



# **WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

**29 September 2009**

*RAY KENT*  
*General Manager*

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT THE CARINDA HALL ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 10:15am

#### PRESENT

Clr I Woodcock (Mayor)  
Clr R Greenaway  
Clr J Keir  
Clr Martinez  
Clr Colless  
Clr K Smith  
Clr L Walford  
Clr G Murray  
Clr D Lane  
Mr R Kent (General Manager)  
Ms C Medcalf (Director, Corporate and Community Services)  
Mr M Goodwin (Director, Planning and Regulatory Services)  
Mrs D Parker (Minute Secretary)

#### Apologies

Mr I Taylor (Director, Rural Infrastructure & Support Services)  
Mr F Coralde (Director, Urban Infrastructure Services)

#### Welcome to Visitors

The Mayor welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

#### **286/09 Election of Mayor**

The Returning Officer, being the General Manager, advised that only one nomination was submitted and declared Councillor Ian Woodcock elected Mayor unopposed.

**Nominated:** Clr Colless  
**Seconded:** Clr Greenaway

Mayor, Clr Woodcock assumed the Chair

#### **287/09 Election of Deputy Mayor**

The Returning Officer, being the General Manager, advised that only one nomination was submitted and declared Councillor Geoffrey Colless elected Deputy Mayor unopposed.

**Nominated:** Clr Greenaway  
**Seconded:** Clr Woodcock

## **Public Forum Presentations**

### **Dominic Warnock spoke on the following:**

- There is currently issues with regard to the playground being positioned across the road from the hotel as the children are crossing the road to get to the park whilst their parents are at the hotel. There is a need for a pedestrian crossing to be placed in this area.
- There is a vacant block of land situated next to the park which has been recently sold by Council. Would it be possible for Council to purchase this land back so that the park may be extended?
- The local tip is considered to be an eyesore. It is quiet often overflowing with rubbish and the fence surrounding it makes it difficult to manage machinery.
- The precinct committee has requested that the infrastructure funding for Carinda be spent on resealing the tennis courts with bitumen. The community would be willing also to help with the installation of a practice wall.
- Shire Road 7516 which is now part of the Billybingbone Road to Brewarrina has a 4km gap of black dirt between gravel. This becomes an issue with wet weather as traffic cannot get through on this short section of road.
- The regular water release to flush the mains pipeline is causing water to hold in gutters in front of properties causing health issues.
- A rusty mains pipe is lying above ground along Mrs Regan's fence which is making the entrance to her property not safe as it creates a tripping hazard.
- Could a primitive camping area be considered at the Recreational Ground
- Could Council employees be encouraged to be on the lookout for things that may need repairing in the Shire and report them back to their managers?
- There is an ongoing water draining problem in front of the northern side of the hotel which is creating a problem with parking.

### **Walgett and District Ratepayers Association**

A written presentation was considered by Councillors. The presentation covered the following matters:

- Classification of irrigable land
- A radio interview given by the General Manager
- The Christmas closedown of Council
- The election of the Mayor
- Water Restriction Policy

## **Declaration of Pecuniary/Non Pecuniary Interests**

NIL

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 288/09 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolution:**

1. That the minutes of the Council Meeting held 25th August 2009 be confirmed following amendments deleting the identification of owners of property in Questions 1 and 3 from Councillor Greenaway.

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway  
**Seconded:** Clr Colless

**CARRIED**

### 289/09 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolution:**

1. That the minutes of the Council Extraordinary Meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009 be confirmed.

**Moved:** Clr Walford  
**Seconded:** Clr Martinez

**CARRIED**

### Reserve Trust Management Committee Reports

Nil

### Motions of which Notice has been given

Nil

### Presentation of Petitions

Nil

### Councillors Questions with Notice

#### Clr Greenaway:

**Question 1:**

What are the rules regarding vehicles parking in front of the Council Chambers (on the lawn or concrete area) in Fox Street?

