



**LEETON**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2019  
COMMENCING AT 7.07PM  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Cr. Paul Maytom (Mayor), Cr. George Weston (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Paul Smith, Cr. Tony Ciccia, Cr. Tony Reneker, Cr. Sandra Nardi, Cr. Tracey Morris and Cr. Michael Kidd

**Staff:**

Jackie Kruger (General Manager), Craig Bennett (Director Corporate and Community), Peter Keane (Director Environment and Engineering) and Alison Balind (Governance and Corporate Planning Coordinator)

**Press:** Talia Carn – The Irrigator

**LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL**

T. (02) 6953 0911 F. (02) 6953 0977  
council@leeton.nsw.gov.au  
23-25 Chelmsford Place Leeton NSW 2705  
[www.leeton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.leeton.nsw.gov.au) 

1. **CIVIC PRAYER** Cr Tony Reneker

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** Cr Paul Maytom

3. **APOLOGIES**

19/079

**Resolved**

THAT the apology of Councillor Peter Davidson be received and a leave of absence be granted.

**(Moved Cr Reneker, seconded Cr Ciccia)**

4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

19/080

**Resolved**

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2019, as circulated, be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

**(Moved Cr Weston, seconded Cr Ciccia)**

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS**

19/081

**Resolved**

THAT the following items, namely:

8.10.YANCO SOLAR FARM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FEEDBACK TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING be brought forward in the Agenda for discussion.

**(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Weston)**

19/082

**Resolved**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

THAT Standing Orders be Suspended to allow Councillors to be addressed by Mr Roy Currie in relation to Item 8.10 – YANCO SOLAR FARM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FEEDBACK TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING.

**(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Weston)**

Having so resolved, Standing Orders were suspended at 7.14pm

Mr Currie addressed the Councillors followed by Ms Fiona DeWitt at 7.33pm.

**19/083**

**Resolved**

**RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

THAT Standing Orders be resumed.

**(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Nardi)**

**19/084**

**Resolved**

THAT Council debate the matter of the Yanco Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and consider giving feedback to Department of Planning.

**(Moved Cr Weston, seconded Cr Smith)**

Having so resolved, the meeting resumed at 7.47pm.

Cr Tony Ciccia left the meeting, the time being 8:10 PM

Cr Tony Ciccia returned to the meeting, the time being 8:12 PM

**Item 8.10 YANCO SOLAR FARM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)  
FEEDBACK TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

**19/085**

**Resolved**

THAT:

1. Council to lodge a submission including recommended conditions of consent on the proposed Yanco Solar Farm located in and around Research and Toorak Roads submitted by ib vogt GmbH with such submission to address the following issues:
  - a) Grave concerns about the loss of prime (irrigated) agricultural land and value adding industries within Leeton Shire and the Western Riverina, which are the foundation of our local and regional economy.
  - b) Risks to the viability and sustainability of Murrumbidgee Irrigation water infrastructure, compromising the future availability of water for farms.
  - c) Concerns about the short and long-term impact of stranded on-farm irrigation infrastructure.

- d) Concerns about the legitimacy of the economic analysis and authorises the General Manager to commission independent advice to test the validity of the economic analysis provided within the EIS.
2. The draft submission be circulated to Councillors by email prior to submission being lodged.
3. Council lobbies the Member for Murray to support the case for not losing prime agricultural land, especially irrigation farms.
4. The use of high value primary agricultural land for State Significant projects be included in the agenda for the next Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation meeting.

*Note: In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993, a Division of votes is recorded on this planning matter.*

**For the Motion**

Cr G Weston  
Cr M Kidd  
Cr P Maytom  
Cr TA Morris  
Cr TC Ciccio  
Cr SN Nardi  
Cr TR Reneker  
Cr PS Smith

**Against the Motion**

Nil

**Carried Unanimously (8-0)**

**(Moved Cr Morris, seconded Cr Weston)**

**6. MAYORAL MINUTES**

**Item .6.1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANT GRANTS**

**19/086**

**Resolved**

THAT Council:

1. Acknowledges the importance of Federal Funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program for the continued delivery of Council services and infrastructure;
2. Expresses its concern about the decline in the value of the Financial Assistance Grants funding at the national level from an amount equal to approximately 1% of the Commonwealth Taxation Revenue in 1996 to a current figure of approximately 0.55% of the Commonwealth Taxation Revenue; and

3. Calls on all political parties contesting the 2019 Federal Election and their local candidates to support the Australian Local Government Association's call to restore the national value of Financial Assistance Grants funding to an amount equal to at least 1% of the Commonwealth Taxation Revenue, which will provide a Fairer Share of Federal funding to our local communities.

