

Council Report to NRDCAA Meeting July 18 2016.

Please note the July meeting of the NRDCAA was postponed to explore all options for Council Elections in September 2016.

There were three meetings of Council since the June Report, 28th of June, 12th of July, (2) Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings.

The report covers main issues as determined by the CoM that could affect residents and ratepayers, or could be a matter of public interest.

This report should not be relied upon by residents and ratepayers. The Reports, motions and resolutions are mostly truncated.

Council Business Papers and Minutes of each meeting are available on the Council website.

Council Meeting 28th of June 2016.

Apologies: Councillors, Creed, Paine and Reardon.

Item: 114, Alterations to Child Care Centre, George street South Windsor.

There were three speakers for and two speakers against the staff recommendation.

This item was before Council on 10 May 2016 where it was deferred pending a site inspection.

The main issues were traffic and safety.

The majority of Councillors supported the staff recommendation for approval subject to conditions.

Councillors Calvert, Ford, Lyons-Buckett, Rasmussen and Tree supported the recommendation.

Councillors Conolly, Mackay, Porter and Williams opposed the recommendation.

Item: 116, Planning Proposal 98 Bells Lane Kurmond.

There was one speaker against the staff recommendation.

Subsequent to the debate, Councillor Calvert moved an amendment deferring the decision pending further discussions with the community.

Councillors Calvert, Lyons-Buckett, Porter, Rasmussen and Williams supported the amendment.

Councillors Conolly, Ford, Mackay and Tree opposed the amendment.

The staff recommendation was not supported.

Item: 119, Constitutional Referendum on the Division of the HLGA into Wards.

A staff report as requested was submitted to Council for consideration and debate.

Following the debate Council resolved to hold a constitutional referendum on Saturday, 10 September 2016 regarding the implementation of Wards.

Council further resolved to ask the community, do you agree that the HLGA area be divided into three Wards each Ward electing four Councillors.

Councillors Conolly, Ford, Mackay, Porter and Tree voted for the motion.

Councillors, Calvert, Lyons-Buckett, Rasmussen and Williams,

Please note the Councillors do not have to live in the Ward for which they nominate and the three wards need to have equal numbers of persons in each ward with a variance of no more than 10%.

Comment: The NRDCAA CoM does not support the introduction of Wards because our community is wide spread, thus allowing the less populated area to be neglected and it may concentrate the power of the Liberal Party in Council which is not beneficial for keeping LOCAL Government LOCAL.

Diversity in LOCAL Government is paramount for LOCAL Government.

Item: 120, Signing of the Formal Agreement for the Regional Strategic Alliance.

The Regional Strategic Alliance between Blue Mountains City Council, Hawkesbury City Council and Penrith City Council was ratified with Acting General Manager authorised to execute the final agreement.

The Council appointed the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the GM as HCC directors to the Alliance's Board and appointed Councillor Calvert as an alternate for the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

Item: 127 Remuneration for Councillors and Mayor.

Councillors resolved to fix the maximum amount nominated for Regional Councils by The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal, which has been Councils practice for some time.

Councillors are paid \$18,840.00 pa (\$1,570.00 monthly) Mayor receives an additional \$41,090 pa, and the Deputy Mayor's an additional \$6.163.50 pa, to be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee. The Mayor receives \$53,766.50 pa.

Questions: Councillors, Rasmussen2, Calvert 2, Williams 2, Porter 2.

Council Meeting 12th of July 2016.

Apologies: Councillor Paine.

Item: 138, Review of Fit for the Future Proposal.

The staff report is very detailed. It sets out under a number of headings the financial situation of Council and options available.

The report is located at p 26-34 of the Business Paper. We cannot summarize the details because there are many.

But, to keep our heads above water the report reveals a Special Rate Increase (SRI) of 14.9% is required to be Fit for the Future or a diminution of services.

The 14.9% is in addition to our ordinary IPART increase.

We would urge all to read the report and involve yourselves in the consultation process.

We have an initial position there should be no SRI unless there is a change in the leadership at the Council level.

All Councillors present supported the staff Report.

The COM felt that some Councillors should have extracted options for the process to continue, e.g. change of leadership.

Notice of Motion (NoM).

Councillor Conolly sought: **that Council withdraw from WSROC** (Western Sydney Regional Organisations of Councils).

Councillors did not support the NoM, but sought a report be brought back to Council detailing options available or withdrawal having regard to the financial and other options.

Questions: Councillors Calvert 1, Williams 1, Lyons-Buckett 1, and Reardon 1.

Extraordinary Meeting of Council 12 July 2016.

Apologies: Councillor Paine.

Rescission Motion submitted by Councillors Lyons-Buckett, Paine and Williams: **That Council's resolution in respect of item 119 of 28 June 2016 be rescinded.**

Councillor Rasmussen supported by Councillor Lyons-Buckett sought to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to address Council.

The motion was lost.

Councillors: Calvert, Conolly, Lyons-Buckett, Rasmussen and Williams voted for the motion.

Councillors: Creed, Ford, Mackay, Porter, Reardon and Tree **voted against the motion.**

Comment: at p 31 of the Business Paper 12 July 2016 it says this: **'Listening to the community' is scheduled to commence in July 2016.**

Councillors, Creed, Ford, Mackay, Porter, Reardon and Tree did not agree with **'Listening to the community' that is scheduled to commence in July 2016.**

Authorised by the NRDCAA July 2016.

