

Federation Council Monthly Meeting Update

April 2023 Council Meeting

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

Apologies: N/A.

Mayoral Minute - Mayor Patrick Bourke:

- **Meetings/ Engagements attended to by the Mayor since the March 2023 Council meeting:**
The purpose of this update is for the Mayor to provide Council and the community with details of meetings/engagements that he has attended on behalf of the Council. Residents are encouraged to read the full list of attendances by the Mayor in the April Council agenda.

General Manager Report - Mr Adrian Butler

- **7.1. Update on Flood Affected Council Community Assets and Facilities as of 18 April 2022 & Notification of Submission of NSW Office of Local Government \$1 Million Disaster Grant Application):** This item provided an update on flood recovery works across council's community assets and facilities affected by the November 2022 flood event as at 18 April 2023. The report also advised Council that under the NSW Severe Weather & Flood Grant Category D, Council is eligible for up to \$1 million in funding to assist in recovery. This is funding to cover works/services not covered via the major flood damage/public infrastructure grants, which are primarily aimed at Council's road network and related assets. Two applications were made in accordance with the set criteria to the \$1 million dollar maximum claim allowed. If approved in principle, Council has three months to submit a detailed works program for the final approval. Council noted this update report on flood damaged community assets and facilities.
- **7.2. Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) - Draft Documents for Public Exhibition - This is Future Federation:** The purpose of this report was to present to Council draft documents detailing future priorities for Federation Council. The draft documents include an updated Delivery Program for 2022-2026 and a proposed Operational Plan for 2023-2024, along with the associated budget and other required documents. Section 404 of the Act requires each local government area to have a four year Delivery Program detailing the principal activities to be undertaken by the Council to perform its functions (including implementing the strategies set out in the Community Strategic Plan) within the limits of the resources

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available under the Resourcing Strategy. As part of Council's strategic planning cycle, the combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2022 - 2026 has been reviewed and Operational Plan 2023 - 2024 prepared which outlines the actions Council will undertake to deliver on the goals outlined in the Community Strategic Plan – Our Community, Our Opportunity. These plans will now be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 26 April – 31 May 2023 to enable any feedback to be considered prior to final endorsement by Council. During the exhibition period Council will be conducting numerous public community sessions to outline the key priorities and to present the final budget and plans. During these sessions the community will have another opportunity to provide feedback which will further inform any changes. The final plans will also require an update following IPART's decision on the proposed Special Rate Variation. This decision is expected in mid May 2023. A final suite of documents will be presented to Council at its 27 June 2023 Meeting. The final documents must be published on Council's website within 28 days.

- **7.3. Process for Council Area to be Split into Wards and History of Federation Council being undivided (no wards):** The purpose of this report was to advise Council of the process for dividing a Council Area into Wards. Council resolved the following at the February Council meeting – 56/2023FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Andrew Kennedy and David Longley 1. THAT Council note the correspondence items 14.1.1 as tabled in the 31 January 2023 Business Paper; and 2. THAT a further report on the process for a council area to be split into wards is provided to Council. Discussion with Council has outlined some history of the lead up to the amalgamation of the Corowa and Urana Shire Councils and the resultant proclamation to make Federation Council, that stipulated that there be no wards. The Local Government Act contains provisions to follow should Council wish to consider wards. This report contained the information in relation to that, and some information in relation to the assessment of the merger proposal submitted by Corowa Shire, by the delegate and by the Boundaries Commission, for background. Council noted the report on the process for a Council area to be split into wards.
- **7.4. Urana Multipurpose Service (MPS) Hospital - Clinical Services Plan outlines new facility required - Request for Government to provide timeline for funding:** This report sought Council consideration to assist the Urana community in lobbying for a new Multi Purpose Service (MPS) (Hospital) to replace the aged facility. The Urana MPS was the first MPS built in the state, under the new model of combining emergency care, with community services and aged care, and it is over 30 years old. Changes over this time including new regulations and expectations around patient and staff safety has meant the facility is no longer suitable for the future and this is agreed by the Murrumbidgee Local Health District and a replacement facility was therefore determined as a requirement in the adopted Clinical Services Plan (CSP). Council noted this report and resolved to write to the Honourable Ryan John Park MP, the NSW Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for the

