

# Federation Council Monthly Meeting Update

## *July 2022 Council Meeting*

**Councillors Present:** Mayor Patrick Bourke, Councillor Aaron Nicholls, Councillor Andrew Kennedy, Councillor David Fahey, Councillor David Longley, Councillor Rowena Black, Councillor Sally Hughes.

**Apologies:** Deputy Mayor Shaun Whitechurch and Councillor Gail Law.

### **Mayoral Minute - Mayor Patrick Bourke**

- **Condolences:** Mayor Bourke offered his condolences to Deputy Mayor, Shaun Whitechurch and his family on the passing of his father.

- **Rural Fire Service - Assets Recognition:** This Mayoral Minute was in response to a dispute between NSW Councils and the NSW Government, with respect to the 'ownership' of what is commonly known as the 'Red Fleet' of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) of NSW. The Red Fleet is broadly the Fire Trucks and associated equipment Councils and the NSW Government jointly fund, for fire protection across rural NSW. The Auditor General has determined that the assets are in the care and control of NSW Councils, and has highlighted that at present, neither the NSW Government via the RFS, nor most Councils, recognize these assets on their books.

- **Visit by Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Honorable Sam Faraway and Member for Albury, and Mr Justin Clancy - Yarrawonga/Mulwala Bridge Replacement and Road Funding:** This Mayoral Minute updates Councillors on the recent visit by the Honourable Sam Faraway and Member for Albury, Mr Justin Clancy on 30 June 2022. Council is grateful for the support of Justin Clancy in enabling the first visit by Minister Faraway in his portfolio of Regional transport, and the meeting was attended by myself as Mayor, the Director Engineering Services, Steve Carmichael, and Manager Communication and Engagement, Alannah Greenwood. Representatives from the Mulwala Progress Association also attended to lobby on the new bridge.

Council also took the chance to highlight the urgent need for increased funding for Councils road network, and looks forward to the NSW Government continuing with a further round of Fixing Local Roads.

### **General Manager Report - Mr Adrian Butler**

- **Increasing Grain Harvests and on Farm Storage:** This report was for information only, and relates to the increasing agricultural (mostly grain) production across the eastern states and refers to a recent ABC News article, where a record bumper harvest is predicted for 2022, off the back of record harvests in 2021 and 2022. The pressure on Council's road networks is evident and the article refers to the shifting pattern of farmers now storing a lot of produce on farm and moving it later. This is both from an economic point of view, where it pays now to store on farm and obtain higher prices later, and in some cases, a requirement due to the lack of storage available in receival centres. Council will continue to engage with the NSW Government on this issue, and should also, through the roads committee, and the engaged Federation Ratepayers group, work on joint solutions to continue to ensure farmers can have improved access.

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- **Murray Darling Association's (MDA) 78th National Conference and AGM:** The purpose of this report was to seek endorsement of Councils attendance at the Murray Darling Association's (MDA) 78th National Conference and AGM to be held 1 -21 September 2022 in Albury, NSW. The report sought the attendance of a Councillor as Council delegate. Council nominated Councillor Nicholls and Hughes as delegates.

## Director Corporate and Community Services Report - Ms Jo Shannon

- **Financial Performance Report as at 30th June 2022:** This report provided a summary of the key financial results for the month ending 30 June 2022 in the following areas: Capital works program, Debtors, Cash balance and Investments. Total income YTD is \$51.94 million against a full year budget of \$62 million. Water and Sewer access and usage charges are still to be raised for the period March to June. Part of the Capital Grant projects funding deeds is for the project to finish to receive that last part of the grant. Council is still completing Capital Grant projects as at 30th June. Total expenditure YTD is \$40.27 million against a full year budget of \$44.81 million. Council is still processing invoices to the 30th June and reconciling income and as such these amounts will change until Council finalises the end of the financial year.

## Director Development of Environmental Services Report - Ms Susan Appleyard

- **Building Statistics:** This report details construction and complying development certificates issued since the May 2022 Council Meeting. The total building investment in the Federation LGA to date is \$21,528,298.00.

- **Development Applications Approved Under Delegated Staff Authority since the May 2022 Council Meeting:** This report provides information on the Development approvals that have been determined under delegated authority by the granting of consent subject to conditions, since the May 2022 Council meeting. 11 Development Applications were approved and determined under delegated authority by the granting of consent subject conditions since the May 2022 Council meeting.

- **Regional and State Significant Development Applications Lodged:** Two Regional and State Significant Development Applications were lodged this month. One being a State Significant Development for the Howlong Sand and Gravel Quarry Expansion and the other being a Critical State Significant Infrastructure Project for Project Energy Connect from Buronga substation to Wagga Wagga substation.

