



MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 5th July 2023

Hugh Percy
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WALGETT SHIRE CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY 5th JULY 2023 AT
9:15AM**

OPEN FORUM

Public Presentations:

Mr Ray Griffin – Australian Opal Centre, addressed Council in relation to Australian Opal Centre program. Ray advised the Council that funding had been received from the NSW Government, and following tender scrutiny, the tender had been awarded to Barpa Construction Services. Ray announced that a letter of intent was being sent to Barpa, officially appointing them to construct the Australian Opal Centre.

It was noted that despite reduce the scope of the project, the budget was still not secured for the entire project, however multiple funding opportunities were being explored.

It was stated that the building is expected to be opened in August or September 2024.

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:15am

PRESENT

Deputy Mayor Greg Rummery

Clr Alf Seaton

Clr Colin Hundy

Clr Ian Woodcock

Clr Jasen Ramien

Clr Daniel Walford

Clr Michael Cooke

Hugh Percy (Acting General Manager)

Hafiz Malik (Director Corporate Services)

Kimley Talbert (Director Environmental Services)

Tim McLoughlin (Acting Director Engineering Technical Services)

Rebecca Wilson (Minute Secretary)

ABSENT

Jane Keir (Mayor)

Sue Currey (Councillor)

07/2023/01 Leave of Absence

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Ramien that the leave of absence received from Clr Keir and Currey is accepted and leave of absence granted.

07/2023/02 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 23rd May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillor Walford and Ramien that the minutes of the meeting held 23rd May 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 5/2023/1 to 5C/2023/6 pages 2 to 21, be confirmed.

07/2023/03 Minutes of Extra Ordinary Council Meeting – 6th June 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Seaton that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held 6th June 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 6/2023/1 to 6/2023/4 pages 2 to 3, be confirmed.

Declaration of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor	Item No.	Report title/ Subject matter	Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary	Reason
Clr Ramien	8.3.1	Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as at 31 May 2023.	Pecuniary	Family Owned Contract Business

07/2023/04 Monthly Mayoral Report – June 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Ramien that the Mayoral report for May 2023 be received and noted.

07/2023/05 Mayoral Minute

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Ramien that the Mayoral report for May 2023 be received and noted.

07/2023/06 Report of Committees/Delegates

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Cooke that the reports of the following Committees/Delegates be received and noted;

- Local Area Traffic Committee Meeting Draft Meeting Minutes 8th June 2023 be received and noted, subject to a review of the speed limit changes proposed for Fred Reece Way, as this may require street lighting.

07/2023/07 Council's Decision Action Report – June 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Seaton that the Resolution Register for June 2023 be received and noted.

Clr Rummery requested an updated on the appointment of a Council representative on the Australian Opal Centre Board. Acting General Manager Hugh Percy advised that due to changes in their constitution, having a Council representative on the board may prove difficult.

It was agreed that a report would be put to the July 2023 Council meeting to updated Council on this matter.

There was discussion regarding the progress on the purchase of the portable stage. It was agreed that Cllr Ramien would investigate getting a professional auto electrician to inspect the stage, to ensure compliance and suitability, prior to Cllr Hundy and Cllr Ramien travelling to undertake final inspection prior to Council purchasing the stage.

07/2023/08 Circulars Received from the NSW Office of Local Government

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Seaton and Hundy that the information contained in the following Department circulars 23-04 through to 23-05 from the office of Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

07/2023/09 Walgett Splash Park Power Supply

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Cooke that; the matter of the Walgett Splash Park Power Supply be moved into closed session for further discussion in closed session.

There was discussion regarding the power supply and the true cost of the power supply installation. Councillors requested to know who was responsibility for the oversight in failure to ensure adequate power supply was present or budgeted for in the Splash Park project. It was decided that the report would be moved into closed session for discussion in conjunction with the closed session report to Council regarding the Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool.

07/2023/10 Important Dates for Councillors – Upcoming Meetings & Events

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Ramien and Cooke that Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events.

07/2023/11 Monthly Outstanding Rates Report as at 31st May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Ramien that the Monthly Outstanding Rates report as at 31st May 2023 be received and noted.

07/2023/12 Cash and Investment Report as at 31st May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Walford and Cllr Seaton that the Investment report as at 31st May 2023 be received and noted.

