 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Edwards 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 3.26pm.
