Rous Council Meeting 15 June 2022

Summary of main items of business



1. Payment of superannuation for councillors

Council agreed on the payment of a superannuation contribution in accordance with section 254B of the *Local Government Act 1993*, effective 1 July 2022.

The superannuation guarantee rate applicable from 1 July 2022 is 10.5%. This rate will increase by half a percent each year until 1 July 2025 when it reaches 12%. The estimated cost is \$10,500 for the 2022/23 financial year and has been included in our draft Budget.

2. Retail water customer account assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$10,414.80.

3. Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct Procedures and Code of Meeting Practice

Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct and Code of Conduct Procedures, with the Code of Meeting Practice being placed on public exhibition, submissions closing 27 July 2022.

The revised Codes have been reviewed and drafted to meet legislative requirements, including the adoption of the mandatory provisions of the Model Codes, and supplementary provisions to meet specific organisational needs.

4. Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) - meeting update

Council noted a summary of the key messages from the 26 April 2022 ARIC meeting and approved the Internal Audit Plan 2022-25. The Plan sets out the areas recommended for audit based on a high-level assessment of the risks involved in Council's key strategic and operational activities planned for the 2022/2025 period.

5. Investments policy (reviewed)

The current Investments policy complies with all regulatory requirements and Council's investment objectives. No changes were proposed to the 2022 policy, and it was adopted without amendment.

6. Information reports

i). Investments – May 2022

- At the RBA's May 2022 meeting, it was decided to increase the cash rate to 0.35%. The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) has increased to 0.98%.
- Total funds invested as at 31 May 2022 = \$38,826,691.
- Return on funds invested for the month of May 2022 was 1.05%. This represents an increase of 35 basis point compared to the March 2022 result (0.70%) and is 7 basis points above Council's benchmark (the average 90-day BBSW rate of 0.98%).
- Interest earned for May 2022 = \$29,529.
- Current holdings in Ethical Financial Institutions equals \$14,000,000.

ii). Water consumption and usage – May 2022

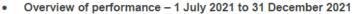
The table below is the May 2022 bulk water sales to the constituent councils in kilolitres compared to the corresponding May sales for 2021 and 2020.

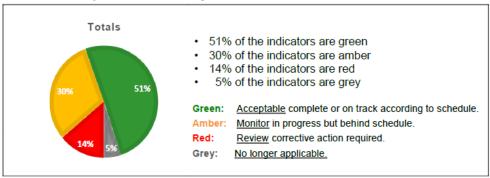
Council	May 2020 (kL)	May 2021 (kL)	May 2022 (kL)	% of Total Sales
Ballina Shire Council	271,394	297,070	284,140	39.09%
Byron Shire Council	168,707	187,394	171,100	23.54%
Lismore City Council	240,329	241,395	232,026	31.92%
Richmond Valley Council	42,270	44,392	39,627	5.45%
TOTAL MONTHLY CONSUMPTION BY CONSTITUENT COUNCILS	722,700	770,251	726,893	

- Rocky Creek Dam capacity as of 31 May 2022 was 100.9%
- Emigrant Creek Dam capacity as if 31 May 2022 was 103.4%

iii). Delivery program progress update 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021

This report provides information on Council's achievement of the performance targets in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Delivery program / Operational plan for Y5.





iv). Contract for the provision of electricity for Rous County Council operations

Rous is proposing to engage Regional Procurement and EnergyAction to undertake a publicly advertised, reverse auction to obtain prices for the supply of electricity for a 24 or 36 month period from 1 January 2023.

Based on previous legal advice, the reverse auction process is exempt from the tendering provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* and therefore the General Manager has the delegated authority to execute the contract for the provision of electricity for Rous operations.

7. (Late report): Final draft Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (incorporating the 2022/23 Budget and 'Revenue' policy)

Two public submissions lodged during the public exhibition period were received and noted. Council adopted the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (incorporating the 2022/23 Budget and 'Revenue' policy), as presented at Council's Extraordinary Meeting held 11 May 2022.

8. Notice of Motion: Browns Creek Pump Station on the Lismore Levee

The following Notice of Motion (submitted by Cr Rob) was adopted:

Council provide the following information to Lismore City Council in relation to the Browns Creek Pump Station on the Lismore Levee:

- 1. Additional works able to be undertaken to ensure that pumps are not damaged or blocked during operation.
- 2. Options, including estimated costs, available to Lismore City Council to increase pump capacity, improve pump reliability during and after a flood when electricity supply is often unavailable, and improve pump availability for regular service, particularly following flood events.
- 3. Recommendations to assist Lismore City Council to increase the capacity, reliability and resilience of the Browns Creek Pump Station.
- 4. Opportunities to jointly seek immediate grant funding through State and Federal channels to increase the capacity, reliability and resilience of the Browns Creek Pump Station.

9. Confidential reports

i). Annual performance review: General Manager

Council accepted the recommendation of the Chair and Councillors that assessed the General Manager's annual review on 11 May 2022 as 'More than Satisfactory' and agreed to the recommended change to the General Manager's total remuneration package (TRP) as specified in the report.

Council acknowledged the professionalism and excellent leadership of the General Manager during difficult times.

Council's business paper and draft meeting minutes can be found via the following link: https://rous.nsw.gov.au/business-papers-and-meeting-minutes