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Illawarra and the South Coast seeking support for delivery of the new Multi-Purpose Health Service for Urana, including an indicative timeline of when these projects are considered for funding by Treasury/the NSW Government; and that Council also write to Local Member, Member for Albury Justin Clancy MP, to seek his support in lobbying for the new facility to replace the current Urana Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) facility.

- **7.5. Submission of the Minutes from Section 355 Committee - Urana Progress Association:** The purpose of this report was to present the Minutes of the Urana Progress Section 355 Committee meetings held 4 April 2023, and consider the items for adoption, as recommended by the Committee. Council resolved to note the minutes and note the risks/issues raised of the Urana Progress Association Committee minutes dated 4 April 2023; and Council accepted the offer from the Urana Progress Association Committee to assist in future Anzac and Remembrance Day services for Urana; and Council will also arrange a date for the official opening of the Dexter Horizontal Windmill and work in partnership with the Urana Progress Association to align the opening with opening events they plan to hold.

Director of Corporate and Community Services Report - Ms Jo Shannon

- **8.1. Financial Performance Report at 31 March 2023:** The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on its financial performance for the month ending 31 March 2023. Total income YTD is \$45.109 million against a full year budget of \$73,353 million. At March 2023, 75% of the financial year has passed. Rates & Annual Charges Income is ahead of the budget in this stage due to annual general rates and annual kerbside and waste management charges being levied in full in July 2022. In addition, Grants & Contributions – Capital is behind budget due to the timing of delivering the funded projects. The full funding will be received however some may occur in the next financial year. Total expenditure YTD is \$33.45 million against a full year budget of \$53.36 million. Employee costs are below budget due to vacancies in various services. Expenditure is currently as expected with no significant variances, with flood works and grant works to be completed in coming months.
- **8.2. Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Minutes:** The purpose of this report was to advise Council that its Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) met on 31 March 2023 to discuss and review improvement actions and financial aspects of Council's operations. At this meeting, the Committee endorsed the minutes of 9 December 2022 as being a true and correct copy and these are attached with this report. The draft minutes from the 31 March 2023 will be presented to the ARIC at its June 2023 meeting for endorsing as a true and correct copy and presented to the next available Council meeting. Council noted the report.

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- **8.3. Miki City Student Exchange Visit :** The purpose of this report was to advise Council that Miki City has proposed a return to the Sister City program exchange, with a plan to send students to the Federation Council in August 2023. A call to the Federation community has been made, seeking interest for the hosting of students and chaperones. The Sister City student exchange visits between Miki City and Federation Council have been on hold since 2020, due to Covid-19 International travel restrictions. A positive relationship has continued between the two cities, with gift sharing (including recognising the 25 year sister city program anniversary), the development of a documentary film and planning for a memorabilia exhibition, an online student exchange and a Mayors Greeting. Council noted this report.
- **8.4. 2022/2023 Federation Community Grant Program:** Council's Community Grants program assists community groups and organisations to deliver events, activities, and programs that enhance the lives of local communities, celebrate important community occasions, and provide opportunities to develop social cohesion and connection in the Federation region. 2022/2023 Federation Council Community Grants Program Round Two opened on Monday 8 February 2023 and closed on Friday 17 March 2023. Fifteen eligible applications were received, requesting a total of \$30,592 in grant funding. The total budget available for Round Two is \$30,610. The Community Grants Panel met on Wednesday the 5 April and considered all applications. Fifteen applications were eligible, totalling \$30,592 value of projects to the Federation area. One application was from a school as the applicant was ineligible. Under the Federation Community Grants Guidelines, schools are ineligible to apply (a partner organisation may apply). Council endorsed 15 projects to receiving funding.
- **8.5. Riverina Murray Destination Management Plan (DMP) Release:** The purpose of this report was to advise Council of the release of the Riverina Murray Destination Management Plan (DMP). Unveiled as part of the launch of seven new Destination Management Plans (DMPs) for regional NSW, the plan highlights the unique strengths of the Riverina Murray region and includes targeted actions for Government and industry collaboration to facilitate increased visitation and visitor spend. The document outlines the region's target markets and visitor profiles, research insights, strategic objectives and unique positioning. Council noted the report.
- **8.6 Budget Variation - Grant Funding:** Federation Council has achieved grant funding via two separate sources that will account for a range of projects to support youth-based activities throughout the LGA as follows: Department of Communities and Justice - 2023 NSW Youth Week funding - \$3,313 and Regional Youth - Holiday Break Program - \$7,000. Council noted that the grant funding has been received and adopted the required changes to the current year financials budget to include the grant funding.

