

REPORT

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

15 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillors J Black, L Burns, S Chowdhury, M Dickerson, V Etheridge, J Gough, R Ivey, D Mahon, P Wells and M Wright.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

The Chief Executive Officer, the Manager People Culture and Safety, the Director Organisational Performance, the Manager Corporate Governance, the Governance Team Leader, the Administration Officer Governance, the Manager Property Land Development, the Director Strategy, Partnerships and Engagement, the IT Infrastructure Specialist, the IT Support Officer Wellington, the Communications Services Team Leader, the Communications Partner, the Director Development and Environment, the Manager Growth Planning, the Manager Environmental Compliance, the Director Infrastructure, the Manager Strategy Water Supply and Sewerage, the Director Community, Culture and Places and the Manager Recreation and Open Spaces.

Councillor M Dickerson assumed the Chair of the meeting.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 5.30 pm at the Dubbo Civic Administration Building, Council Chamber, with a prayer for Divine Guidance to the Council in its deliberations and activities read by Councillor M Wright. The acknowledgement of country was also read by Councillor L Burns.

CCL24/1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID24/32)

There were no leave of absence received.

CCL24/2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID24/33)

The following conflicts of interest were declared:

- Councillor J Black – pecuniary item CCL24/19
- Councillor D Mahon – non pecuniary interest item CCL24/26

At this juncture time being 5.34pm the Mayor and Deputy Mayor presented the Wellington Australia Day 2024 Young Sportsperson Award to Samantha Thompson.

CCL24/3 PUBLIC FORUM (ID24/34)

The Council reports having met with the following persons during Public Forum:

- Mr Will Martel – regarding CCL24/20 – Draft Spicers Creek Wind Farm Planning Agreement – Results of Public Exhibition.
- Mrs Mary-Anne Dean – regarding the relocation of Mookerawa Waters Holiday Cabins.

CCL24/4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (ID24/35)

Confirmation of the minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 14 December 2023.

Moved by Councillor S Chowdhury and seconded by Councillor M Wright

MOTION

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Dubbo Regional Council at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 14 December 2023 comprising pages 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 of the series be taken as read, confirmed as correct minutes, and signed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer.

CARRIED

For: Councillors J Black, L Burns, S Chowdhury, M Dickerson, V Etheridge, J Gough, R Ivey, D Mahon, P Wells and M Wright.

Against: Nil

INFORMATION ONLY MATTERS:

CCL24/5 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS AND MEETINGS (ID24/6)

The Council had before it the report dated 10 January 2024 from the Chief Executive Officer regarding Mayoral Appointments and Meetings.

Moved by Councillor M Wright and seconded by Councillor V Etheridge

MOTION

That the information contained in the report be noted.

CARRIED

For: Councillors J Black, L Burns, S Chowdhury, M Dickerson, V Etheridge, J Gough, R Ivey, D Mahon, P Wells and M Wright.

Against: Nil.

MOTION

1. That Council adopt the amended Renewable Energy Benefit Framework (attached in Appendix 1) that includes the following amendments:
 - a. Electricity Generating Works (includes solar energy farms, wind energy farms, pumped hydro, hydrogen energy developments and any other developments that meet the definition of Electricity Generating Works):
 - Funding target equivalent to 1.5% of Capital Investment Value of the project, with payment of all funds as annual payments.
 - b. Battery Energy Storage Systems:
 - Funding target equivalent to 0.50% of Capital Investment Value of the project, with payment of all funds prior to the commencement of the development, or
 - Funding target equivalent to 0.75% of Capital Investment Value of the project, with payment of funds as annual payments over the life of the project.
2. That:
 - a. Council note the draft NSW Government Department of Planning and Environment Energy Policy Framework (attached in Appendix 2).
 - b. In the absence of detailed analysis from the NSW Government Department of Planning and Environment that the following per megawatt rates are considered acceptable to Council as they are more aligned to 1.5% of Capital Investment Value of a project:
 - \$1,050 per megawatt per annum for solar energy development; and
 - \$1,250 per megawatt per annum wind energy development.
3. That Council establish a Renewable Energy Committee, with the aim to provide a consultation link between Council, the community and developers of renewable energy projects.

CARRIED

For: Councillors J Black, L Burns, S Chowdhury, M Dickerson, V Etheridge, J Gough, R Ivey, D Mahon, P Wells and M Wright.

Against: Nil.

CCL24/19 PLANNING PROPOSAL R23-007 - MINIMUM LOT SIZE AREA AMENDMENTS AT 20L ROCKY ROAD, DUBBO (ID23/2545)

The Council had before it the report dated 8 January 2024 from the Growth Planner regarding Planning Proposal R23-007 - Minimum Lot Size Area Amendments at 20L Rocky Road, Dubbo.

Moved by Councillor S Chowdhury and seconded by Councillor P Wells

MOTION

1. That Council endorse the Planning Proposal (attached in Appendix 1) to amend the Dubbo Regional Local Environmental Plan 2022 by changing the minimum lot size area at part of 20L Rocky Road, Dubbo (Lot 13 DP258406) from 20ha to 8ha.
2. That Council submit the Planning Proposal to the NSW Department of Planning and

Environment for a Gateway Determination.

3. That Council request the Chief Executive Officer or delegate be authorised as the Local Plan Making Authority under Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
4. That Council support a minimum 28 days public exhibition period for the Planning Proposal, subject to the conditions of a Gateway Determination.
5. That following the completion of the public exhibition period, a further report be presented to Council for consideration, including the results of public exhibition.

CARRIED

For: Councillors J Black, L Burns, S Chowdhury, M Dickerson, V Etheridge, J Gough, R Ivey, D Mahon, P Wells and M Wright.

Against: Nil.

Councillor J Black declared a pecuniary significant interest in the matter now before the Council and left the room and was out of sight during the Council's consideration of this matter. The reason for such interest is that Councillor J Black owns a block of land near the subject holding and in order to maintain public confidence he will leave the room while this matter is considered.

CCL24/20 DRAFT SPICERS CREEK WIND FARM PLANNING AGREEMENT - RESULTS OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION (ID23/1798)

The Council had before it the report dated 1 February 2024 from the Development Contributions Planner regarding Draft Spicers Creek Wind Farm Planning Agreement - Results of Public Exhibition.

Moved by Councillor R Ivey and seconded by Councillor M Wright

MOTION

1. That Council enter into a Planning Agreement (attached in Appendix 1) with Squadron Energy Pty Ltd.
2. That Council execute the Planning Agreement by affixing the Common Seal.
3. That Council note the submissions received during the public exhibition periods (attached in Appendix 2 and 3).
4. That Council establish a Renewable Energy Committee, with the aim to provide a consultation link between Council, the community and developers of renewable energy projects.

CARRIED

For: Councillors J Black, L Burns, S Chowdhury, M Dickerson, V Etheridge, J Gough, R Ivey, D Mahon, P Wells and M Wright.

Against: Nil.