

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF  
BREWARRINA HELD AT THE BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
FRIDAY 28th OCTOBER 2022**

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Meeting commenced at 10.01am

**1: PRESENT:**

**Councillors**

**Vivian SLACK-SMITH  
Angelo PIPPOS  
Noel SHERIDAN  
Thomas STANTON  
Isaac GORDON  
Douglas GORDON  
Mark BROWN  
Donna JEFFRIES  
Trish FRAIL – via Teleconference**

**General Manager**

**David KIRBY**

**Executive Assistant**

**Laura GORDON**

**2: APOLOGIES**

- Nil.

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

- Councillor Donna JEFFRIES declared Non-Pecuniary – Insignificant Conflict to Item: 7.2 – Proposed naming of the Goodooga Road.

**4: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022

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**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor D GORDON ; Seconded by Councillor JEFFRIES that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 covered by resolutions 117/22 to 133/22 action request be adopted.**

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

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**5: MAYORAL MINUTE:**

- Nil.

**6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- Nil.

**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> September 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.

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

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.

D Jeffries excused herself from the Chambers at 10:05am

**ITEM 2: PROPOSED NAMING OF GOODOOGA ROAD**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to consider a submission from Delsey Mason to rename the Goodooga Road "Ron Mason Highway".

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council;

Consider the community consultation survey responses regarding renaming the Goodooga Road to Ron Mason Way.

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

That Council;

Considered the community consultation survey responses and resolved to advise the Mason Family of Councils decision to look at the potential naming of a landmark or recreation area after Ron Mason.

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

D Jeffries returned to the Chambers at 10:21am

**ITEM 3: 360 REVIEW**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the proposed 360 review.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council;**

**Resolve to approve the 360 Review by LGNSW as per proposal dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for \$2,500 plus GST.**

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**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor JEFFRIES, Seconded by Councillor D GORDON;**

**That Council;**

**Resolve to approve the 360 Review by LGNSW as per proposal dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for \$2,500 plus GST.**

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

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**ITEM 4: AGRITOURISM REPORT**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to report to Council as necessary on Environmental Planning.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council,**

**Authorise the General Manager to approve any necessary amendments to current zone permitted uses proposed by the State initiative to:**

- 1. Encourage and enabling agritourism development, to help farmers supplement their income and;**
- 2. Create alternative employment opportunities in the Shire, through amendments to the permitted uses and activities in land zoned RU1 Primary Production under the current Local Environmental Plan 2012.**

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

**That Council;**

**Authorise the General Manager to approve any necessary amendments to current zone permitted uses proposed by the State initiative to:**

- 1. Encourage and enabling agritourism development, to help farmers supplement their income and;**
- 2. Create alternative employment opportunities in the Shire, through amendments to the permitted uses and activities in land zoned RU1 Primary Production under the current Local Environmental Plan 2012.**

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

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**ITEM 5: AUSTRALIA DAY 2023**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is Council to nominate Councillors for the Australia Day Committee and to determine Australia Day Ambassador.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council; Resolve to nominate 2 Councillors including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Australia Day Awards Committee.
2. That Council; nominate 2 community members to also participate in the committee.
3. That Council; advise the Australia Day Committee it will be using a local hero as an ambassador and to nominate that ambassador.

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

1. That Council; Resolve to nominate Councillor BROWN and Councillor D GORDON including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Australia Day Awards Committee.
2. That Council; nominate 2 community members to also participate in the committee
3. That Council; advise the Australia Day Committee it will be using a local hero as an ambassador and to nominate Scott Johnson.

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

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**ITEM 6: GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on its consideration of funding opportunities currently available and consider projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council;**

1. That Council, resolve to apply for a funding to redevelop Visitor Information Centre to enhance visitor experience.
2. That Council resolve to carry out identified road, bridge and storm water projects utilising Infrastructure Better Fund.
3. That Council apply for funding under the Places to Swim Grant for the Barwon Riverside Reserve Activation (Boat Ramp)
4. That Council apply for funding under the Places to Play Grant for the Railway Land Revitalisation.
5. That Council allocate \$700k from the Office of Local Government Recovery Grant to the Old Barwon River Lift Span Bridge revitalisation.
6. That Council allocate \$300k from the Office of Local Government Recovery Grant to emergency recovery and clean-up works across the LGA that are identified by Council offices
7. That Council resolve to delegate the General Manager to complete any necessary future funding agreements and or deeds in relation to the listed grants.