**(Moved Cr Maytom, seconded Cr Weston)**

## **7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

## **8. OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY MATTERS**

#### **Item 8.1 ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR (INCLUDING THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR) AND THE DRAFT REVENUE POLICY (INCLUDING DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR)**

**19/087**

#### **Resolved**

THAT Council endorses for public exhibition from Thursday 2 May 2019 until Wednesday 29 May 2019 the following documents:

- (1) The Draft Annual Operational Plan for the 2019/2020 Financial Year (including the Draft Budget for the 2019/2020 Financial Year); and
- (2) The Draft Revenue Policy (including Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges) for the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

**(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Weston)**

#### **Item 8.2 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE DRUG "ICE"**

**19/088**

#### **Resolved**

THAT Council:

1. Makes a brief submission to the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice', supporting the Terms of Reference and the investigation into the questions identified in all of the Issues Papers; especially those relating to increased research, prevention, treatment and support for families and communities in rural areas.

2. Promotes the Inquiry and encourages community members and specialist service providers to make submissions by the 7 May 2019 deadline.

**(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Weston)**

**Item 8.3 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2019**

**19/089**

**Resolved**

THAT Council endorses the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 17 April 2019 and notes the information contained within the minutes.

**(Moved Cr Morris, seconded Cr Kidd)**

**Item 8.4 INVESTMENTS REPORT MARCH 2019**

**19/090**

**Resolved**

THAT the information contained in the Investments Report for March 2019 be noted.

**(Moved Cr Reneker, seconded Cr Kidd)**

**Item 8.5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURNS SUBMITTED BY DESIGNATED  
PERSONS FROM 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2019 (PRIMARY  
RETURNS)**

**19/091**

**Resolved**

THAT Council:

1. Notes that there were no Primary Disclosure of Interest Returns required to be lodged during the period of 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019.
2. Determines that the following positions are to be included as Designated Persons by the Council in accordance with Clause 5.21 of the Leeton Shire Council's Code of Conduct and be required to lodge Disclosure of Interests Returns to the General Manager:
  - Accountant Exercises designated persons functions
  - Manager Special Projects Exercises designated persons functions

**(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Smith)**

**Item 8.6 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION - KIAN HENMAN**

**19/092**

**Resolved**

THAT Council awards Kian Henman a \$250 Youth Development Grant to assist with the costs associated with representing Leeton on the Riverina Swim Team at the 2019 Primary School Sports Association Swimming Championships.

**(Moved Cr Nardi, seconded Cr Morris)**

**Item 8.7 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION - CAMPBELL  
SIDEBOTTOM**

**19/093**

**Resolved**

THAT Council awards Campbell Sidebottom a \$250 Youth Development Grant to assist with the costs associated with representing Leeton at the 2019 Catholic Colleges Sports Association Swimming Championships.

**(Moved Cr Nardi, seconded Cr Morris)**

**Item 8.8 MINUTES OF THE LEETON MEN'S SHED COMMITTEE (APRIL 2019)**

**19/094**

**Resolved**

THAT Council receives for information the Minutes of the Leeton Men's Shed Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 April 2019 and notes the information contained within the Minutes.

**(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Reneker)**

**ENVIRONMENT AND ENGINEERING MATTERS**

**Item 8.9 TRANSFER OF 87 TOORAK ROAD LEETON FROM THE MINISTER OF  
PUBLIC WORKS TO LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL**

**19/095**

**Resolved**

THAT Council:

1. Approves the transfer to Council of Lot 2 in DP 611148 known as 87 Toorak Road, Leeton from the Minister of Public Works.
2. Classifies 87 Toorak Road Leeton being Lot 2 in DP 611148 as Operational land.
3. Gives 28 days public notice of the classification under section 34 of the Local Government Act 1993.

**(Moved Cr Reneker, seconded Cr Ciccio)**

## **9. STATEMENTS BY COUNCILLORS**

### **CR GEORGE WESTON**

**WRConnect event:** I joined the General Manager and the Mayor at the WR Connect event and congratulations must go to the Mayor, GM and staff for their work. There are five councils who are collaborating on the project and it was a great day.

**ANZAC March:** Well done to the Mayor for taking part in the ANZAC Day March. There were lots of schools involved with the march and I just wonder whether there was a chance for the Councillors to participate in future marches.

**Yanco Powerhouse Visit:** The visit has been scheduled for 15 May with a tour through the facility followed by a meal at the Yanco Club.

**Upcoming absence:** Cr Weston indicated that he would be away from 16 May until 24 June.

**Citizenship Ceremony:** An invitation has been received for a Citizenship Ceremony on 30 May. The Mayor advised that the ceremony was to be held at Parkview School.

### **CR TONY CICCIA**

**Return & Earn facility:** There have been a lot of negative comments about the rubbish dumping at the facility. People are virtually just dumping rubbish and it is in a very poor state.

**Whitton Subdivision:** I am just wondering how we have ended up with the land subdivision and how much interest there has been. The Mayor stated there had been some phone inquiries but nothing formal. The General Manager said Council would need to relook at the marketing strategy. She explained that the price set was "break even" and was aimed at providing a "finished look" with trees, grassed verges, kerb and guttering and driveways.

### **CR TRACEY MORRIS**

**Park Run:** I have been approached by some people seeking support to establish a Park Run. For those who aren't aware, these runs are held all over the world on a Saturday morning and it is a community event. They may approach Council for some seed funding to promote the activity but eventually it would be a free event.