- **Planning Agreement - SSD Howlong and Gravel:** The Developers of Howlong Sand and Gravel expansion the subject of State Significant Development have offered to enter into a Planning Agreement for the impact the operations on Council infrastructure and resources. This proposal will now be exhibited in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for a period of 28 days.

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- **Call for Expressions of Interest to operate the Urana Caravan Park:** This report sought Council's endorsement to prepare and seek expressions of interest to operate the Urana Caravan Park on behalf of council. The call for expressions of interest will be undertaken in accordance with council's procurement policy. The parties expressing an interest will be required to provide a return brief outlining at minimum the following: Model for operation, Tourism and marketing plan, Resourcing plan, Remuneration Model and Business plan.

- **Corowa Saleyards Stage 3 Public Administration Building:** This report sought Council resolution to proceed with a tender for Stage 3 Public Administration Building of the Corowa Saleyards Redevelopment Project. Following further discussions with the funding body and consideration of options available, Council staff recommended to proceed with an open tender process for a reduce scope building for Stage 3 Public Administration Building. The tender will include a preferred design with the acceptance of non-conforming tenders. Councillors resolved to proceed with the tender process and make a request to Department of Regional NSW that the costs of \$125,000 quarantined from the \$9.2M funding and allocated for Public Works Advisory project assurance role be released to Federation Council to finalise the project.

## Director of Engineering Services Report - Mr Steve Carmichael

- **Report on the progress of the Works Program - June 2022:** This report provided details of activities that were undertaken by the work crews for the month of June 2022. A number of activities have been undertaken with further information found in the monthly Works Program update on Council's website.

- **Report on Capital Works Program - June 2022:** This report provides Council with an update to the Capital Works program for 2021/2022. The Capital Works Program is as detailed in the attachment in the July Meeting Agenda Paper.

- **Transport Asset Management Plan:** The purpose of this report is to allow adoption of the Transport Asset Management Plan which was presented to the Council workshop held on the 29th of June 2022. The Transport Asset Management Plan has been developed and populated over a period of time based on a pro forma developed by CT Management and the use of Council's collected data relating to Transport. The Transport Asset Management Plan was adopted and will now be put on Council's website as part of Council's suite of corporate and strategic plans and documents.

- **Roads Maintenance Management Plan:** The purpose of this report was to allow adoption of the draft Roads Maintenance Management Plan which was presented to the Council workshop held on the 29th of June 2022. The purpose of this Road Maintenance Management Plan (RMP) is to establish a management system for Federation Council for the discharge of its duty to inspect, maintain, repair and renew its Regional and Local Road network based on policy and operational objectives as well as available resources. The plan reflects the intent of Council's Asset management policy and Asset management strategy. The plan was adopted and will now be put on Council's website as part of Council's suite of corporate and strategic plans and documents.

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- **Footpath and Cycleway Management and Maintenance Plan:** The purpose of this report was to allow adoption of the attached draft Footpath and Cycleway Maintenance Management Plan which was presented to the Council workshop held on the 29th of June 2022. Council is aware of its responsibility regarding constructing and maintaining footpaths. Council has a duty of care to maintain all footpaths and therefore, must be aware of all issues relating to the condition of the footpaths. Council has developed a risk management approach to the management of its footpath network that links with its Asset Management planning process for footpath infrastructure, through the assessment of defects to identify the risks and conditions associated with footpaths and the identification of a strategy for the management of those risks and conditions. The plan was adopted and will now be put on Council's website as part of Council's suite of corporate and strategic plans and documents.

- **Recreational Fishing Trust - Cross Street Reserve Howlong:** The purpose of this report was to inform Council of a successful grant application through the Recreational Fishing Trust for work to be carried out in Cross Street Reserve at Howlong. The total grant funding is \$115,000. This project links to the strategic plan, Built Federation - 1.2 Maintain and improve aquatic, recreational and other community facilities to meet the needs of residents. The involvement with the local community was to make the area accessible to the public, have a formalised car park at the entrance and reduce the fire risk. A letter of support from the Howlong progress association supported the grant application.

- **Recreational Fishing Trust - Kyffin's Reserve Boat Ramp Mulwala:** The purpose of this report was to inform Council of a successful grant application through the Recreational Fishing Trust for work to be carried out in Kyffin's Reserve at Mulwala. The total grant funding is \$80,000. This successful grant project will link to the strategic plan, Built Federation - 1.2 Maintain and improve aquatic, recreational and other community facilities to meet the needs of residents. The Kyffin's reserve boat ramp project is a central infrastructure project that will enhance access for recreational fishing to occur in a safer and more controlled environment. The installation of a concrete boat ramp will also ensure that the space is accessible to a broader cross-section of the community. NSW DPI Fisheries have been very supportive of the upgrade of this project.

*To view further information or attachments in relation to the above reports view our Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes page on Council's website [www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au)*