

## Agriculture and Rural Industries Advisory Group

**Date:** Thursday 8 December 2022

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8pm

**Location:** Council Chambers / Boardroom (Shire Hall) and via MS Teams

<i>Members</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apology</i>
Mayor Matt Gould (Chair)	Y	
Martin Cooper, Director	Y	
Councillor Suzy Brandstater	Y	
Stephen Gardiner, Manager Sustainable Growth	Y	
Karen Kennedy, Senior Administration Officer	Y	
Corrie Swanepoel, Manager Development Services	Y	
Anthony Biffin, Community Member	Y	
Mark Silm, Community Member	Y	
Phillip Bartolo, Community Member	Y	
John Fairley, Community Member	Y	
Louise Davies, Community Member	Y	
Marwan El-Chamy, Community Member	Y	
Vincent Hewson, Community Member	Y	
James Bell, Community Member	Y	
Edward Biel, Community Member	Y	
Chris Keanelly, Community Member	Y	

Item	Notes	Agreed Actions
1. Acknowledgement of Country	Meeting commence at 6.00pm with Acknowledgement of Country	
2. Disclosure of interests	Nil	
3. Attendance and Apologies	Nil	
	<p>Mayor Gould acknowledged Information Pack provided and confirmed everyone had a copy. He clarified reason for getting pre reading information.</p> <p>Louise and other members advised still having issues with REPLY ALL to emails.</p> <p>Stephen informed that IT had been advised of the issue and has been asked to rectified. Further ticket to be raised to and it will be sorted out.</p>	IT to be advised to resolve issue
4. Confirmation of previous minutes	<p>Minutes Carried with notation</p> <p>Moved Chris Second Tony</p> <p>Ed advised not happy with Minutes – as they don't reflect detailed conversation that took place and are sketchy on a number of items.</p> <p>Made reference to the Minute Preparation item in current Agenda (General Business).</p> <p>Advised the fact the Minutes from the committee meeting are going to inform another group (SRG). Ed advised he believes the conversation and information need to be more representative and detailed.</p> <p>Mayor Gould asked for clarification - if concerns were with things that were or were not captured in Minutes, or more broad feedback on how to best capture the minutes.</p> <p>Ed mentioned that last meeting in Information was provided to the committee that was specific and was not reported – referred to the Code of Conduct and Act in the section quoted.</p> <p>Ed provided research information he undertook into the Code of Conduct Act.</p> <p>Would like minutes to be more comprehensive and specify what</p>	

	<p>information committee was given to come to its decision.</p> <p>Ed advised that he thought the Minutes were to be recorded and believes it would solve the problem and members could have access to the recordings.</p> <p>Mayor agreed it is fair to provide more detail in the minutes and was going to clarify in items coming from the last Agenda.</p> <p>The Mayor apologised for not providing a response to Ed's email and for error in statement with Code of Conduct and clarified that Council is not legally required by the Council to adopt Code of Conduct, however it resolved to do so regardless of their being a legislative requirement.</p> <p>The Mayor agreed to make AG and SRG minutes more comprehensive so people who are not in attendance do not have to decode minutes.</p> <p>The Mayor advised tonight's meeting is being recorded for minute preparation purposes.</p> <p>The Mayor advised the AG and SRG meetings haven't been happening in the right order and Council staff are still untangling to rectify the order. This meeting is still out of sync to the SRG.</p> <p>Anything out of this meeting that needs to be recommended up the Economic SRG is consider at meeting next week. Anything time sensitive the chair will consider anything out of session and will be considered at that meeting. Anything that needs to be taken to Council it will be taken to Council.</p> <p>Advised Council resolved a few changes in the way we do the SRG's and AG's to make it more clear, and that working groups can be established on the fly as needed by the chair.</p> <p>A working group doesn't usually include staff.</p> <p>Louise asked for confirmation if the group can meet outside the Advisory Group meeting together without breaching the Code of Conduct?</p>	
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	<p>The Mayor clarified Louise question regarding meeting as a group. Clarified issue with caucusing and that it was only an issue if a subset of the group met independently and predetermined a position to be put forward at the committee. Mayor noted that he doesn't think that this is likely to be a practical problem and that the working group mechanism provides a mechanism to resolve this issue any way should the committee need to meet to work through issues between meetings.</p>	
<p><b>5. Intensive Horticulture Update</b></p>	<p>The Mayor advised this workshop is to get into nuts and bolt of the Intensive Horticulture update that has been trying to be pushed out of the Rural Land Strategy. He knows a several members are very passionate about it and its something that he would like to see push through as soon we can.</p> <p>Stephen advised that the purpose of the workshop is to draw out input from this group to feed in to what we can do to make it easier for horticulture. Explained the different zones in the Shire RU1, RU2, RU4. Explained it would be more useful for Strategic Planning to get AG input as to what we could do to make it easier.</p> <p>Mayor advised the reason there is not a lot of background on this is that this is all very early in the piece and there is not a lot of background available.</p> <p>Intention is to look at our Rural Land uses or any other appropriate land zoning and enabling intensive horticulture operations to be undertaken with less red tape. At the moment it requires DA and the purposes of this is how we can changing it and what it should look like.</p> <p>There is a few pathways for approvals and permissibility, but based on the zoning. there are rural zonings – RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape, RU3 Forestry (that isn't currently used in Wollondilly) and RU4 Small Lot Intensive Farming.</p> <p>We can have different rules for each zone and the approaches we can take.</p>	<p>Council officers to consider the notes from the workshop and come back to a later AG to discuss further findings and recommendations</p>

