

Federation Council

Monthly Meeting Update

August 2022 Council Meeting

Councillors Present: Deputy Mayor Shaun Whitechurch, Councillor Aaron Nicholls, Councillor Andrew Kennedy, Councillor David Fahey, Councillor David Longley, Councillor Gail Law, Councillor Rowena Black, Councillor Sally Hughes.

Apologies: Mayor Patrick Bourke.

Public Forum: Mr Peter Wright in respect to report 8.5 - Draft Delegations from Council to General Manager and Mayor.

Mayoral Minute - Deputy Mayor Shaun Whitechurch

- **Passing of Ida Mensforth:** Deputy Mayor Shaun Whitechurch passed on his deepest sympathies on behalf of Council to the family of Ida Mensforth on her recent passing. Ida was a fantastic community person and had strong links to Council, being a great contributor to the Corowa Aquatic Centre project. Ida was also a founding member of the Ageing Well Committee for Federation Council, and has been an incredible advocate over many years for ageing residents in the Federation Council area.

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

- **Meetings/Engagements attended to by Mayor Since the July Council Meeting:** The purpose of this Mayoral Minute is to provide a brief update on some of the meetings and other engagements attended by the Mayor since the last Council meeting. This aims to improve communication and transparency as part of Council's continued engagement practices.

General Manager Report - Mr Adrian Butler

- **ALGA - 2022 National General Assembly - General Manager and Delegates (Mayor and Deputy) Report:** This report provides Council with an overview of the 2022 Australian Local Government National General Assembly attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager. The conference was held 19 to 22 June 2022. The Mayor and Deputy have provided input into this report also as Council's delegates to the conference. The theme of the Assembly was 'Partners in Progress', and the event was very well conducted, with many motions being passed to form policy positions for lobbying and advocacy. Key themes of the motions passed included financial improvements for Councils, Climate Change, Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders being given a stronger voice in decision making, and many other valid areas, as outlined further in the report.

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-Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 2022 - Proposed Motions: This report allowed Council to consider and determine motions to be submitted to LGNSW, for consideration by the LGNSW Board, to be debated at the Annual Conference to be held 23-25 October this year. The deadline for submitting motions is Monday, 29 August 2022. Residents are encouraged to view the six resolved motions in the August Council Minutes, report 7.2.

- Submission of Minutes from Section 355 Committees - Oaklands Town Improvement Committee: The purpose of this report was to present the Minutes of the Oaklands Town Improvement (Section 355) Committee from their last meeting and consider the items for adoption, as recommended by the Committee.

- Communication & Engagement - New Initiatives Update as at August 2022: This report allowed Council to be advised of recent new initiatives as part of Council's commitment to continuing engagement across the community. As part of Council's continued engagement, several new initiatives have been developed in response to community feedback seeking more information from Council. These include Mayoral Minute monthly on engagements attended by the Mayor, Summary of Council Minutes and Frequently Asked Questions Development from submissions made in exhibition of latest Integrated Plans.

- Requirement for Council to re-determine and review organisation structure within 12 months of election - NSW Local Government Act 1993: The purpose of this report was to allow Council to consider and adopt an approach to review the organisational structure and re-determine the structure, within 12 months of the election as required under the Local Government Act 1993.

- Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) Round 5: This report allowed for Council to be advised of Round 5 of the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities grant program is now open. The report sought Council's endorsement of principles to inform any grant applications should Council staff submit them, and also in terms of letters of support for any community organisations submitting grants for new or upgraded facilities/projects on Council owned or controlled land.

- Yanco Creek Modernisation Project: The purpose of this report was to advise Council of the Yanco Creek modernisation project that has been in development since 2019. The project now has a draft Yanco Creek System Operations Plan and it is recommended that Council receive a briefing from Water Infrastructure NSW to understand more about the project.

- Delegation to General Manager for Arbitration between Riverina Regional Library Member Councils and Wagga Wagga City Council in the dispute over their withdrawal from the Regional Library Service: The purpose of this report was to seek a delegation from Council to sign an Arbitration Agreement document on behalf of Federation Council, in joining with the other members of the Riverina Regional Library Services, in a dispute with Wagga Wagga City Council. Wagga Wagga City Council has withdrawn from the Riverina Regional Library Service, and a dispute between WWCC and the other RRL member Councils is occurring, in relation to the withdrawal, and mainly around the treatment of assets (ownership and dispersal). NSW Libraries have been requested to assist in this process and are doing so, and an arbitrator has been appointed.

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Director of Corporate and Community Services Report - Ms Jo Shannon

- **Financial Performance Report as at 31 July 2022:** This report is to provide Council with an update on its financial performance for the month ending 31 July 2022. Total income YTD is \$12.52 million against a full year budget of \$46.05 million. Total expenditure YTD is \$3.26 million against a full year budget of \$48.71 million.

- **2023 Australia Day Awards and Ceremony:** Each year Council celebrates the achievement and contribution of individuals, community groups, and not-for-profit organisations in the Federation Council LGA at the annual Australia Day Awards and Civic Ceremony. The nomination period for the 2023 Australia Day Awards will open on Monday, 3 October, and close Friday, 2 December 2022 at the close of business. The award winners will be announced and presented on Australia Day, Thursday, 26 January 2023. Council endorsed the recommendation for the upcoming Australia Day Awards and Ceremony event to be held in Mulwala.

