

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF  
BREWARRINA HELD AT THE BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
FRIDAY 26TH AUGUST 2022**

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Meeting commenced at 10.02am

**1: PRESENT:**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Vivian SLACK-SMITH Angelo PIPPOS Noel SHERIDAN Thomas STANTON Isaac GORDON Mark BROWN Donna JEFFRIES</b>
<b>General Manager</b>	<b>David KIRBY</b>
<b>Executive Assistant</b>	<b>Laura GORDON</b>

**2: APOLOGIES**

103/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor PIPPOS; Seconded by Councillor JEFFRIES; that Council grant the leave of absences for Councillor D Gordon for the Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August Ordinary Business Meeting.**

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

- NIL

**4: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022

104/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor JEFFRIES; Seconded by Councillor BROWN; that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 covered by resolutions 89/22 to 102/22 action request be adopted.**

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**5: MAYORAL MINUTE:**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to support the local government campaign on the financial Accounting treatment of Rural Fire Service (RFS) mobile assets known as the 'Red Fleet'.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That:**

- 1. Council writes to the local State Member, the Hon Mr (Roy) Royal Francis Butler MP, and the Treasurer the Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience the Hon Stephanie Cook MP and the Minister for Local Government Wendy Tuckerman MP:**
  - a. Expressing Council's objection to the NSW Government's determination on ownership of Rural Fire Service assets;**
  - b. Advising of the impact of the Government's position on Council finances of this accounting treatment;**
  - c. Informing that Council will not carry out RFS assets stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets in Brewarrina Shire Council's financial statements;**
  - d. Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to permanently clear up inequities and inconsistencies around the accounting treatment of Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets by acknowledging that rural firefighting equipment is vested in, under the control of and the property of the RFS; and**
  - e. Amending s119 of the Rural Fires Act 1997 so that the effect is to make it clear that RFS assets are not the property of councils.**
  
- 2. Council writes to the Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey MLC, the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib MP, the Shadow Minister for Local Government Greg Warren MP, the Greens Spokesperson for Local Government Jamie Parker MP and the leaders of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, Animal Justice and One Nation parties Robert Borsak MLC, Emma Hurst MLC and Mark Latham MLC:**
  - a. Advising Members of Brewarrina Shire Council's position, including providing copies of correspondence to NSW Government Ministers; and**
  - b. Seeking Members' commitments to support NSW Councils' call to amend the Rural Fires Act 1997 as set out in correspondence.**
  
- 3. Brewarrina Shire Council writes to the Auditor General advising that notwithstanding any overtures of future qualified audits, it will not carry out RFS stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government, and will not record RFS assets in Brewarrina Shire Council's financial statements, noting that the State Government's own Local Government Accounting Code of Practice and Financial Reporting provides for councils to determine whether or not they record the RFS assets as council assets.**
  
- 4. Council promotes these messages via its digital and social media channels and via its networks.**
  
- 5. Re-affirms its complete support of and commitment to local RFS brigades noting that Brewarrina Shire Council's action is entirely directed towards the NSW Government's nonsensical position that rather than being owned and controlled by local brigades, RFS assets are somehow controlled by councils, which councils consider to be a cynical financial sleight of hand abdicating the NSW Government's**

responsibilities at the cost of local communities.

105/22

6. That Brewarrina Shire Council affirms its support to Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and requests LGNSW continue advocating on Council's behalf to get clarification once and for all from the State Government about the accounting treatment of RFS assets.

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor JEFFRIES; Seconded by Councillor PIPPOS; That;**

1. Council writes to the local State Member, the Hon Mr (Roy) Royal Francis Butler MP, and the Treasurer the Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience the Hon Stephanie Cook MP and the Minister for Local Government Wendy Tuckerman MP:

- a. Expressing Council's objection to the NSW Government's determination on ownership of Rural Fire Service assets;
- b. Advising of the impact of the Government's position on Council finances of this accounting treatment;
- c. Informing that Council will not carry out RFS assets stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets in Brewarrina Shire Council's financial statements;
- d. Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to permanently clear up inequities and inconsistencies around the accounting treatment of Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets by acknowledging that rural firefighting equipment is vested in, under the control of and the property of the RFS; and
- e. Amending s119 of the Rural Fires Act 1997 so that the effect is to make it clear that RFS assets are not the property of councils.