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### Response:

The Director, Planning and Regulatory Services responded that there are no formal rules regarding parking on the lawn or concrete area at the front of the Council Chambers. Occasionally trades people park on the lawn when it facilitates their work on the Council building. Adjoining the disabled access ramp there is a brick and concrete area which is used periodically by disabled people for parking vehicles. This facilitates access, especially for people in wheel chairs, to the access ramp. At the present time there are no markings indicating that this is a disabled car park.

The General Manager advised that signage indicating parking for the disabled would be installed in association with the concrete area.

### Question 2:

Could Councillors be given the following information:-

- (a) List of Consultants working for the Council
- (b) What work is each Consultant carrying out for Council?
- (c) Total cost of each Consultant for each project since 1/7/09

### Response:

The following consultants have worked for Walgett Shire Council for the period 01/07/2009 to 17/09/2009:

Name		Cost exl GST
Strategic Consulting Solutions	HR	\$14,660
GHD Pty Limited	Bridge Design	\$24,524
M Ryan & Associates	Engineering	\$ 6,900
Ingle & Associates	Rates/System Analysis/IT	\$17,830
Brian Vaughan	Health & Building	\$ 459
Hunter Council Regional Procurement	Purchasing	\$ 4,800

### Question 3:

Could Australia Day nominations be brought forward to enable more time?

### Response:

The General Manager advised that he would call for nominations early in November and would ensure that the November Council Newsletter focused on Australia Day and the Awards

## Reports of Delegates and Representatives

### 290/09 Camps on Claims Working Group Minutes

**Resolution:**

1. That Council note the draft minutes of the Camps on Claims Working Group meeting held 19 August 2009.

**Moved:** Clr Lane  
**Seconded:** Clr Smith

**CARRIED**

### 291/09 North West Weight of Loads Committee

**Resolution:**

1. That Council note the minutes of the North West Weight of Loads Group and Council's 2008/2009 expenditure.

**Moved:** Clr Martinez  
**Seconded:** Clr Keir

**CARRIED**

## Reports of Officers

### 292/09 Delegates and Representatives to, and Members of, External Bodies

**Resolution:**

1. That members, representatives and delegates be as outlined in the attached schedule with the following amendments:
  - a) Councillor Murray be Council's sole member of the Walgett Community College Board
  - b) No appointments are made to: the Lightning Ridge/Goodooga Reference Group or the Walgett/Collarenebri Reference Group
  - c) Councillor Keir replace Councillor Greenaway as one of two Council members of the Northern Regional Library

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway  
**Seconded:** Clr Keir

**CARRIED**

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 293/09 Closedown of Administration over Festive Season

**Resolution:**

1. Council operations close for the three days 29th to 31st December 2009 and the General Manager make satisfactory arrangements for the maintenance of essential services and provision of emergency call out services
2. The closedown be effectively notified to residents along with details of essential service and emergency call out arrangements

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway

**Seconded:** Clr Smith

**CARRIED**

### 294/09 Ordinary Council Meetings – Dates and Venues for 2010

**Resolution:**

1. That the schedule of Ordinary Council Meetings for 2010 be as outlined in the report.

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway

**Seconded:** Clr Walford

**CARRIED**

### 295/09 Country and Regional Living Expo Report

**Resolution:**

1. That the Country & Regional Living Expo report be accepted.
2. That Council support a similar attendance at the 2010 Country & Regional Living Expo.

**Moved:** Clr Murray

**Seconded:** Clr Keir

**CARRIED**

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 296/09 Walgett Library Building Extension

**Resolution:**

1. That a Library Development Grant funding application to the State Library NSW be lodged for an extension to the Walgett Library.

**Moved:** Clr Keir  
**Seconded:** Clr Smith

**CARRIED**

### 297/09 Community Consultation Summary Report

**Resolution:**

1. That the Community Consultation Summary Report be accepted.
2. That the draft Walgett Shire Community Plan 2011-2014 be presented at the next Council meeting.