- **Internal Audit Program:** The purpose of this report was to provide Council with a status update on the internal audit program for 2022. Council's governance processes, compliance, risk management and control frameworks, external accountability obligations and overall performance are overseen by its Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). The ARIC comprises two independent members and one Councillor representative, being Cr Rowena Black. The ARIC has an oversight role with respect to Council's internal audit function. The role of internal audit is to provide independent assurance that an organisation's risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively. In April 2022, following an assessment of risks to the organisation and identifying where internal audit can add the greatest value, the ARIC approved a three year internal audit program for Federation Council. The internal audit program for the first year (being 2022) comprises a review of the following areas: Fraud Control Policy, Gap Analysis Project (Central Coast Council Administrators report) and Council's Project Management Framework. This internal audit is scheduled to commence in early September 2022.

- **Six Month Progress Report against Delivery Program and Operation Plan, Jan - Jun 2022:** The purpose of this report was to notify Council that the General Manager's 6 month progress report to Council for the 2021-2022 financial year outlining progress against our Delivery Program for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022, has now been prepared and is available for viewing on Council's website. All NSW councils must have a Delivery Program detailing the principal activities it will undertake to achieve the objectives established in the Community Strategic Plan, within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy. Progress reports must be provided to the council with respect to the principal activities in the Delivery program at least every 6 months (S. 404 LGA). The progress report is a valuable tool for Councillors to facilitate conversations and build on connections within the community by sharing with them the achievements of Council and gaining feedback on activities undertaken.

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- **Delegations from Council to General Manager & Mayor:** The purpose of this report was to provide a new set of delegations proposed for Council to delegate to the Mayor and the General Manager under Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993. Each governing body of council must review its delegation of functions during the first 12 months of each term of office (s.380). Where functions are delegated to the general manager to perform on behalf of a governing body of council, it is important for the governing body of council to ensure there are policies in place to guide the decision making. The governing body of council should keep policies guiding the delegated decisions under regular review. Council endorsed the revised Delegations from Council to the Mayor and Council to the General Manager to be effective immediately and that the new policies be uploaded to Council's website.

- **Fraud and Corruption Control Policy:** The purpose of this report was to adopt an updated Fraud and Corruption Control Policy for Federation Council. Council's Fraud and Corruption Control Policy, adopted in February 2019, was due for review. An updated policy has been prepared in conjunction with Council's internal auditor, AKW (Adams Kenneally White Chartered Accountants) and Council's Audit Risk and Improvement Committee. The policy aims to: promote an organisational culture that will not tolerate any action of fraud or corruption; ensure high standards of ethical and accountable conduct; protect public funds and assets; and protect the integrity, security and reputation of Council and its staff. Council adopted the updated policy.

Director of Development & Environmental Services Report - Ms Susan Appleyard

- **Building Approvals - Complying and Construction Certificates Approved:** This report provides for Council's information, the construction and complying development certificates issued since the report prepared for the July 2022 Council meeting. Five Complying and Construction Certificates were approved since the July 2022 meeting.

- **Development Applications Approved under Delegated (Staff) Authority since the July 2022 Council meeting:** This report provides for Council's information, the Development approvals that have been determined under delegated authority by the granting of consent subject to conditions, since the July 2022 Ordinary Council meeting. 16 Development applications have been approved under Delegated Authority since the July 2022 Council meeting.

- **Regional and State Significant Development Applications Lodged:** Application for Howlong Sand and Gravel Quarry Expansion on RU1 - Primary Production and E3 Environmental Management land comprising Lots 173, 174, 174A & 231, DP 753744, Lot 1 DP 1039973, Lot 1, DP 798291, Lots 3 & 4, DP 113703, Lot 1 DP 741037 and two Unnamed Crown Roads – Planning Agreement on exhibition and an Application for Project Energy Connect (NSW- Eastern Section) from Buronga substation to Wagga Wagga substation. Development and operation of: A new 330kV transmission line between the Buronga substation and the proposed Dinawan substation; A new 500kV transmission line between the proposed Dinawan substation and the existing Wagga Wagga substation; A new 300kV Dinawan substation; and Upgrade and expansion of the existing Wagga Wagga substation. The Project Energy Connect application is with the Department of Planning and Environment for determination.

- **Updated Compliance and Enforcement Policy:** In 2019 Council adopted its first Compliance and Enforcement Policy and is now due for a review. This policy has been reviewed and Council endorsed to place the updated policy on public exhibition for 28 days.

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- **Draft Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy:** Council has a number of CCTV cameras at assets and facilities for security and risk management purposes. A draft policy has been developed to provide direction on the establishment, operation and management of such devices in council managed facilities and in public places. The Policy aims to ensure: Consistency and clarity in Council's role and obligations regarding the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in public places and council facilities by or on behalf of Council; A consistent, unified, equitable and transparent approach is applied by Council to the processing of requests for the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in public places and council facilities or on behalf of Council; and that CCTV installed for crime prevention purposes is part of an integrated approach to crime prevention and community safety. Council endorsed the draft CCTV Policy for public exhibition.