072023/13 Adoption of Operational Plan 2023/24, Delivery Program 2023/24 to 2024/25, Workforce Plan 2023/24 to 2024/25 and Endorsement of Long Term Financial Plan

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Ramien and Woodcock

That Council having considered submissions received up to 4th July 2023;

1. Adopt the 2023/24 Operational Plan and budget for the financial year
2. Adopts the Fees and Charges 23/24 as set in the Operational Plan, with Council reserving the right to vary fees and charges of a commercial nature as circumstances require.
3. Adopt the Delivery Program for 2023/2024 to 2024/25
4. Adopts the Workforce Plan 2023/24 to 2024/25
5. Endorses the Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan

07/2023/14 Making of the Ordinary Rates and Annual Charges 2023/2024

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Walford and Hundy that Council;

1. Adopts the rating structure in accordance with the Revenue Policy approved for exhibition by Council on 6th June 2023 (resolution no 06/2023/3)
2. In accordance with sections 534 and 535 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, to make the Ordinary Rates for the 2023/2024 rating year commencing 1st July 2023 as set out in Table 1 in the report above on the land value for all rateable land within each category and sub-category at the amount in the dollar specified and the applicable base amounts for each category and sub-category applied in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*
3. Adopts all Annual Charges for Waste Management Water Supply and Sewerage Services for the financial year 2023/2024 as included in Council's Draft Revenue Policy.

Continued

1. Walgett Residential Rate

A Walgett Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.01967356 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Walgett Residential within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$240.00 representing 40% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

2. Lightning Ridge Residential Rate

A Lightning Ridge Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.00850449 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Lightning Ridge Residential within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$240.00 representing 40% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*

3. Collarenebri Residential Rate

A Collarenebri Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.11676132 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Collarenebri Residential within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$220.00 representing 39% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

4. Burren Junction Residential Rate

A Burren Junction Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.05539187 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Burren Junction Residential within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$175.00 representing 36% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

5. Carinda Residential Rate

A Carinda Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.05570462 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Carinda Residential within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$105.00 representing 45% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

6. Cumborah Residential Rate

A Cumborah Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.00563089 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Cumborah Residential within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$105.00 representing 48% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*

7. Rowena/Come-By-Chance Residential Rate

A Rowena/Come-By-Chance Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.02519445 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Rowena/Come-By-Chance Residential within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$105.00 representing 48% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

8. Residential – Preserved Opal Fields Rate

A Residential – Preserved Opal Fields Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.08825014 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Residential – Preserved Opal Fields within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$135.00 representing 37% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

9. Residential – Mineral Claim Rate

A Residential – Mineral Claim Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.08825014 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Residential – Mineral Claim within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (b) of the *NSW Local Government Act*

1993 and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$135.00 representing 0% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

10. Residential Rate

A Residential Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.00412756 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land within Walgett Shire categorised as residential in accordance with section 516 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$190.00 representing 38% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

11. Walgett Business Rate

A Walgett Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.02456289 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Walgett Business within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$345.00 representing 29% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*

12. Lightning Ridge Business Rate

A Lightning Ridge Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.00936591 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Lightning Ridge Business within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$345.00 representing 30% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

13. Collarenebri Business Rate

A Collarenebri Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.05417354 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Collarenebri Business within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$345.00 representing 40% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

14. Burren Junction Business Rate

A Burren Junction Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.0451726 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Burren Junction Business within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$295.00 representing 42% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

15. Carinda Business Rate

A Carinda Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.01190259 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Carinda Business within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$155.00 representing 47% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

16. Cumborah Business Rate

A Cumborah Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.07270554 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Carinda Business within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$130.00 representing 47% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

17. Rowena/Come-By-Chance Business Rate

A Rowena/Come-By-Chance Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.01587073 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Business within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$160.00 representing 43% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

18. Business – Preserved Opal Fields Rate

A Business – Preserved Opal Fields Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.03719304 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Business – Preserved Opal Fields within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$270.00 representing 41% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

19. Business – Mineral Claim Rate

A Business – Mineral Claim Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.03719304 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Business – Mineral Claim within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (d) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$270.00 representing 0% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

20. Business Rate

A Business Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.00649379 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land within Walgett Shire categorised as Business in accordance with section 518 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$190.00 representing 38% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

21. Rural (Farmland)

A Rural (Farmland) Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.00151825 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land within Walgett Shire categorised as Rural (Farmland) in accordance with section 515 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$170.00 representing 3% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