**Moved:** Clr Lane  
**Seconded:** Clr Keir

**CARRIED**

### 298/09 Annual Financial Statements 2008-2009

**Resolution:**

That:

1. The Draft Annual Financial Reports for 2008/2009 be referred to Council's Auditor.
2. The Mayor, General Manager and Finance Manager be authorised to sign the necessary Financial Statements.
3. On receipt of the Audited Report, a copy be forwarded to the Department of Local Government and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
4. Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to set the date at which the Auditors report and the Financial Statements be presented to the public.
5. Public notice be given of the meeting date for formal presentation of the audited Annual Financial Reports for 2008/2009

**Moved:** Clr Lane  
**Seconded:** Clr Murray

**CARRIED**



## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 299/09 Cash on Hand and Investment Report as at 31 August 2009

**Resolution:**

1. That the cash on hand and investment report as at 31 August 2009 be received.

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway

**Seconded:** Clr Smith

**CARRIED**

### 300/09 Development And Complying Development Certificate Applications

**Resolution:**

That Walgett Shire Council:

1. Note the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Director Planning and Regulatory Services and General Manager during August 2009.

**Moved:** Clr Keir

**Seconded:** Clr Lane

**CARRIED**

### 301/09 Proposal to Dedicate Crown Land as Public Road

**Resolution:**

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. Note the Land and Property Management Authority's letter dated 24 August 2009 regarding its proposal to dedicate a 450 square metre area between the Woolaroo Road and Western Lands Lease (WLL) 13301 (Lot 57, DP 705026) as a public road under section 12 of the Roads Act 1993.
2. Respond by stating that Council has no objection to the dedication of the area as a public road, provided that:
  - (a) The holder of Western Lands Lease 13301 accepts responsibility for maintaining the driveway and associated culvert located within the area
  - (b) No cost is incurred by Council in converting the area to a public road

**Moved:** Clr Lane

**Seconded:** Clr Colless

**CARRIED**

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 302/09 Camping at Burren Junction Bore Baths

**Resolution:**

That Walgett Shire Council:

1. Note that the Burren Junction Bore Baths has been closed since 12 September 2009, pending the resolution of issues associated with the evaporation ponds being full.
2. Proceed to develop a concept plan and detailed cost estimates for a primitive camping ground at the Burren Junction Bore Baths with up to 32 sites.
3. Seek agreement from the Land & Property Management Authority for the concept plan for a primitive camping ground at the Burren Junction bore baths.
4. Lodge a Development Application and Activity Application to formalise the use of the Burren Junction bore baths as a primitive camping ground.
5. Consider cost estimates for a primitive camping ground at the Burren Junction bore baths as part of the 2009-2010 budget preparation process.
6. That Council liaise with North West Livestock, Health and Pest Authority, if necessary, to obtain control of any land associated with Burren Junction Bore Baths.

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway

**Seconded:** Clr Smith

**CARRIED**

### 303/09 Doctors Surgery Status Report

**Resolution:**

1. That Council make no decision regarding the future of the Walgett Doctors Surgery building until a Main Street Beautification master plan is in place.

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway

**Seconded:** Clr Keir

**CARRIED**

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 304/09 Water and Sewerage Program for Aboriginal Communities

**Resolution:**

1. That Council approve participation in the Aboriginal Water and Sewerage Program.
2. That Council authorise the General Manager to continue negotiations with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and NSW Department of Water and Energy regarding the Aboriginal Water and Sewerage Program in Walgett.

**Moved:** Clr Keir  
**Seconded:** Clr Walford

**CARRIED**

### 305/09 Water Restriction Policy

**Resolution:**

1. That consideration of the report be deferred until the October meeting.

**Moved:** Clr Keir  
**Seconded:** Clr Greenaway

**CARRIED**

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 306/09 Burren Junction Rescue Squad (VRA) – Request for Assistance

#### Motion:

That Council offer to the Burren Junction (Volunteer Rescue Association) Rescue Squad:

1. A grant of \$5,000 for capital expenditure to be expended by 30 June 2010 and to be paid on receipt by Council of correctly rendered and paid Tax Invoices; and
2. To enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Council for the payment of an annual contribution for operational and maintenance of the Squad of up to \$2,000 per financial year to commence in the year the agreement is signed and to operate for an initial period of five years. The annual continuation of the grant would be subject to the Squad providing Council with a copy of their audited annual accounts and remaining recommended for accreditation by the State Rescue Board of NSW.