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Director of Development and Environmental Services Report - Ms Susan Appleyard

- **9.1. 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 March 2023 Ordinary Council meeting. Eight Complying and Construction Certificates have been approved since the December Council meeting.
- **9.2. Development Applications Approved Under Delegated (Staff) Authority Since the December 2022 Ordinary 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 March 2023 Ordinary Council meeting. Nine Development Applications have been approved under staff authority since the March Council meeting.
- **9.3. Regional and State Significant Development Applications Lodged:** There are currently no State or Regionally significant development applications within the Council area.
- **9.4. Howlong Pool 2022-23 Summer Season Report:** The purpose of this report was to update Council on the Howlong Pool 2022-23 Summer Season. Howlong Pool is a seasonal summer pool that includes 25m pool, toddlers pool and kiosk. Normally, Howlong Pool is open from the start of December to the end March each year. Opening and closing of the season is determined based on a number of factors including resourcing and weather. This summer season the Howlong Pool opened on Monday 21 November 2022 with the last day of the season being Monday 27 March 2023 with opening hours 1pm - 7pm daily. The pool was opened a couple of weeks early due to the closure of Corowa Aquatic Centre with the flood. This summer was the first time that pool operating software was installed at the Howlong Pool, enabling the team to obtain more accurate information regarding pool attendance. During the season there was 4,047 admissions to the pool with the busiest days being Fridays, Saturdays, Mondays and Tuesdays and the busiest times being 1.00pm (opening) and 3.00 - 5.00pm period. The Corowa Sharks swim club also operate from Howlong Pool and regularly held swim club nights on Mondays. The Howlong School booked the pool for their school swim lessons and carnival in December and the NSW Royal Life Saving Swim & Survive Program was hosted in the January school holidays period. Council noted the report.
- **9.5 Withdrawal of Planning Proposal 2021/1 Federation Local Environmental Plan 2021:** In July 2021 Council resolved to seek a gateway determination in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for the planning proposal to prepare the Federation Local Environmental Plan. The planning proposal, in essence, is a

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housekeeping proposal to merge the Corowa and Urana Local Environmental Plans. Since the Gateway determination was granted there have been a number of landuse and servicing issues that have been identified and it is currently now considered that merging the two Local Environmental Plans is viable. Council resolved for the Planning Proposal 2021/1 Federation Local Environmental Plan to not proceed; and to notify the Minister in accordance with Section 3.35(4) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 of this decision.

Director of Engineering Services - Theo Panagopoulos

- **10.1. Report on the progress of the Works Program - March 2023:** This report provided details of activities that were undertaken by the works crews for the month of March 2023. A number of activities have been undertaken with further information found in the monthly Works Program Update on Council's website.
- **10.2. Report on the Capital Works Program - March 2023:** This report provided Council with an update to the Capital Works program for 2022/2023. The Capital Works Program is as detailed in the attachment in the February Meeting Agenda Paper.

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