

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Blayney, on
Wednesday, 21 February 2024, commencing at 10.42am**

Present

Cr. David Somervaille	(Chairperson)	Blayney
Cr. Andrew Rawson	(Deputy Chairperson)	Cabonne
Cr. Paul Best		Weddin
Cr. Michelle Cook		Weddin
Cr. Allan Ewin		Blayney
Cr. Marlene Nash	(via audio-visual link)	Cabonne
Gavin Rhodes	(General Manager)	
Peter McFarlane	(Director Finance & Corporate Services)	
Noel Wellham	(Director Operations & Technical Services)	
Achal Deo	(Governance & Executive Support Officer)	
Ben Campbell	(Asset officer)	

REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK**24/001 RESOLVED:**

That Council approves the attendance of Cr. Nash to the February 2024 Council Meeting via audio-visual link.

(Cr. Somervaille/Cr. Cook)

4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY MEMBERS

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**24/002 RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 13 December 2023, being numbers 23/087 to 23/108 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Cr. Rawson/ Cr. Ewin)

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil

7. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

9. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTE

I would like to take the opportunity of this chairperson's minute to formally confirm that I will not be contesting the election for chair later in this meeting.

I have had the privilege of serving as chair of this special organisation for the last 10 years. Now is the time to hand the baton on; renewal of leadership is healthy for any organisation.

We are all custodians of the original bold concept of visionary councillors from our region who conceived of the idea of building a dedicated town water dam high in the Lachlan catchment and supplying potable water to towns and villages throughout the region.

The scheme in fact had its origins much earlier. Shortly after federation, one of the shortlisted sites for the new national capital was centred on Lyndhurst. According a speech to members of the House of Representatives in 1903, the water supply for the proposed capital was to be "Coombing Reservoir" holding over 18,000,000,000 gallons (87GL in today's terms) and situated 250 ft (or about 76 m) above the new city and providing water for an anticipated population of 160,000 at 100 gallons (or 380 litres) per person per day.

It was back on the agenda in 1938, pioneered by councillor F C Rowlands of Waugoola Shire (now part of Cowra Shire). It took 6 years of lobbying, and many knockbacks, before the County was finally proclaimed in 1944. It was 4 more years before construction of the dam commenced and almost 7 more years before the dam was full.

At its peak the county had 11 constituent council members. Council mergers and the withdrawal of Parkes, Lachlan and Cowra reduced the number back to the current 3 by the early 1990's.

The challenges that faced the pioneering councillors are similar to those we face today. The concept of an urban water authority spanning multiple local government boundaries does not sit well in today's planning and regulatory environment. The challenge is funding infrastructure over long distances with sparse population means the cost per connection is high. The original county received government subsidies for the construction of the scheme. Today's economic rationalists tell us that the users must pay. CTW is an extraordinarily efficient organisation and is able to deliver quality water to its customers at a similar price to much more closely settled regional centres. This will always be the challenge, until community service obligation payments replace upfront capital grants.

But with strong and effective leadership and focused strategic thinking, at both council and staff levels, CTW should be in a sound position to deliver on its vision of being an independent Regional Water Authority providing a quality water supply, reliably and sustainably.

24/003 RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson's Minute, as read, be accepted and the contents therein be noted and endorsed.

(Cr. Best/Cr.Ewin)

10. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION

Cr. Somervaille represented CTW at the following:

- Briefing of all the Executive Officers of the Joint Organisations throughout the State regarding structural changes of the Joint Organisations - 18 January 2024
- CNSWJO online meeting of Water Security and Productive Water Portfolio Mayors and General Managers – 25 January 2024
- CTW Audit Risk & Improvement Committee meeting – Blayney – 8 February 2024
- Parliamentary Inquiry into the protection of LWU's public hearing – Dubbo – 13 February 2024

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12. REPORTS OF STAFF

12.1) ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON (GO.CO.2)

24/004 RESOLVED:

That Council adopt the ordinary voting system for election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

(Cr. Rawson/Cr. Cook)

The General Manager as the Returning Officer advised that he had received one nomination for the position of Chairperson, namely Cr Andrew Rawson. No further nominations were received.

Cr. Andrew Rawson was declared duly elected as Chairperson.

The General Manager as the Returning Officer advised that he had received one nomination for the position of Deputy Chairperson, namely Cr. Michelle Cook. No further nominations were received.

Cr. Michelle Cook was declared duly elected as Deputy Chairperson.