22. Rural Irrigable (Farmland)

A Rural Irrigable Ordinary Ad Valorem Amount of 0.00151825 cents in the dollar levied on the land value of all rateable land sub-categorised as Rural Irrigable (Farmland) within Walgett Shire in accordance with section 529(2) (a) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and having a Base Amount per assessment of \$170.00 representing 0% of the total yield in accordance with section 500 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

Domestic Waste Management**23.**

In accordance with section 496 (1) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, Council make an annual charge of \$568.00 per service for the provision of domestic waste management services for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available for the 2023/2024

24. In accordance with section 496 (2) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, Council make an annual charge of \$647.00 per service to non-rateable residential properties for the 2022/2023 rating year commencing on 1st July 2023

Trade Waste Services

25. In accordance with section 501 of the NSW Local Government Act 1993, Council make the annual charges for Water Supply, Sewerage Services and Waste Management Services for the 2023/2024 rating year commencing on 1st July 2023. These charges are set out in Council's Operational Plan – Statement of Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/2024 under the headings Waste Management, Commercial Waste Management, Water Supply and Sewerage and are included in **Table 2**.

Table 2

Waste Management Charges

SERVICE PROVIDED	DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT	2023/2024
Domestic Waste Collection Charge (s496) per occupancy	<i>per bin per annum</i>	\$568.00

SERVICE PROVIDED	COMMERCIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT	2023/2024
240L MGB Collection – weekly collection	<i>per bin per annum</i>	\$647.00
360L MGB Collection – twice weekly collection	<i>per bin per annum</i>	\$1,848.00
360L MGB – weekly service	<i>per bin per annum</i>	\$924.00

SERVICE PROVIDED	WASTE MANAGEMENT	2023/2024
Waste Management Charge (s501)	<i>per annum</i>	\$75.90

Water Supply Charges

All properties either, connected to or within 225 metres of a Council water main and able to be connected are charged.

ACCESS CHARGES		
Bore Water – Lightning Ridge, Carinda, and Rowena		2023/2024
20mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$455.00
20mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$455.00
25mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$455.00
25mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$676.00
32mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$455.00
32mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$1074.00
40mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$455.00
40mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$1,662.00
50mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$455.00
50mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$2,597.00
75mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$455.00
75mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$5,673.00
100mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$455.00
100mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$10,080.00
Unmetered	<i>Residential</i>	As per applicable size
Unmetered	<i>Non-Residential</i>	As per applicable size

CONSUMPTION CHARGES		
Bore Water – Lightning Ridge, Carinda, and Rowena		2023/2024
Usage Charge	<i>per kilolitre <600kl</i>	\$0.40
Usage Charge	<i>per kilolitre >600kl</i>	\$0.58

ACCESS CHARGES		
Filtered Water – Walgett & Collarenebri		2023/2024
20mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$631.00
20mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$631.00
25mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$631.00
25mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$985.00
32mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$631.00
32mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$1,614.00
40mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$631.00
40mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$2,521.00
50mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$631.00
50mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$3,940.00
75mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$631.00
75mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$8,645.00
100mm Connection	<i>Residential</i>	\$631.00
100mm Connection	<i>Non-Residential</i>	\$15,371.00
Unmetered	<i>Residential</i>	As per applicable size
Unmetered	<i>Non-Residential</i>	As per applicable size

CONSUMPTION CHARGES		
Filtered Water – Walgett and Collarenebri		2023/2024
Filtered Usage Charge	<i>per kilolitre <600kl</i>	\$1.17
Filtered Usage Charge	<i>per kilolitre >600kl</i>	\$1.78
Unfiltered Usage charge	<i>per kilolitre <600kl</i>	\$0.40
Unfiltered Usage Charge	<i>per kilolitre >600kl</i>	\$0.58

Sewerage Charges

All properties either, connected to or within 75 metres of a Council sewer main and able to be connected are charged.