**CR MICHAEL KIDD**

**Penny Paniz Art Show:** The acquisitive art prize was a great night with a record number of artworks (125 entries). This is an event that is growing every year. Talking with the judges, some of the artists and people were coming from far and wide. They were busy all weekend. It appears that after seven years it is relying less on Council support. There is perhaps scope for expansion including other elements such as sculpture and Cr Kidd asked interested Councillors to get back to him with their thoughts.

**Brobenah Airstrip Resurfacing:** We were having some discussions earlier about lowering the costs of resurfacing the airstrip with the aviator group by using Otter Seal. Is this worth investigating further?

**Yanco Club:** If we do go to the Yanco Club following the visit to the Yanco Powerhouse there will no doubt be some representatives from the club who would like to talk to Council about providing parking for grey nomads. There is a parking area at the back of the club which could be used. There has been a changing of the guard out there and I would be happy to broker a meeting should Council wish.

**CR PAUL SMITH:**

**Penny Paniz Art Show:** I don't know anything about art and it was the first time I attended an art show. The calibre of work that some of our local people have produced is absolutely fantastic. I know everyone keeps talking about needing silo art, but I don't think we need to go and pay for art if we are going to go ahead with the Penny Paniz Art Show.

**Wade Avenue Access for disabled:** With the CBD enhancement we are doing with Wade Avenue, I noticed that all the parking is going to be 45 degree angle. If we have a vehicle parked at 45 degrees and they have to offload a disabled passenger, they are going to be offloading into the traffic. The Director Environment and Engineering indicated that there will be an area for loading and unloading that will have a raised platform. It would not be for buses to park all day but would allow for people with disabilities to be safely dropped off. The General Manager stated that the updated designs will also be run past a Disability Reference Group before being adopted.

**Ruling from Deputy State Coroner:** There was a ruling today following the death of an 11-year-old at Unanderra who had been sucked into a stormwater drain and under a culvert in a road. The Deputy State Coroner was very scathing of that Council. It made me wonder how many places in our town we have where this could happen? The one that comes to mind is in Waipakaru Park where it goes under Brady Way - does it have a grate on it? The Director Environment and Engineer said that this drain did have a grate but he thought at the inlet only. He said he'd check.

**Bidgee Classic Future:** A heads up that a letter has been penned by the Bidgee Classic Committee to see whether Council would be happy to relinquish the association as a 355 Committee of Council. The Committee feels that they are self-sufficient now, they have another public liability provider that will include fishing clubs within the Shire. This will open up new funding avenues that have not been available to them because of their status as a 355 Committee.

### **CR GEORGE WESTON**

**Newcastle post-mortem examinations:** Cr Weston raised his concern about post-mortem examinations having to be done in Newcastle. There used to be a place in Wagga. I believe it is happening a lot more now and it is taking longer and longer for them to come back from Newcastle. The Mayor said there is a push to have something happen in regional areas and bring the service back to Wagga or Albury.

The Mayor said he would take the matter to the Country Mayors meeting in a couple of weeks and the Member for Wagga Joe McGirr was also working to get it back to Wagga. The General Manager said that the Minister for Health Brad Hazard has made a comment that current arrangements are not good enough.

### **CR PAUL MAYTOM**

**WRConnect event:** I have to reinforce what Cr Weston said and congratulate the General Manager on where we are up to with this. We still have a long way to go but the persistence and tenacity of the General Manager in the face of all the things that are happening out there in getting \$300,000 for the master plan & business case gives us a great opportunity to get something that is going to be of regional benefit. Yesterday Minister Toole and the Member for Farrer (Sussan Ley) were embracing of the idea and supported it going forward.

**Questions at Council Meetings:** After reading all the information about what can and can't be done at Council meetings, I intend to find an alternative way to keep sharing information at Council meetings. It's not about putting staff on the spot. We can send in emails for issues or complaints but we need to keep talking about what we do and see.

**Showground Update:** Could we have an update on the facility at the showground. I have had a lot of people asking questions about where things are up to. The Director Environment and Engineering said that he had responded via email earlier in the day. The detailed design is currently with the Griffith architect and the AFL has not yet committed funds to the project. He said he was hopeful this would be resolved shortly. The Mayor indicated he had been present at meetings where the AFL had said they would contribute and that it was not good that they were dilly-dallying around.

**Drought Funding:** The Drought funding (\$1M) will be discussed at an upcoming Council workshop (Wednesday 8 May 2019).

**Apex Forum:** The Mayor will be attending the Apex Forum in Leeton on Friday night. There will be 120 people coming to town and it is a great thing.

**Senior Citizens Morning Tea:** I attended a morning tea recently and Council's Road Safety Officer did a great job going through the road rules and information about mobility scooters. Sometimes when we do presentations there's an expectation that Council will be doing something – quite a few of those present came up and said they wanted this street done and this street done. I told them that we had put \$200,000 into the budget for some works but I felt I should report back to Council on how good the presentation was.

**Art Deco Main Street:** The Mayor asked if the main street upgrades would be brought back to Councillors for discussion. The General Manager said it would be put on the agenda for a workshop to update Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

..... signed by  
the Chairman of the meeting held on  
22/05/2019 at which meeting the  
signature hereon was subscribed.