**Moved:** Clr Keir

**Seconded:** Clr Greenaway

#### AMENDMENT

That Council:

1. Offer to Burren Junction (Volunteer Rescue Association) Rescue squad
  - (a) A grant of \$5,000 for capital expenditure to be expended by 30 June 2010 and to be paid on receipt by Council of correctly rendered and paid Tax Invoices; and
  - (b) To enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Council for the payment of an annual contribution for operational and maintenance of the Squad of up to \$2,000 per financial year to commence in the year the agreement is signed and to operate for an initial period of five years. The annual continuation of the grant would be subject to the Squad providing Council with a copy of their audited annual accounts and remaining recommended for accreditation by the State Rescue Board of NSW.
2. Request that Burren Junction Rescue Squad consider becoming an SES squad.

**Moved:** Clr Greenaway

**Seconded:** Clr Lane

**CARRIED**

### Questions without Notice

#### Clr Lane:

##### Question 1:

The Cumborah/Castlereagh Highway section of road which has sharp bends has timber growing right up to the road. Could Council please refer the matter to the Traffic Committee so that they may consider removing the timber so that it will improve vision in this area

#### Response:

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services responded that he will refer this matter on.

### **Clr Martinez:**

#### **Question 1:**

With regard to the Main Street Beautification Project are the consultants working to a budget?

#### **Response:**

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that the Consultants were working to a budget of \$400,000 over a 3 year period for the implementation of the project.

#### **Question 2:**

The piping in regard to Lightning Ridge swimming pool – did Council call for tenders for this work?

#### **Response:**

The General Manager advised that the documents had been prepared and the tender would be called shortly.

### **Clr Walford**

#### **Question 1:**

There is a sign on the concrete bridge coming into Walgett which reads “Beware of Horses”. There is quite a few children who cross this bridge. Would it be possible to have a sign erected for pedestrians crossing?

#### **Response:**

The General Manager responded that he will look into getting a pedestrian warning sign installed.

### **Clr Keir:**

#### **Question1:**

The CWA State President will be in the region on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. Clr Keir will not be able to attend. Can any other Councillors attend on her behalf?

#### **Response:**

The Councillors request was noted.

#### **Question 3:**

At the last Council Meeting Councillors were going to visit Coolabah Kids Long Day Care Centre. The centre had prepared a morning tea for the visit but Council did not attend. Are we able to make a time for another visit?

#### **Response:**

The General Manager responded that he was not aware that a firm appointment had been made. The Director, Corporate and Community Services advised that she will make appointments for inspection of Centres prior to the October Council meeting.

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### Question 4:

Councillor Keir advised that Coolabah Kids Long Day Care Centre has sent numerous correspondence to Council but has not received any replies. What is happening with this?

### Response:

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that Council had received a letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June and she had phoned the centre as well as forwarded an email response in regard to this.

### Clr Murray

### Question 1:

When Council is holding the dog desexing programs around the Shire would it be possible to incorporate an awareness program as well? Could Council conduct a program to wipe out the extra dogs that seem to be around at the moment?

### Response:

The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services advised that this program has recently taken place in the Shire.

### Question 2:

Would it be possible to have a community notice board in the area so that Council could better advertise community events?

### Response:

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that all events are placed in the local media, on the website and sent via other mediums. Council is currently in the process of investigating other ways to advertise including a community site on our current website.

### Question 3:

What is happening with the Interagency Meeting?

### Response:

The General Manager advised that the meetings were convened by the Premiers Department and he was not aware of any having been convened this year.

### Question 4:

Is there going to be another Police meeting in the near future?

### Response:

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that these meetings are ongoing.

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### Question 5:

Will the presentation that Dominic Warnock read at the beginning of the meeting be included in the minutes?

### Response:

The General Manager advised that this will be included.