- **Corowa Aquatic Centre Consultative Committee:** This report recommended that Council seek to re-establish the Corowa Aquatic Centre Consultative Committee (previously Corowa Pool Advisory Committee) with a new Terms of Reference and seek to appoint new members. The Corowa Pool Consultative Committee was established in 2018 to assist Federation Council with community consultation for the development of the new Corowa Aquatic Centre. This Committee was instrumental in assisting Council with the design of the new facility. However, now that the facility has been built, there is the need to revise the Consultative Committee and focus on the service delivery and operations aspects of the centre to ensure it meets the needs of the community and is managed in an effective and efficient manner. A new Terms of Reference has been drafted for the new Consultative Committee and Council resolved to seek to re-establish the Corowa Aquatic Centre Consultative Committee, adopted the new Terms of Reference and will now call for appointment of new members.

- **Corowa Aquatic Centre Business Plan:** Council at its meeting on 28 June 2022 resolved to place the Draft Corowa Aquatic Centre Business Plan 2022-26 on public exhibition. The Draft Plan was placed on exhibition between 4 July 2022 and 1 August 2022. Feedback has been received and changes made to the plan accordingly. Council resolved to adopt the Business Plan at this meeting for implementation.

- **Federation Council Representative for the Australian Livestock Saleyards Association INC (ALSA) Executive Committee:** ALSA is a non-profit organisation that is in the voice for Southern Australian Saleyard owners, both public and privately owned, providing the following services: saleyard statistics; annual conference; advocacy services to government; workshops and seminars; newsletters; maintenance of industry OH&S databases; and implementation of projects such as the sheep RFID introduction in 2017. This report sought to appoint a Council delegate on to the committee. Mayor Patrick Bourke was endorsed to be the delegate on behalf of Federation Council.

- **Corowa Saleyards Redevelopment Project - Seeking Request for Tender RFT2022-177 Stage 3 Public Administration Building:** This report sought Council resolution to proceed with a new tender for RFT2022-177 Stage 3 Public Administration Building of the Corowa Saleyards Redevelopment Project. Council supported the recommendation and will now call for tenders to construct the Administration Building at the Corowa Saleyards.

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Director of Engineering Services Report - Mr Steve Carmichael

- **Report on the Progress of the Works Program - July 2022:** This report provided details of activities that were undertaken by the works crews for the month of July 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 - July 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 August Meeting Agenda Paper.

- **Tender Assessment Report - RFT 2022-175 Ball Park Reserve, Proposed Access Road Construction:** This tender report provided information received for the Construction of a new access road with associated parking bays and pedestrian pathways adjacent to Bridge Road, Corowa in the old Annuals section of the Ball Park caravan park. The new access road will be built on Crown Lands under the care and control of Council. The works tendered consisted of Preliminaries, Road works, Concrete works, drainage works and some other miscellaneous works as per the Technical Drawing and Technical Specification under contract 2022-175. The proposed Ball Park access road and associated parking bays is aimed to create a central point for vehicle access and parking that will link to the pathways currently under construction to help activate the Corowa foreshore including Ball Park, Rowers Park and Bangarang Park. Council resolved to award the Access Road Construction Contract to Longford Civil.

- **Roads Advisory Committee - Outcome of call for public members to join Committee:** The purpose of this report was to update Council on the call for public members to join the Federation Council Roads Advisory Committee. A total of 25 expressions of interest have been received, and for each of the four quadrants, it was recommended to appoint 2 to 3 maximum, to allow a workable size committee, meaning a total of 12 public members. It was resolved at the June 2022 Council meeting that the Council call for public members to join the committee and an updated Terms of Reference was adopted. The intent was always to invite community representatives to join the committee, to provide local knowledge and perspective, and provide input into decision making such as revising Councils Road Hierarchy. Council resolved to host a workshop with all members of the public that expressed in interest to be apart of the committee. A further report will be presented to Council at the September meeting on the outcome of the workshop.

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Question With Notice - Proposed Waste Contract and Notification for Northern Residents Federation Area

- **Councillor David Fahey:** 1. Have any bin audits been undertaken in the former Urana Shire area? 2. When will a comprehensive education program begin with a focus on the areas where there is currently only a one bin service and is this budgeted for? 3. Is there a formalised education plan in place and is it budgeted for? 4. Do we have to sign into this contract in 2024? 5. Is there an opt out option for residents? 6. Has the expected costs been included/projected in the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)? 7. Is Federation Council residents footing the bill for new bins or is this being resourced by the State or is it envisaged that grant funding will be sought? 8. Is there any indication of any perceived benefit to residents that are currently on a one bin system? 9. What is the estimated annual fee for residents who are currently on a one bin system going to three? Residents are encouraged to read the Staff responses to Councillor Fahey's Question with Notice in the August Agenda Paper. Council noted the questions with notice and the answers provided by Staff at the August meeting.

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