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

**That Council;**

- 1. That Council, resolve to apply for a funding to redevelop Visitor Information Centre to enhance visitor experience.**
- 2. That Council resolve to carry out identified road, bridge and storm water projects utilising Infrastructure Better Fund.**
- 3. That Council apply for funding under the Places to Swim Grant for the Barwon Riverside Reserve Activation (Boat Ramp)**
- 5. That Council allocate \$700k from the Office of Local Government Recovery Grant to the Old Barwon River Lift Span Bridge revitalisation.**
- 6. That Council allocate \$300k from the Office of Local Government Recovery Grant to emergency recovery and clean-up works across the LGA that are identified by Council offices**
- 7. That Council resolve to delegate the General Manager to complete any necessary future funding agreements and or deeds in relation to the listed grants.**

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

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<b>ITEM 7: CHRISTMAS CLOSURE</b>
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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine the closing date of Brewarrina Shire Council over the Christmas / New Year holiday period.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council;**

- 1. Council allocates to Indoor Staff 3 Concessional Leave Days for Christmas and New year 2022/2023 closure period; and**
- 2. Council supports closure of Council offices from 12noon Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 to 8:30am Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.**

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

**That Council;**

- 1. Council allocates to Indoor Staff 3 Concessional Leave Days for Christmas and New year 2022/2023 closure period; and**
- 2. Council supports closure of Council offices from 12noon Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 to 8:30am Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.**

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

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**ITEM 8: INTERNALLY RESTRICTED ASSETS**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine the closing date of Brewarrina Shire Council over the Christmas / New Year holiday period.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council;**

**Formally adopt its internally restricted assets as at 30 June 2022 as per the list below.**

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

**That Council;**

**Formally adopt its internally restricted assets as at 30 June 2022 as per the list below.**

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

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

**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**

**NOTICE OF MOTION TO COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR FRAIL**

**MOTION:**

**That;**

- 1. Brewarrina Shire Council to protect and restore the natural habitats for all native animals in free camping areas.**
- 2. Prevent Campers accessing free firewood**
- 3. Penalise campers who take any firewood from the local ecosystem**
- 4. Sell firewood to campers daily**

**BACKGROUND:**

As a Ngemba woman I have become extremely concerned about the lack of eco system at all the free camping grounds. Native animals and their habitats have been at risk at all free camping areas within the Brewarrina Shire Council.

Campers have been using all the wood laying around, this wood is for the eco system for the spiders, lizards, goannas, birds, removing it also effects the topsoil of the area. We have seven months to tighten this motion and so we can include it into our tourism campaign for 2023 I believe if we start this campaign other councils with free camping sites will also follow our lead.

**General Manager Report**

In relation to Councillor Frail's motion, Council is well within its elected function under the Local Government Act 1993 and NSW Crown Lands Act to make an informative decision regarding recreation camp reserves as the Reserve Trust Manager.

**Motion;**

1. That Brewarrina Shire Council protect and restore the natural habitats for all native animals in free camping areas.
2. Prevent Campers accessing free firewood.
3. Penalise campers who take any firewood from the local ecosystem.
4. Sell firewood to campers daily.

Brewarrina Shire Council is responsible for 3 main recreation camp areas and include the 4 Mile Camp Reserve, Brewarrina Boat Ramp and the Goodooga Bore Baths. Outside of these areas we also manage a number of rest areas.

Each of the 3 main camping grounds referred to, Council is the Reserve Trust Manager which means the land is owned by the Crown (NSW Government) and managed by Council. Under this arrangement Council is the key governing body with a number of powers of which include the restriction of certain activities relating to land use and tenure. Environmental aspects such as those listed in Councillor Frail's motion can be actioned under Council Authority without consent from the Crown.

Without any Environmental Impact Study or Statement (EIS) for any of the listed reserves, it's hard to ascertain exactly what damage or harm is currently occurring in these areas from camping or caravanning activities. What we do know from discussion with Council staff who maintain these areas is that there has become less and less



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accessible firewood in the areas due to the high volume of campers that visit.

One of the key aspect observed by staff is the fact that a lot of caravan and campers bring their own firewood when they visit. This is the result of campers conditioned to the issue of a lack of firewood I other camping areas visited similar to ours. Another notable observation is staff haven't seen anyone cutting down dead trees on these reserves which is a positive from a habitat perspective for small creatures such as those listed.

The issue around issuing infringement notices would require Councils regulatory officer would have to undergo further training in order to undertake such activities. Once in place, Council would then have to create a budget line item which would ensure campers are observing the enforced rules of the reserve. Early estimates would see the required level of service at about \$25k annually to roll out.

Similar to the infringement matter, Council would need to budget for staff to cut firewood and then find a place suitable in order to undertake this activity. Keeping in mind, at some stage we would also be cutting fire wood from another habitat not located on the camping reserves. This would also be a costly exercise and couldn't be performed on a cost recovery basis by Council. A local supplier may be a better option if it were considered.

The demographic of tourist that visit and utilise these areas are predominantly older travellers with conservative views and may be deterred from visiting the Brewarrina Local Government Area. This could potentially have a negative impact on local business.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council;**

- 1. That Brewarrina Shire Council protect and restore the natural habitats for all native animals in free camping areas.**
- 2. Prevent Campers accessing free firewood.**
- 3. Penalise campers who take any firewood from the local ecosystem.**
- 4. Sell firewood to campers daily.**

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**RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor PIPPOS; Seconded by Councillor STANTON;**

**That Council;**

**Considered the Notice of Motion from Councillor Trish FRAIL and have chosen not to act on the recommendation.**

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

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**11: OPEN SESSION**

- Nil

**Meeting concluded at 11:00am**