12.2) MEETING TIMES AND DATES (GO.CO.2)**24/005 RESOLVED:**

That Council hold its ordinary meetings for the next 12 months including a budget workshop on the following dates:

Council budget workshop	3 April 2024	Canowindra
Council meeting	24 April 2024	Grenfell
Council meeting	19 June 2024	Canowindra
Council meeting	21 August 2024	Blayney
Council meeting	16 October 2024	Grenfell
Council meeting	11 December 2024	Canowindra
Council meeting	19 February 2025	Blayney

(Cr. Ewin/Cr. Nash)

12.3) DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT (FM.PL.1)**24/006 RESOLVED:**

That Council note the Delivery Program 2022-2026 progress report as at December 2023.

(Cr. Cook/Cr. Ewin)

12.4) LEVELS OF SERVICE UPDATE REPORT (CU.ST.2)**24/007 RESOLVED:**

That Council note the Levels of Service update report.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Cook)

12.5) COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS UPDATE REPORT (GO.CO.1)**24/008 RESOLVED:**

That Council note the Council Resolutions Update Report to December 2023.

(Cr. Ewin/Cr. Best)

12.6) FINANCIAL MATTERS - INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY, 2024 (FM.BA.1)

24/009 RESOLVED:

That the information in relation to Council's Cash and Investments as at 31 January 2024 be noted.

(Cr. Cook/Cr. Somervaille)

12.7) QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - 31 DECEMBER 2023 (FM.FR.1)

24/010 RESOLVED:

That Council adopt the budget review statement for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 and the variations therein be voted.

(Cr. Cook/Cr. Nash)

12.8) AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) (CM.AU.1)

24/011 RESOLVED:

1. That Council receive and note the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes of the meeting of 22 November, 2023.
2. That Council note that regulations to implement the new Internal Audit and Risk Management guidelines have commenced and are due for implementation by 1 July, 2024.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Somervaille)

12.9) POLICY REVIEW - PROJECT MANAGEMENT POLICY AND METHODOLOGY AND GIFTS AND BENEFITS POLICY (CM.PL.1)

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Note the report,
2. Endorse the draft Project Management Policy, Project Management Methodology and Gifts and Benefits Policy and place on public display for a period of 28 days, and
3. If no submissions are received during the public display period, the Project Management Policy, Project Management Methodology and Gifts and Benefits Policy be adopted.

(Cr. Cook/Cr. Somervaille)

An **AMENDMENT** was moved by Cr. Cook and seconded by Cr. Somerville:

That Council:

1. Note the report,
2. Endorse the draft Project Management Policy, Project Management Methodology and Gifts and Benefits Policy and place on public display for a period of 28 days,
3. If no submissions are received during the public display period, the Project Management Policy and Project Management Methodology be brought back to the Council for discussion and approval, and
4. If no submissions are received during the public display period, the Gifts and Benefits Policy be adopted.

The amendment became the substantive motion and was put.

24/012 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the report,
2. Endorse the draft Project Management Policy, Project Management Methodology and Gifts and Benefits Policy and place on public display for a period of 28 days,
3. If no submissions are received during the public display period the Project Management Policy and Project Management Methodology be brought to the Council for discussion and approval, and
4. If no submissions are received during the public display period, the Gifts and Benefits Policy be adopted.

(Cr. Somerville/Cr. Ewin)

12.10) MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (WS.MO.4)

24/013 RESOLVED:

That Council note the information in the General Report.

(Cr. Best/Cr. Nash)

12.11) PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (WS.MO.4)

24/014 RESOLVED:

That Council note the information in the report.

(Cr. Nash/Cr. Somerville)

12.12) WATER SECURITY – DROUGHT IMPACT UPDATE (WS.AM.1)

24/015 RESOLVED:

That Council note the information.

(Cr. Cook/Cr. Ewin)

12.13) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS UPDATE (ET.SP.2)

24/016 RESOLVED:

That Council note the update report for the renewable energy projects.

(Cr. Cook/Cr. Best)

12.14) TRUNK MAIN “C” EMERGENCY PIPE REPLACEMENT WORKS (WS.SP.4)

24/017 RESOLVED:

That Council note the update report on the Trunk Main “C” Jacks Creek emergency pipe replacement works.

(Cr. Best/Cr. Nash)

12.15) CTW MAIN ARTERY PIPELINE AUGMENTATION PROJECT UPDATE (WS.SP.4)

24/018 RESOLVED:

That Council note the update report on the Central Tablelands Water (CTW) Main Artery Pipeline Augmentation Project.

(Cr. Ewin/Cr. Nash)

13. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

(General Manager)

Nil

14. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held at Grenfell on Wednesday, 24 April 2024 at 10.30am.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 1.36pm.