



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF
BLACKALL-TAMBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TAMBO COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2020
COMMENCING AT 8.30 AM**

PRESENT:

Councillors; Cr AL Martin (Mayor), Cr LP Russell (Deputy Mayor), Cr BP Johnstone, Cr PJ Pullos, Cr JH Scobie, Cr DA Hardie, Cr GK Schluter.

OFFICERS:

Mr Des Howard, Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Andrea Saunders, Executive Assistant.

Mr Alastair Rutherford, Director of Finance Corporate and Community Services, Mr John Turlan, Director of Works and Services attended via videoconference due to COVID-19.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cr Martin, Cr Russell, Cr Pullos, Cr Hardie and Cr Johnstone for item 4.1.8 – *Majority of councillors present have a conflict* – That, as a consequence of a majority of councillors present at this meeting having informed the meeting of the existence of a conflict of interest in this matter, pursuant to section 175E(6) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a decision on this matter is hereby delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Des Howard.

1.1. Confirmation of Post-Election Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Moved: Cr PJ Pullos Seconded: Cr LP Russell

“That the Minutes of the Post-Election Meeting held on 15 April 2020 be taken as read and confirmed, and that the Mayor be authorised to sign same.”

Minute No. 01/05A/20

Carried 7/0

1.2. Confirmation of General Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Moved: Cr LP Russell Seconded: Cr JH Scobie

“That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 15 April 2020 be taken as read and confirmed, and that the Mayor be authorised to sign same.”

Minute No. 02/05A/20

Carried 7/0

REPORTS AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

4.1.1 Financial Statements for the Month of April 2020

The Finance Report for April 2020 is presented to Council.

MOTION: **Moved: Cr GK Schluter** **Seconded: Cr PJ Pullos**

“That Council receive the Finance Report for April 2020.”

Minute No. 03/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.1.2 DFCCS Operations Report – April 2020

The Director of Finance Corporate and Community Services operations report for April 2020 is presented to Council. This report includes housing and administration, 60s and Better, youth program, community development, Blackall aerodrome, libraries, visitor information centres, facility bookings, Tambo Multipurpose and Tambo Child Care.

MOTION: **Moved: Cr JH Scobie** **Seconded: Cr PJ Pullos**

“That Council receive the DFCCS Operations Report for April 2020 and note that due to COVID-19 most of the buildings have been closed to the public but programs are still operating.”

Minute No. 04/05A/20

Carried 7/0

At this point, 8.58am the CEO left the meeting

4.1.3 Arts & Cultural Report – April 2020

The Arts and Cultural Report is provided to Council. Topics covered in the report include the Grassland Gallery and statistics for Matilda Way, Barcoo Way and the Blackall Tambo Visitor Information Facebook pages.

MOTION: **Moved: Cr PJ Pullos** **Seconded: Cr DA Hardie**

“That Council receive the Arts and Cultural Report for April 2020 and note that a community views survey is currently available to assist Council in the preparation of the 2020-2025 Corporate Plan.”

Minute No. 05/05A/20

Carried 7/0

At this point 9.07am, the CEO returned to the meeting.

4.1.4 Environmental Health Officer’s Report – April 2020

The Environmental Health Officer’s Report is provided to Council. Items that were addressed during this period include food premises, environmental management, education and COVID-19.

MOTION: **Moved: Cr JH Scobie** **Seconded: Cr BP Johnstone**

“That Council receive the Environmental Health Officer’s Report and note that the Environmental Health Officer continues to provide support to the community during COVID-19.”

Minute No. 06/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.1.5 Review of Operational Plan – 31 March 2020

Section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires Council to review their Operational Plan every three months. The Operational Plan for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 has been reviewed and provided to Council.

MOTION: Moved: Cr PJ Pullos

Seconded: Cr LP Russell

“That Council receive the reviewed Operational Plan for the quarter ending 31 March 2020.”

Minute No. 07/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.1.6 Tambo Bore – QTC Loan Drawdown

Council requested a loan of \$900,000 to fund the installation of a new bore in Tambo. The application was approved by QTC on 30 July 2019. To minimise debt, it is suggested that \$400,000 be drawn down from this loan.

MOTION: Moved: Cr LP Russell

Seconded: Cr DA Hardie

“That Council resolves to approve the amount of \$400,000 being drawn down from the QTC loan facility with the balance being left to lapse.”

Minute No. 08/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.1.7 Interest Write Offs – 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020

Several rate payments were received after the discount period of 11 March 2020. The amounts owing were minimal with \$72.32 of calculated interest on 28 rate assessments for the period of 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020.

MOTION: Moved: Cr GK Schluter

Seconded: Cr BP Johnstone

“That Council endorses the CEO’s actions in writing off the interest on rate assessments for the period of 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 totalling \$72.32.”

Minute No. 09/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.1.8 Regional Arts Development Fund – Round 4

The fourth round of the 2019-2020 RADF program closed for applications on 1 May 2020 with three applications received. The committee elected to support all of the applications.

MOTION: Moved: Cr GK Schluter Seconded: Cr JH Scobie

“That as a consequence of a majority of councillors present at this meeting having informed the meeting of an existence of a conflict of interest in this matter 4.1.8, pursuant to section 175E(6) of the Local Government Act 2009, a decision on this matter is hereby delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Des Howard.”