2. Council writes to the Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey MLC, the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib MP, the Shadow Minister for Local Government Greg Warren MP, the Greens Spokesperson for Local Government Jamie Parker MP and the leaders of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, Animal Justice and One Nation parties Robert Borsak MLC, Emma Hurst MLC and Mark Latham MLC:

- a. Advising Members of Brewarrina Shire Council's position, including providing copies of correspondence to NSW Government Ministers; and
- b. Seeking Members' commitments to support NSW Councils' call to amend the Rural Fires Act 1997 as set out in correspondence.

3. Brewarrina Shire Council writes to the Auditor General advising that notwithstanding any overtures of future qualified audits, it will not carry out RFS stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government, and will not record RFS assets in Brewarrina Shire Council's financial statements, noting that the State Government's own Local Government Accounting Code of Practice and Financial Reporting provides for councils to determine whether or not they record the RFS assets as council assets.

4. Council promotes these messages via its digital and social media channels and via its networks.

5. Re-affirms its complete support of and commitment to local RFS brigades noting that Brewarrina Shire Council's action is entirely directed towards the NSW Government's nonsensical position that rather than being owned and controlled by local brigades, RFS assets are somehow controlled by councils, which councils consider to be a cynical financial sleight of hand abdicating the NSW Government's

responsibilities at the cost of local communities.

6. That Brewarrina Shire Council affirms its support to Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and requests LGNSW continue advocating on Council's behalf to get clarification once and for all from the State Government about the accounting treatment of RFS assets

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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## 6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Media release's from Legislative Council – Upper House Committee releases report into Major flooding with finding that the NSW SES and Resilience NSW failed as lead agencies & Upper House Committee inquiry opens into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Culture is Identity) Bill 2022

106/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor FRAIL, Seconded by Councillor STANTON;**  
**That;**  
**Council receives Media release's from Legislative Council – Upper House Committee releases report into Major flooding with finding that the NSW SES and Resilience NSW failed as lead agencies & Upper House Committee inquiry opens into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Culture is Identity) Bill 2022 as information.**

## 7: REPORTS FOR ACTION TO COUNCIL:

### ITEM 1: BANK RECONCILIATION & INVESTMENTS

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to present the reconciliation of Council's cashbook and bank statement as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The presentation of this information is not a requirement of any Act, however it has been provided historically for the information of Councillors.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That;**

- 1. The bank reconciliation report is received as information.**
- 2. The certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer for compliance with the Investment Policy and the Ministerial Investment Order dated 28 April 2017 be received and noted.**

107/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SHERIDAN, Seconded by Councillor PIPPOS;**  
**That;**  
**1. The bank reconciliation report is received as information.**  
**2. The certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer for compliance with the Investment Policy and the Ministerial Investment Order dated 28 April 2017 be received and noted.**

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 2: ESSENTIAL ENERGY 202-21 PUBLIC LIGHTING ANNUAL REPORT**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of report is to provide council with Information about Essential Energy's activities under the management plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That;

Council receive this report as information and consider any further matter relating to the report.

108/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor JEFFRIES, Seconded by Councillor SHERIDAN;**

That;

Council receive this report as information and consider any further matter relating to the report.

