



**LEETON**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2023  
COMMENCING AT 7:00PM  
AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Cr. Tony Reneker (Mayor), Cr. Michael Kidd (Deputy Mayor via video conference), Cr. Paul Smith, Cr. Krystal Maytom, Cr. Tony Ciccica, Cr. Matt Holt, Cr. Sandra Nardi, Cr. Tracey Morris and Cr. George Weston.

**Staff:**

Jackie Kruger (General Manager), Max Turner (Director Corporate via videoconference), Luke Tedesco (Director Operations via videoconference), Michelle Evans (Executive Manager Economic and Community Development), Sarah Graham (Governance and Customer Service Coordinator), Terry Schmidt (Communications Coordinator) and Karren Barret (Museum, Gallery and Heritage Coordinator).

**Press:** Nil

**LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL**

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1. **CIVIC PRAYER** Cr. Morris
2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** Mayor Cr. Reneker
3. **APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

#### 4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**23/126**

##### **Resolved**

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2023, as circulated, be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

**(Moved Cr. Ciccio, seconded Cr. Smith)**

#### 5. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Cr. Nardi disclosed a less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 7.7 Application for Local Heritage Places Grants for 2023/24 as her first cousin was one of the grant applicants. Cr. Nardi elected to stay in the Chambers when the allocation for Application for Local Heritage Places Grants for 2023/24 was being considered.

#### 6. **MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

#### 7. **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

##### **GENERAL MANAGER'S MATTERS**

##### **Procedural Motion - Move into Committee of the Whole**

**23/127**

##### **Resolved**

THAT Council moved to go into Committee of the Whole at 7:05 PM.

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

#### **PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

Public representations commenced at 7:06 PM and the following person addressed Council on Item 7.1:

- Aanya Whitehead (Executive Director, Western Riverina Arts)

Public representations on Item 7.1 concluded at 7:11 PM.

**Procedural Motion - Move out of Committee of the Whole and into full Council.**

**23/128**

**Resolved**

THAT Council moved to go out of Committee of the Whole and into full Council at 7:12 PM.

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

**Item 7.1 WESTERN RIVERINA ARTS ANNUAL REPORT**

**23/129**

**Resolved**

THAT Council notes the information in the Western Riverina Arts reports.

**(Moved Cr. Nardi, seconded Cr. Maytom)**

Museum, Gallery and Heritage Coordinator left the meeting, the time being 7:17 PM

**Item 7.2 ANNUAL DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST RETURNS BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS - 1 JULY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023**

**23/130**

**Resolved**

THAT Council notes for information that the 2022/2023 Annual Disclosure of Interest Returns by Councillors, senior management, and designated persons have been submitted as required, on time and are publicly available.

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

**Item 7.3 UPDATED POSITION PAPER ON THE ACCOUNTING TREATMENT OF RFS ASSETS**

**23/131**

**Resolved**

THAT Council adopts an updated Position Paper on the Accounting Treatment of Rural Fire Service Assets as per **Attachment 1** of this report, with the key points being:

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Australian Accounting Standards and associated pronouncements and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice, Leeton Shire Council (Council) has determined that it does not control any rural firefighting equipment that is vested in Council under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (RFS Act) and, as such, does not recognise Rural Fire Services (RFS) Assets in its Annual Financial Statements. Council will include in its Annual Financial Statements a notation to this effect.
2. As it does not control any rural firefighting equipment (including but not limited to the procurement, deployment, or disposal of the red fleet),

Council will not undertake any stocktake of such RFS assets.

3. Council maintains the right to reconsider its future treatment of RFS buildings which have historically been treated as Council controlled assets, although in practice they are not.
4. Council supports LGNSW and Country Mayors' advocacy that the RFS Act should be updated to accurately reflect that the management and control of all RFS assets (red fleet and buildings) falls fully under the management and control of the NSW Government (via the RFS or any associated NSW department).

**(Moved Cr. Morris, seconded Cr. Ciccia)**

**Item 7.4 PROPOSED MINOR REVISION TO ORGANISATION (SENIOR) STRUCTURE**

**Motion**

**23/132**

**Resolved**

Procedural motion was put forward that Council not extend the debate time on Item 7.4. Motion was lost.

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

**23/133**

**Resolved**

THAT Council adopts an organisation (senior) structure comprising of a General Manager, 3 Directors (Corporate, Operations and Economic / Community Development) and an Executive Manager People and Culture.

**(Moved Cr. Holt, seconded Cr. Ciccia)**

Cr. Holt recorded his vote against Item 7.4.

**CORPORATE MATTERS**

**Item 7.5 PROPOSAL TO REBALANCE THE RATES FOR IMPROVED EQUITY**

**23/134**

**Resolved**

THAT Council:

1. Endorses for public consultation a revised ordinary rate structure from the 2024/25 financial year onwards as a means of more equitably and fairly distributing the rates burden between rate categories. The changes are outlined as follows:
  - a. Residential rate category – continue to implement rate peg increases as set by IPART;
  - b. Farmland rate category – will have no rate peg increases for 3 years (between the 2024/25 and 2026/27 financial years) to allow a rebalancing of rates applied to the farmland category; and

- c. Business rate category – a new sub-category (Business – Industrial) will be created and along with the Business - General category will be allocated the remaining balance of the annual rate peg increases in a split of 75% Business – Industrial and 25% to Business – General. These rate increases will apply for 3 years (the 2024/25 to 2026/27 financial years) to rebalance the business rates to be more in line with Group 11 comparative Councils.

2. A further report will be brought back to Council in December 2023.

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

**Item 7.6 INVESTMENTS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

**23/135**

**Resolved**

THAT Council notes the information contained in the Investments Report for September 2023.

**(Moved Cr. Morris, seconded Cr. Maytom)**

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MATTERS**

**Item 7.7 APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL HERITAGE PLACES GRANTS FOR 2023/24**

**23/136**

**Resolved**

THAT Council approves the following Local Heritage Places Grant offers for 2023/24:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Work to be done</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Funding Recommended</b>	<b>Applica Contribu</b>
Sheree Collins	Repainting of external façade to shop	\$4,500	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$2,250
Marie Eurell	New signage at Shopfront at "Morris Chambers"	\$1,205	\$553	\$600	\$605
Fiona de Wit	External timber repair works and painting to farm residence	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$3,700	\$6,300
Sue Ciavarella	Restoration of windows at Residence	\$5,500	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$2,750
William Barwick (St Peters Church)	External painting of St Peter's Church	\$16,225	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$11,225
Beverly Johnson	Restoration of walls & ceiling at former Anglican Church	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$3,700	\$3,800
<b>(incl GST)</b>		<b>\$44,930</b>	<b>\$19,303</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$26,930</b>

**(Moved Cr. Ciccica, seconded Cr. Maytom)**

**Item 7.8 QUICK RESPONSE GRANT APPLICATION - Gralee School**

**23/137**

**Resolved**

THAT Council awards Gralee School \$1K from the Quick Response Grant program to go towards five (5) students attending the Senior State Ten Pin Bowling Finals 31<sup>st</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 in Sydney.

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

**8. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**9. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil

**10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**Item 10.1 COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORT**

**23/138**

**Resolved**

THAT Council notes the Councillor activity reports submitted for the period between 20 September 2023 to 25 October 2023.

**(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Morris)**

**11. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:01 pm.

..... signed by  
the Chairman of the meeting held on  
22 Nov 2023 at which meeting the  
signature hereon was subscribed.