Minute No. 10/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.1.9 Debtor – Write Offs

Council has issued invoices to three people which despite efforts from Council’s solicitor there appears to be no chance of recovering the debt. Council is asked to write the debt off.

MOTION: Moved: Cr JH Scobie Seconded: Cr GK Schluter

“That Council resolves to approve of the write off of the outstanding debts for invoices 2944, 3045 and 1742 totalling \$1014.46.”

Minute No. 11/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.2.1 The Director of Works and Services Operations Report – April 2020

The Director of Works and Services’ operation report is presented to Council. Items included in the report are road construction, water and sewerage services, parks and gardens and fleet management.

MOTION: Moved: Cr LP Russell Seconded: Cr PJ Pullos

“That Council receive the Director of Works and Services’ operations report for April 2020.”

Minute No. 12/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.2.2 Work Health and Safety Report – April 2020

The Work Health and Safety Report is provided to Council with only one very minor incident and no department reportable incidents for this period.

MOTION: Moved: Cr BP Johnstone Seconded: Cr GK Schluter

“That Council receive the Work Health and Safety Report for April 2020 and note that there have be no department reportable incidents for this period.”

Minute No. 13/05A/20

Carried 7/0

4.2.3 Ranger Coordinator’s Report

The Ranger Coordinator’s report is provided to Council. Animal, weed and wild dog control are items in the report.

MOTION: Moved: Cr JH Scobie

Seconded: Cr DA Hardie

“That Council receive the Ranger Coordinator’s report for April 2020 and note that 2 droving applications have been approved.”

Minute No. 14/05A/20

Carried 7/0

5.1 Blackall Saleyards Monthly Sales Report

The Blackall Saleyards monthly report for April 2020 is provided to Council. Weekly sales continued for the month of April.

MOTION: Moved: Cr LP Russell

Seconded: Cr GK Schluter

“That Council receive the Blackall Saleyards monthly report for April 2020 and notes that the sales are continuing to get good numbers in the yards.”

Minute No. 15/05A/20

Carried 7/0

5.2 Planning and Development Report

The Planning and Development Report is presented to Council. There were 4 new building applications and 5 planning enquiries for the month of April 2020.

MOTION: Moved: Cr PJ Pullos

Seconded: Cr DA Hardie

“That Council receive the planning and development report for April 2020.”

Minute No. 16/05A/20

Carried 7/0

5.3 Media Policy

The Media Policy has been amended to include social media guidelines published by the Office of the Independent Assessor and LGAQ. This policy is applicable to Blackall-Tambo Regional Council employees, Councillors, volunteers and contractors.

MOTION: Moved: Cr PJ Pullos Seconded: Cr JH Scobie

“That Council adopt the revised Media Policy which includes an additional section on appropriate use of Social Media.”

Minute No. 17/05A/20

Carried 7/0

5.4 **Public Interest Disclosure Policy**

It is Council policy to promote the public interest by facilitating Public Interest Disclosures of wrongdoing in the public sector and to ensure that the disclosures are properly made and when appropriate, properly investigated and dealt with.

MOTION: Moved: Cr GK Schluter Seconded: Cr PJ Pullos

“That Council adopt the revised Public Interest Disclosure Policy.”

Minute No. 18/05A/20

Carried 7/0

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9.58am the meeting was adjourned for morning tea.

RESUMPTION:

At 11.15am the meeting was resumed.

5.5 **Acquisition of Land for Overdue Rates**

Arrears of rates and charges on Lot 1 RP607613 have now exceeded 3 years and Council have attempted to sell the land by auction. Under section 148 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council can now acquire the land.

MOTION: Moved: Cr PJ Pullos Seconded: Cr LP Russell

“That Council acquires the land known as Lot 1 on RP607613 under Section 148 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Acquiring of land for overdue rates and charges).”

Minute No. 19/05A/20

Carried 7/0

5.6 **2020 RAPAD Election Plan - Proof**

RAPAD have drafted a document outlining the support RAPAD is seeking from the future State Government with key priorities to empower, connect and support RAPAD communities to prosper.

MOTION: Moved: Cr GK Schluter Seconded: Cr LP Russell

“That Council receive the 2020 RAPAD Election Plan Proof document.”

Minute No. 20/05A/20

Carried 7/0

5.7 Confidentiality Procedure

Sections 171 and 200 of the *Local Government Act 2009* provide requirements on the proper handling of confidential information. The Confidentiality Procedure provides guidance to Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors so that they may comply with these sections of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

MOTION: Moved: Cr PJ Pullos

Seconded: Cr JH Scobie

“That Council adopt the revised Confidentiality Procedure.”

Minute No. 21/05A/20

Carried 7/0

5.8 Internet Project

There have been two meetings with Just ISP regarding Council’s internet project, to finalise details for the agreement. The internet project provides a fast reliable service to the Blackall-Tambo region.

MOTION: Moved: Cr LP Russell

Seconded: Cr PJ Pullos

“That Council enter an agreement with Just ISP for the internet service to the Blackall-Tambo region.”

Minute No. 22/05A/20

Carried 7/0

CLOSURE:

There being no further business to consider, the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 11.38am.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Confirmed by Council as a true and correct record at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2020.

Signed:.....Mayor