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 3: FIXING LOCAL ROADS ROUND 4**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine priorities for eligible works under the State Government's Fixing Local Roads Round 4 Grants.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That;

Council receive this report and endorse the priorities for funding as recommended under Round Four (4) Fixing Local Roads as follows:

1. To be determined by Council

109/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor PIPPOS, Seconded by Councillor I GORDON;**

That;

Council receive this report and endorse the priorities for funding as recommended under Round Four (4) Fixing Local Roads as follows:

1. To be determined by Council

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 4: GOODOOGA BORE BATHS – CARAVAN/CAMPING**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on options relating to charging Caravans and campers at the Goodooga Bore Baths and 4 Mile Camping Reserve.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That;

**Council receive this report as information and consider implementing the buy local program for free camping at the Goodooga Bore Baths and the Brewarrina 4 Mile Camping Reserve.**

110/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor PIPPOS, Seconded by Councillor FRAIL;**

That;

**Council receive this report as information and consider implementing the buy local program for free camping at the Goodooga Bore Baths and the Brewarrina 4 Mile Camping Reserve and investigate appropriate signage.**

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 5: GOODOOGA COMMUNITY HALL**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council of the progress relating to the Goodooga Community Hall

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That;

**Council receive this report as information and consider the proposal from Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) to purchase the property for \$1.00.**

111/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor FRAIL, Seconded by Councillor STANTON;**

That;

**Council receive this report as information and defer the agenda item until September Council Meeting.**

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 6: NEW RFS BUILDING BREWARRINA**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to consider Council's position on a proposal from the RFS to construct a new emergency operations centre in Brewarrina and consider the acquisition of land for new facility.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council;**

- 1. Approve the construction of the New RFS facility as per proposal**
- 2. Delegate General Manager to undertake purchase of Lot 8 & 9 DP1033446 from Transport for NSW (TfNSW)**
- 3. Council allocate \$50k from General Fund to complete design**

112/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor I GORDON, Seconded by Councillor SHERIDAN;**

**That Council;**

- 1. Approve the construction of the New RFS facility as per proposal**
- 2. Delegate General Manager to undertake purchase of Lot 8 & 9 DP1033446 from Transport for NSW (TfNSW)**
- 3. Council allocate \$50k from General Fund to complete design**

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 7: ROADS TO RECOVERY FUNDING ALLOCATION**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine works for the Roads to Recovery Funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That;**

**Council receive the report and endorse the proposed works recommended for Roads to Recovery Funding.**

113/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor JEFFRIES, Seconded by Councillor FRAIL;**

**That;**

**Council receive the report and endorse the proposed works recommended for Roads to Recovery Funding.**

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 8: VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AUDITORIUM**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with costings and options for development of Brewarrina Visitor Information Centre Auditorium and Kitchen

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That;

**Council receive this report and consider the future options relating to the development of the Visitor Information Centre Auditorium**

114/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor PIPPOS, Seconded by Councillor SHERIDAN;**

That;

**Council receive this report and consider the future options relating to the development of the Visitor Information Centre Auditorium after implantation of the Brewarrina town street Master plan.**

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**ITEM 9: STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES ROUND 5**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the projects prioritised at the working group meeting of Council on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That;

**Council receive this report as information and determine the final Community Group Projects to be submitted under Round 5 of the funding.**

115/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor FRAIL, Seconded by Councillor SHERIDAN;**

That;

**Council receive this report as information and determine the final Community Group Projects to be submitted under Round 5 of the funding**

- 1. Old Mission & Hospital Creek Massacre Site Redevelopment**
- 2. Brewarrina Cemetery Upgrades**

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**REPORTS FOR INFORMATION:**

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The purpose of this report is for Councillors to receive the Status Report, Councils Information Reports as well as the items for Correspondence.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Status Report, Information Reports, which are listed from a-n, and the Items for Correspondence be received as information.

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**8: REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- a) Status Report, General Manager and Mayors Diary
- b) Roads
- c) Plant
- d) Utilities
- e) CHB
- f) CSM
- m) Human Resources
- n) FAM

116/22

**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor JEFFRIES, Seconded by Councillor BROWN;**

**That;**

**The status Report, Information Reports and Items of Correspondence be received and noted.**

The MOTION on being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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**9: NOTICE OF MOTION/ QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

- NIL

**10: CLOSED SESSION**

- NIL

**11: OPEN SESSION**

**Meeting concluded at 11:16am**