### Clr Smith

### Question 1:

The Collarenebri airstrip is going to be resealed and have the lighting fixed but it is also too narrow. There is not enough money in the grant to have the airstrip widened as well but will there be enough money to complete the sealing and the lighting at the same time.

### Response:

The General Manager advised that the cost of sealing is more than budgeted. The Director of Urban Infrastructure has had discussions with the funding body and they have advised that Council will need to put in another application for the lighting upgrade after returning the portion of grant which was intended for this purpose but which is now inadequate.

### Question 2:

The water restrictions will be very hard to enforce in Collarenebri when the pool overflows and wastes water. Is this matter being looked into?

### Response:

The General Manager advised that he will refer the matter to the Director Urban Infrastructure Services.

### Question 3:

In the newsletter it stated that Collarenebri would have \$65,000 in infrastructure funding for the Primitive Camping Ground. How much of this money is left over?

### Response:

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that she will prepare a report on all project costs for the next Council meeting.

12:30pm Clr Murray left the meeting

### Clr Greenaway

### Question 1:

The toilet at Collarenebri Race Course is going to be constructed. Is it possible that the community could construct it themselves as this would make their money go further?

### Response:

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

The General Manager advised that he would take this on notice.

### **Question 2:**

The minutes of the Collarenebri Precinct Committee has been forwarded to Council but still has not appeared in the agenda. They have also not had replies to their requests.

### **Response:**

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that the minutes came to her attention when she was acting General Manager. The Director further advised that the requests have been forwarded to the relevant Directors for response. The minutes will be placed in the Agenda for the October meeting.

12:34pm Clr Murray returned to the meeting

### **Question 3:**

Are all Shire buildings treated for white ants annually?

### **Response:**

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that the buildings in Walgett were all treated about 5-6 months ago.

12.35pm Clr Walford left the meeting

### **Question 4:**

Does Council get quotes for these works before they are undertaken?

### **Response:**

The General Manager advised that Council generally requests quotes from 3 tradespersons before work is undertaken.

### **Question 5:**

Could Council request that all road work cease on the main grain carrying routes during the harvest period?

### **Response:**

The General Manager advised that he would refer the matter to the Director, Rural Infrastructure and Support Services.

12.38 Clr Walford returned to the meeting

### **Question 6:**

The Precinct Committees of the Shire have not been notified of the additional Infrastructure grant monies. Is this going to happen?



## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### Response:

The Director of Corporate and Community Services advised that correspondence has been sent notifying community bodies about additional funds and seeking their recommendations for projects. She further advised that the previous funding will need to be spent before the additional funds can be claimed.

### Question 7:

Does Council receive any audited financial statements from organisations we provide funds to?

### Response:

The General Manager advised that it is a normal requirement, for instance, we receive statements from Precinct Committees. The Director of Corporate and Community Services further advised that some organisations provide their annual reports which contain the financial statements.

307/09	Closed Session
<p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>1. That the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Clr Greenaway <b>Seconded:</b> Clr Colless</p> <p><b>CARRIED</b></p>	

308/09	Walgett Community Festival Report
<p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>That:</p> <p>1. The Walgett Community Festival report be accepted.</p> <p>2. The recommendations in the report are endorsed.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Clr Lane <b>Seconded:</b> Clr Walford</p> <p><b>CARRIED</b></p>	

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

### 309/09 Open Session

**Resolution:**

1. That Council return to Open Session.

**Moved:** Clr Keir  
**Seconded:** Clr Greenaway

**CARRIED**

### 310/09 Disclosure Returns

Pursuant to Section 450A of the Local Government Act 1993 the General Manager tabled disclosure returns completed and submitted pursuant to Section 449 of the Act by the following designated persons:

C Medcalfe	L Tasker
I Taylor	R Kent
M Goodwin	L Walford
F Coralde	J Keir
R White	D Lane
T Campbell	R Greenaway
J Chape	I Woodcock
M Lovegrove	M Martinez
T Colak	K Smith
Prafulla KC	B Stewart

The meeting closed at 1:05pm.

To be confirmed at the meeting of Council to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager