

MINUTES for the MEETING of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES on THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2007 starting at 1.00pm.

PRESENT

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

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

A. APOLOGIES

- 07/103 An apology for non-attendance was received for Cr. D. Palmer and leave of absence was granted on the motion of Crs. Speirs and Manchester.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 AUGUST 2007.

- 07/104 The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2007 having been circulated and read by the Members, were confirmed on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Cr. Bolte vacated the Chair and the General Manager took the Chair for the election of Chairperson.

In accordance with section 391 of the Local Government Act (2001) the position of Chairperson becomes vacant at this meeting and an election is required to elect a person from within the members of the council to fill this position. The term of office is for one (1) year.

Nominations for this position are required to be in writing, signed by two or more Councillors (one of whom may be the nominee), and also contain the consent of the nominee.

Appropriate nomination forms have been circulated to all Councillors with their Business Papers.

Recommendation

That nominations for the position of Chairperson be called and that if necessary voting be by Ordinary Ballot.

- 07/105 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Manchester that nominations for the position of Chairperson be called and that if necessary voting be by Ordinary Ballot.

A duly signed nomination form for the position of Chairperson was received from Cr. Bolte. There being no further nominations, Cr. Bolte was declared elected as Chairperson for the period until the September 2008 meeting.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with section 391 of the Local Government Act (2001) the position of Deputy Chairperson becomes vacant at this meeting and an election is required to elect a person from within the members of the council to fill this position. The term of office is for one (1) year.

Nominations for this position are required to be in writing, signed by two or more Councillors (one of whom may be the nominee), and also contain the consent of the nominee.

Appropriate nomination forms have been circulated to all Councillors with their Business Papers.

Recommendation

That nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson be called and that if necessary voting be by Ordinary Ballot.

07/106 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Manchester that nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson be called and that if necessary voting be by Ordinary Ballot.

A duly signed nomination form for the position of Deputy Chairperson was received from Cr. Manchester. There being no further nominations, Cr. Manchester was declared elected as Deputy Chairperson for the period until the September 2008 meeting.

Cr. Bolte occupied the Chair and thanked Council for its support and expressed his desire to see the good working relationships of the Board continue.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

D. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

E. FINANCIAL REPORT (P. Dwyer)

1. CHEQUE WARRANT – AUGUST 2007 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	17812 – 17925	
	Autopays 600243-600244	
	71169 – 71233	\$2,711,609.92

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$ 270,466.24
Deposits	\$2,651,761.05
	<u>\$2,922,227.29</u>
Withdrawals	<u>\$2,711,609.92</u>
Balance as at 31 August 2007	<u><u>\$ 210,617.37</u></u>

2. REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

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

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,769,547.47	5.47
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$14,668,818.36	4.48
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$858,987.21	6.45
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 7.02.08-195746	\$500,000.00	6.75
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:	\$25,297,353.04	

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 E2 be noted.

07/107 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Speirs that the information in respect to items E1 and E2 be noted.

3. OUTSTANDING DEBTORS

The balances outstanding as at 4 September 2007 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	31,064	6,424	30,996	68,484
Consumption Charges	97,618	31,558	59,577	188,753
Deferred headworks			85,100	85,100
TOTAL:	128,682	37,982	175,673	342,337
Overpayments				78,854

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.

07/108 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Speirs that the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

4. PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS

Section 450A of the Local Government Act requires the tabling of these returns and as all Councillors and designated staff have lodged the required returns they will be tabled at this meeting. The returns are available for public inspection as required.

Recommendation

That Council note the report and the tabling of the Disclosure of Interest returns for the year ended 30 June 2007 at the September meeting of Council.

07/109 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that Council note the report and the tabling of the Disclosure of Interest returns for the year ended 30 June 2007 at the September meeting of Council.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 have been completed and are now ready for certification and referral to our auditor. Copies of the draft main financial statements are attached:

- Income Statement (Profit & Loss)
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement.

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The full financial reports will be tabled at the meeting. At this stage it is planned that the statements and the Auditor’s report will be presented to the public at the November meeting.

Preliminary results were reported to the August meeting as per the June review and indicated a surplus for the year of \$1,851,622. Subject to audit the final accounts show a result for the year of a surplus of \$1,027,364. The unfavorable variation of \$824,258 is a result of the following:

Item	Variation	Movement
Management Expenses	-\$317,478	Increase
Depreciation Charges	-\$334,122	Increase
Operations Expenses	-\$216,534	Increase
Interest on Investments	\$43,876	Increase
	(\$824,258)	Reduction

The major changes (included in the above) since the report to the August meeting were:

Management Expenses		
Plant expenses	258,600	Depreciation
Operations Expenses		
Mains Operations	13,416	Accounts unpaid
Mains Maintenance	73,768	Accounts unpaid
Other Maintenance	69,588	Mainly depots depreciation
Purchase of Water	45,370	Accrued accounts

The revised figure for management expenses shown in the report to the August meeting should not have been reduced (by \$209,135) as the budget provided for the plant depreciation. In the final figures the Management expenses were \$2,109,167 against an original budget of \$2,107,410.

Depreciation charges increased as a result of revalued infrastructure assets.

Council is required to complete the form that certifies that the statements have been correctly drawn up and are in accordance with Council’s books and in Council’s opinion are accurate.

Recommendation

That Council complete the required certification in accordance with section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act and refer the financial statements to the auditor.

07/110 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and O’Brien that Council complete the required certification in accordance with section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act and refer the financial statements to the auditor.

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 April 2007 to 30 June 2007.
(Subsidy claimed \$23,591.77 – Claim 135)

Recommendation

That Council hereby write-off, as mandatory concessions, the amount of \$42,894.13 in pensioner concession rebates for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007.

07/111 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and O'Brien that Council hereby write-off, as mandatory concessions, the amount of \$42,894.13 in pensioner concession rebates for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007.

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

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	AFFECTED CONS.	DIA/TYPE (mm)	EST. LOSS (KL)	REASON
	Off	On					
7/8/07	9.00	4.30	Springdale	50	375	50	Joint failure
7/8/07	-	-	Cowangs – Bauloora	-	375	-	Hole in pipe
7/8/07	9.00	4.30	Cootamundra	50	375	50	Joint failure
8/8/07	-	-	Garoolgan Line	-	100	25	Hole in pipe
10/8/07	7.30	11.00	Temora	50	100	100	Split pipe
10/8/07	-	-	Beckom Township	-	100	15	Cracked pipe
10/8/07	-	-	Temora Retic	-	100	20	Cracked pipe
10/8/07	-	-	Beckom Retic	-	100	15	Cracked pipe
10/8/07	-	-	Trunk main, Wyalong	-	300	35	Joint failure
16/8/07	-	-	Trunk main, Wyalong	10	300	30	Joint failure
17/8/07	-	-	Bauloora - Temora	-	375	20	Lead joint
21/8/07	-	-	Dirnaseer Cootamundra	-	100	5	Split pipe
22/8/07	11.30	5.30	Loftus Street, Temora	30	200	40	Split pipe
22/8/07	-	-	Trunk main, Wyalong	-	300	20	Joint failure
22/8/07	-	-	Old Sydney Road, Bethungra	-	100	10	Cracked pipe
22/8/07	-	-	Malebo Range	-	150	50	Split pipe
23/8/07	-	-	Bethungra	-	150	10	Split pipe
28/8/07	11.00	5.00	Thanowring Road, Temora	30	250	10	Joint failure
28/8/07	11.00	2.00	Deep Water Road, Matong	3	250	50	Joint failure
29/8/07	-	-	Olympic Way, Cootamundra	-	100	30	Split pipe
29/8/07	-	-	Barellan Road, Weethalle	-	100	10	Hole in pipe
31/8/07	9.00	12.00	Wade Street, Coolamon	20	100	20	Split pipe

2. COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

Nil

Dirty Water – Other

9/08/07 Dyces Lane, Coolamon
22/08/07 Windemere Road, Grong Grong
28/08/07 1 Victoria Street, Temora

Other Problems:

15/08/07 22 Elizabeth Street, Junee – Bitter tasting water
21/08/07 67 Wallace Street, Coolamon – Strong chlorine taste
31/08/07 47 Pitt Street, Junee – White and bubbly water

A total of 53 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of August.

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant works were undertaken in August 2007:-

- Continue with 375m diameter pipe upgrade in Loftus Street, Temora.
- Complete effluent disposal line to river at Jugiong.
- Carry out major valve upgrade on the Marinna to Tenandra line.
- Complete new section of pipe under railway line at Pucawan.
- Cut-in new pipe work to Ariaiah Park Reservoir.
- Removed No. 6 Bore at Oura for major overhaul.
- Install new electric motors at Thanowring Road Pump Station.
- Install new chlorination pump at Demondrille.
- Overhauled Hannan No. 1 pump and motor.
- Major overhaul of flocculators at Jugiong Plant.
- Overhaul Tara No. 2 pump and motor.
- Re-install No. 2 pump at Jugiong High Level pump station following overhaul.
- Remove No. 2 Bore pump at Matong for overhaul.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/112 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Speirs that the information be noted.

G. 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 August 2007.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/113 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Speirs that the information be noted.

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

At the time of writing this report there have been no significant changes to Council's water allocations since the last meeting. The Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Water announced on 28 August 2007 an increase in allocation from 30% to 60% of entitlements for High Security Irrigators in the Murrumbidgee Valley but did not increase the allocation for town water supply. The media release did advise that Town Water Authorities "*may now ease water restrictions from level 4 to level 3a*" which once again refers to Victoria's adopted level of restrictions. "Level 3a" is broadly the same as Goldenfields' level 4 and after consultation with the Chairman; it was decided to continue with the previous restrictions that have been imposed by Council. A press release and newspaper advertisements were issued on 3 September to remind customers of the restrictions. It is also intended to include an information sheet with the next accounts mail out scheduled for the end of this month.

Year to date consumption to the end of August 2007 is detailed in the table below.

Source	YTD Max Allocation	YTD Max Allocation X 50%	YTD Consumption	% of Max Alloc	% of 50% Alloc
Jugiong	629	315	523	83.14	166.03
Oura	623		432	69.34	
Mt Arthur	61		43	70.49	
Mt Daylight	27		30	111.11	
Hylands Bridge	8	4	6	75.00	150.00
Cootamundra	169	85	93	55.02	112.04
Harden **	125	63	56	44.80	88.88
Young	239	120	184	76.98	153.33

** Does not include Harden Minor Consumers that are read quarterly.

It is difficult to draw definitive conclusions from the above data but it can be said that the restrictions have generally reduced consumption. The two smaller rural schemes (Mt Daylight and Hylands Bridge) are of concern. Current restrictions impact on garden watering but do not impact on stock use which is the predominant use of water in these schemes. As to how consumption can be

limited for this customer sector is difficult to determine. This predicament also applies to the other schemes but to a lesser extent.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

The General Manager gave a verbal report of developments in the availability of water since the production of the Business Paper and also a report on a Policy Workshop being convened today by the Local Government & Shires Association on Local Water Utilities Reform Agenda. The Chairman and Executive Officer of REROC will be attending and further information will be forwarded to Councillors when available.

07/114 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and McGregor that the information be noted.

3. 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.

07/115 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Speirs and O'Brien that the information be noted.

4. TRAINING/LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PLAN - 2007/2008 *(Tony Goodyer)*

Included with the Business Paper mail out is a copy of the Draft Training / Learning & Development Plan for the 2007/08 year. The document details Council's commitment to staff training during this period and requires formal adoption, subject to any amendment deemed necessary by Council.

Recommendation

That the 2007/08 Draft Training/Learning & Development Plan as tabled be adopted.

07/116 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and Speirs that the 2007/08 Draft Training/Learning & Development Plan as tabled be adopted.

5. STAFF PICNIC DAY *(Paul Wearne)*

In accordance with Council's Preserved State Agreement (PSA) it has been requested by the local delegate of the United Services Union that the Union Picnic Day be held on Friday 28 September 2007. As approximately 61% of staff

members are non-union members, the availability of staff on that day will be adequate to keep all functional areas operational.

Union members that are rostered “on call”, as Duty Officers or required to work will be credited with one (1) day of leave as per Award conditions.

Information from the Local Government & Shires Association contained in Item 8 of Local Government Weekly 05/06 states in part:-

“It is the Associations’ view that discriminating against a person by restricting access to benefits under an industrial instrument because they are or are not members of a union may offend the Act’s [Workplace Relations Act 1996] freedom of association provisions and such action will potentially expose councils to penalties. Consequently, councils are advised to extend the award holiday to all employees regardless of their union membership.”

After consultation with the Chairman and to maintain continuation of service on that day, it has been decided that non union members who would normally work on that day be required to work and they be credited with one (1) day of leave. It has also been decided that approval be granted for the Union Picnic day to be held on Friday 28 September 2007 and that employees who work on that day be credited with one (1) day of leave as per PSA conditions.

Recommendation

That the actions of the Chairman and General Manager be endorsed.

07/117 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. McGregor and O’Brien that the actions of the Chairman and General Manger be endorsed.

6. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS (Paul Wearne)

The next meeting of Council would normally be held in October. However as Council has met today to formally adopt the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June and refer them for audit there would appear no pressing matters requiring a meeting in October. It is therefore suggested that the next meeting of Council be held in November.

Recommendation

That the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Thursday 22 November 2007 at Temora.

07/118 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Edwards that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Thursday 22 November 2007 at Temora.

07/119 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Speirs and Manchester that the Late Item relating to the Oura High Voltage Electrical Upgrade Tenders be considered.

7. LATE ITEM: OURA HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE TENDERS (*Alan Moston*)

Tenders for the Oura High Voltage Electrical Upgrade will close on 10 October 2007. As there will not be a October Council Meeting this may unduly delay the completion date of the project due to the exceptionally long delivery time (up to 20 weeks) of the High Voltage Soft Starter equipment.

Recommendation

That the Chairman and General Manager be authorised to accept a tender, if judge suitable, on behalf of Council with a formal resolution to be made at the November Meeting.

07/120 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Speirs and Manchester that the Chairman and General Manager be authorised to accept a tender, if judge suitable, on behalf of Council with a formal resolution to be made at the November Meeting.

H. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Cr. Macaulay sought and was provided with information relating to fire hydrants within rural areas of Junee Shire.

Cr. Speirs sought and was provided with information relating to customer notification of planned interruptions to supply.

Cr. Speirs sought and was provided with information relating to the relocation of the Temora Public Standpipe.

Cr. Manchester sought and was provided with information relating to the purchase of high security water licences.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Council, the Meeting closed at 2.32pm.