SERVICE PROVIDED	SEWERAGE	2023/2024
Walgett	<i>per annum</i>	\$564.00
Lightning Ridge	<i>per annum</i>	\$487.00
Collarenebri	<i>per annum</i>	\$469.00
Additional Sewer Connections (per connection)		
Walgett	<i>per annum</i>	\$564.00
Lightning Ridge	<i>per annum</i>	\$487.00
Collarenebri	<i>per annum</i>	\$469.00
Cistern Charges – Applicable to Business Categories (per toilet/urinal)		
Walgett	<i>per annum</i>	\$88.00
Lightning Ridge	<i>per annum</i>	\$75.00
Collarenebri	<i>per annum</i>	\$68.00

FOR:

Clr Rummery
Clr Hundy
Clr Walford
Clr Woodcock
Clr Ramien
Clr Seaton

AGAINST:

Clr Cooke

ABSENT:

Clr Keir
Clr Currey

There was lengthy discussion amongst Councillors in relation to increasing the rates and water charges, in particular standpipes and how Council could impose a user pays system. It was decided that following the commencement of the new General Manager and an internal review of council operations, Council would be able to make better informed decisions regarding the increase of the rates.

Acting General Manager Hugh Percy, suggested that given the many issues arising out of the rates increase and charging for standpipe use, that Council agree to hold an informal meeting where all arising matters could be discussed at length, and clear way forward can be achieved.

Clr Ramien declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting at 10:15am

07/2023/15 Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as at 31st May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Seaton that Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report as at 31st May 2023.

Clr Ramien returned to the meeting at 10:16am.

07/2023/16 Service Progress Report as at 31st May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Cooke and Hundy that Council receive and note the Progress Report as at 31st May 2023.

Clr Woodcock asked if the Goangra Bridge had been opened, Acting Director Engineering and Technical Services Tim McLoughlin advised that the works on the bridge were in the final stages. It was noted that the project has taken over 12 months to complete.

Clr Hundy asked if the progress of the roads projects were on budget. Acting Director Engineering and Technical Services Tim McLoughlin stated that most projects were tracking on budget.

There was discussion regarding the delivery of boulders to the Lorne Road project, which were proposed for crushing but the machinery was unsuccessful in crushing the boulders to a satisfactory size.

Acting Director Engineering and Technical Services Tim McLoughlin stated there were various issues in relation to the construction of roads and design standards that need to be brought to the Council's attention via a report at a later date.

It was suggested that a review of Council's road priorities, design and construction methods should be an agenda item at the previously discussed informal meeting where all arising matters could be discussed at length, and clear way forward can be achieved.

07/2023/17 Monthly Major Project Progress Report as at 31st May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Cooke and Hundy that Council receive and note the monthly projects report as at 31st May 2023.

07/2023/18 Flood Restoration Works Update as at 31st May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Cooke that Council receive and note the flood restoration works report as at 31st May 2023.

07/2023/19 Lightning Ridge Bore Line

<p>Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Ramien that the existing bore line, be replaced with 200mm poly welded pipeline at a minimum depth of one (1) meter, approximately 5.1kms in length at a cost of \$2.3million plus management costs.</p>
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There was lengthy discussion regarding town water funds. Cllr Woodcock stated that there should be funds transferred from the Walgett water fund to the Lightning Ridge water fund.

Director Corporate Services Hafiz Malik stated that if Council takes the approach that each town has its own water fund, how will Council afford any future maintenance or upgrade projects in towns such as Collarenebri that are currently in deficit.

Cllr Woodcock advised that he requested an audit of the water funds previously, but it had never been completed.

Cllr Woodcock also stated that many years ago when Lightning Ridge required a new water town, they received \$500,000 in grant funding towards the \$1 million dollar project. Cllr Woodcock said they Mayor at the time stated the Walgett Water funds could not be used to make up the shortfall in the replacement water tower project, and from that Lightning Ridge raised the balance of the funds themselves.

Cllr Woodcock explained that Lightning Ridge paid that same water rates as Walgett and Collarenebri despite not having a dual water system. He stated that the increased water charges lead to a large accumulative total in the Lightning Ridge water fund to the sum of approximately \$6 million dollars. The Lightning Ridge Bore line was costed to this fund at a cost of \$1 million dollars.

Director Corporate Services Hafiz Malik explained that council needs take a whole approach in relation to the water funds, and not an individual town approach. He also advised the Council that the transition to electronic water meters had commenced.

Councillors stated that they had not been made aware of the upgrading of the meters to electronic. Acting Director Engineering and Technical Services Tim McLoughlin stated he would put a report to Council on the electronic water meter upgrade.

Cllr Ramien raised concern regarding the number of illegal connections to water meters that would be charged for. It was requested that during the upgrading of the meters, Council ensures illegal connections are resolved.

Cllr Rummery requested a report detailing that balance of each water fund, as it appeared there was major discrepancies in relation to what each balance should be.

07/2023/20 Report Under Preparation For Council

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Hundy that Council note the list of Reports to Council, yet to be presented.

Clr Ramien requested to know that status of the grant to upgrade the Collarenebri Caravan Park.

Councillor Rummary requested more detailed be included in the report for clarity for Councillors on current projects.

07/2023/21 Project Workload

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Cooke and Ramien that Council note the generation of a Projects Register.

07/2023/22 Development Approvals – May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Ramien that Council note the information contained within this report.

07/2023/23 Planning Proposal – Roads to Home Program – Gingie Village (DA/202154) Namoi Village (DA/2021/46) & Walli Village (DA/2023/18)

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Ramien and Seaton that the Planning Proposal for the rezoning of land at Gingie, Namoi and Walli Villages as outlined in the submission form Wakefield Planning, be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment for a Gateway Determination.

07/2023/24 Development Application for Subdivision of Namoi Village (DA/2021/46)

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Ramien and Seaton that Council;

1. Pursuant to Section 4.16(1)(a) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, grants deferred commencement consent to development application DA2021/46, subject to the plans, documents and conditions outlined and described in the Draft Conditions of Consent.
2. Add the villages on Namoi and Walli to the Planning Proposal for rezoning of land at Gingie Village as determined at its April 2023 meeting to be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment for a Gateway determination.
3. Advise the applicant that, Council is not prepared at this stage to accept care, control and maintenance of either the water or the sewer systems at this stage, pending acceptable outcomes of negotiations between Council, Walgett Local Aboriginal Land Council and NSW Government in relation to provision of condition reports and certification, any necessary upgrades to ensure the systems are operating to current industry standard practices.

For:

Clr Rummery
 Clr Hundy
 Clr Walford
 Clr Cooke
 Clr Woodcock
 Clr Ramien
 Clr Seaton

Against:**Absent:**

Clr Keir
 Clr Currey

07/2023/25 Development Application for Subdivision of Walli Village (DA/2023/18)

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Ramien and Cooke that Council:

1. That Council, pursuant to Section 4.16(1)(a) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, grants deferred commencement consent to development application DA/2023/18, subject to the plans, documents and conditions outlined and described in the Draft Conditions of Consent.
2. Advise the applicant that Council is not prepared at this stage to accept care, control and maintenance of either the water or the sewer systems at this stage, pending acceptable outcomes of negotiations between Council, Walgett Local Aboriginal Land Council and NSW Government in relation to provision of condition reports and certification, any necessary upgrades to ensure the systems are operating to current industry standard practices.

For:

Clr Rummery
 Clr Hundy
 Clr Walford
 Clr Cooke
 Clr Woodcock
 Clr Ramien
 Clr Seaton

Against:**Absent:**

Clr Keir
 Clr Currey

07/2023/26 Matters Generally for Brief mention or Information Only from Director Environmental Services

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Cooke that Council receive and note the report.

Council suspended the meeting for a recess break at 11:15am

Council resumed the meeting at 11.25am

07/2023/27 Motion

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy and Cooke that the red/blue/green/yellow – coloured door trails in Lightning Ridge be repainted in their existing colours by Council and that John Murray be asked to repaint the numbers on each door and further that Council staff ensure the site of each door is tidy & free from weeds and debris.

There was discussion amongst Councillors in relation to the cost of the project and how the project would be funded. Acting General Manager informed the Council, that in previous years, Council had pledged \$30,000 to assist the GGSMA with maintenance. It was noted that this budget has \$80,000 for 2023/2024 and suggested that the upgrade of the car door project be paid from the same budget. It was agreed to by Council unanimously.

It was requested that the Acting General Manager put a report to the next Council meeting in relation to the agreement between GGSMA and Council for the maintenance of the roads and related costs/funding from Council.

07/2023/28 Notice of Motion for Recission

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Hundy, Cooke, Seaton, Walford and Ramien that Council rescind the resolution 2/2023/4 “The Office of Local Government be requested to investigate the matter of Councillors and the Council”.

For:

Clr Ramien
Clr Seaton
Clr Hundy
Clr Walford
Clr Cooke

Against:

Clr Rummery
Clr Woodcock

Absent:

Clr Keir
Clr Currey

CARRIED

Clr Woodcock requested to know why this motion, that was originally resolved by Council at the March 2023 meeting, had not been actioned.

Acting General Manager Hugh Percy, stated the there was much confusion following the dismissal of the previous General Manager. He stated that the motion to investigate the Council had not been raised until the Mayor raised the issue of the motion not being actioned at the June 2023 meeting. Acting General Manager Hugh Percy stated at such time the Mayor questioned where the motion to investigate Council was up to, he had received the notice of motion to rescind the motion in question and therefore did not proceed to act upon it.

Clr Rummery stated that he was under the belief that the intent of the motion put forward on the day was to ensure clarity of the general managers dismissal. Clr Rummery urged the Council to rethink the rescission, and rather define the terms of reference of the motion to ensure the appropriate matters were investigated as per

Clr Hundy commented that there were 5 councillors in favour of the rescission, and that it should be voted on accordingly.

Clr Rummery stated that should Council choose to rescind the motion after it was resolved (in a recorded vote 8 for/1 against) an estimated 95 days ago, it may look hypocritical to the public.

Clr Ramien noted that there was no General Manager in place at the time and the Mayor action matters within Council at the time. Clr Ramien stated that perhaps the Mayor should have moved to action the motion to investigate at the time.

07/2023/29 Questions on Notice

Resolved on the motion of the Council, that the questions on notice put to Council by Clr Currey be deferred to the next Council meeting, to allow Clr Currey to speak to the questions put forward.

07/2023/30 Move into Closed Session

Time: 11:56pm

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Ramien that the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A (2)(a), (c) & (d)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with;

(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)

(c) that information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting business (or proposed to conduct business)

(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed

(ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council.

07/2023/31 Return to Open Session**Time: 12:49pm**

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Cooke and Hndy that Council return to open session.

Resolutions passed in closed session brought forward into open session.

07C/2023/1 Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting – 23rd May 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Walford and Hundy that the minutes of the closed meeting held 23rd May 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 05C/2023/1 to 05C/2023/6 pages 2 to 4, be confirmed.

07C/2023/2 Minutes of the Closed Extra Ordinary Council Meeting – 6th June 2023

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Cooke and Walford that the minutes of the closed meeting held 6th June 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 06C/2023/1 to 06C/2023/2 pages 2 to 3, be confirmed.

07C/2023/3 Western Herald Sponsorship

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Cooke and Walford that the minutes of the closed meeting held 6th June 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 06C/2023/1 to 06C/2023/2 pages 2 to 3, be confirmed.

07C/2023/4 Western Herald Sponsorship

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Cooke and Hundy that the General Manager prepare a report to Council on advertising and sponsorship of all print media, which details the full costs of advertising and sponsorship (of each media outlet) fees incurred by Council.

07C/2023/5 Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Walford and Cooke that based on the findings of the report on the condition of the Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool;

1. The Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool be decommissioned, and that Council immediately have plans prepared to replace the pool and then urgently source funding for such replacement.
2. The local swimming club and community be consulted on whether there is interest in transporting swimmers to the Lightning Ridge Pool on a regular basis.
3. That local member for Barwon Mr Roy Butler MP and The Hon Chris Minns MP be invited to Council to discuss funding options with Council.

07C/2023/6 Kookaburra Court - Walgett

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Walford and Hundy that;

1. Council consider re-activating the use of this building to accommodate for, but not limited to;
 - Contractors – generally – minimal cost
 - Contractors – Council – minimal cost
 - First responders – minimal cost
 - RFS Training programs – minimal cost
2. The re-activation be stages with Stage 1 being the 4 rooms and caretakers' accommodation be prepared for use.
3. Council's Property Officer be authorised to prepare the facility for use and seek suitable caretaker(s) from within the community to manage the facility.
4. Prior to any costs being incurred that a schedule of work/costs/fees be report to Council for approval.
5. The matter be put out to public consultation and a further report be put to Council, summarising community feedback.

*** It should be noted that the matter of the Walgett Splash Park Power Supply, resolved to be moved from open session into closed session for discussion, was not reconsidered by Council at the meeting held on 5th July 2023. It is suggested that this report be resubmitted to the 31st July 2023 meeting, in closed session reports, to gain a formal resolution by Council. ***

With no further business the meeting was closed by Deputy Mayor Rummery at 12.50pm

To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

Mayor

General Manager