	<p>Group asked questions about zonings and clarification on some zonings.</p> <p>Mayor advised that will staff explain the different zonings and get feedback on groups thought and input.</p> <p>Member asked if lot sizes where going to be looked at being changed.</p> <p>Mayor explain that a site specific proposal can be brought to Council anytime.</p> <p>Mayor advised that this is about looking at the holistic view of the Shire.</p> <p>There was a Group discussion of ideas where noted on each zone on whiteboard and <u>attached to these minutes</u>.</p> <p>A few members asked if the information can be workshopped in a smaller working group and information brought back to the Advisory Group meeting. The Mayor advised this was contrary to what the AG actually asked for – which was to workshop these ideas together at the meeting. The workshop would proceed but that if we reached a point it would be more productive to refer to a sub-committee that could be looked at.</p> <p>Mayor outlined process of planning and the system involved (going through a state Government process, Parliamentary Counsel) which will come back with changes. Advised ideas we come up with in the meeting doesn't guarantee the final outcome. We can try our best.</p> <p>Martin explained how and why about the zoning in the shire and how Council zoned it (RU1 and RU2).</p> <p>Vincent Hewson left meeting at 7.13pm</p> <p>Marwan declared a conflict of interest regarding to RU4</p> <p>Stephen reviewed with members their feedback and ideas provided in meeting (on whiteboard)</p> <p>Members thanked Council for including input and ideas into the zoning and that we would have another workshop next meeting.</p>	
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**6. Farmland rates**

**a. Farmland rating policy**

**b. Farmland rates**

Stephen read out Phil's concerns emailed to Council.

Advised that CFO are looking at options next year. Good time to flag this concern.

The Mayor advised that on the recommendation of the last term of the committee, they had a look at the rating policy, and making sure that the people that were getting the farmland rates were truly eligible.

The Mayor explained about farmland rates and advised of number of farmland properties. Explained what a farmland lot was.

Group discussed farmland lots and the fairness and non-fairness of it.

The Mayor explained what Council have tried to do in fairness of Farmland rating.

Martin advised what the local Government Act states. Advised that our policy has very clear thresholds.

Members mentioned policy was misleading.

John Fairley questioned the rural rate v the rural residential rate

Mayor advised we need to differentiate if you are farmland rate or not. Can't make a rate category for full time or part time farmers.

Mayor explained how the ad valorem rate worked and that the advalorem rate for farmland was lower than for rural residential

Mayor explained the different categories of rating and the rate capped system.

Discussion about rating and rateable properties.

Every Council set their own rates. Council's are rate capped.

Councillor Brandstater left meeting 8pm.

Mayor advised that rates are set in about April 2023 so will put this as a discuss for

**Remainder of the discussion to continue next meeting.**

**A member of the Finance Team be invited to attend next meeting**

**Circulate existing planning policy -- CP 0016 to committee**

	<p>next meeting and see if we can get some finance team members to meeting to provide more details.</p> <p>Refer to whiteboard notes.</p>	
<b>7. Briefing Notes (next agenda items)</b>	<p>Mayor confirmed that all committee members had received and noted the briefing information</p>	
<b>8. Paddock to Plate</b>	<p>Members wanted confirmed if things in the planning document that can be done without going to Council for approval.</p> <p>Stephen confirmed if it meets the criteria. Council is making its own changes and going beyond what the State Government has done. Further changes to be included in Stage 2.</p> <p>Stephen advised to check with Duty Planner for any questions or unsure of what can and can't do.</p> <p>Could possible be restrictions so check with Duty Planner for clarification.</p> <p>Everyone is happy with it.</p> <p>Stephen advised Council pushed hard for the changes.</p>	
<b>9. Erosion on Rural Lands</b>	<p>Member discussed issue relating to the amount of erosion since bushfires. Erosion not slowing down – Back Creek used as example.</p> <p>Would like a streamline process to put in swale or concrete mats to slow erosion down.</p> <p>Thoughts if stumps can be used in creek areas to slow water down.</p> <p>James and Marwan advised not viable to be done and issues with compliance with other authorities.</p> <p>Greening Australia and other departments has funding to assist with erosion initiatives.</p> <p>Mayor noted that primary producers can get as many plants as they need from the community nursery to help combat erosion.</p>	<p>Next meeting bring ideas and options. Presentation of options and issues.</p>

<b>10. Harvestable Rights</b>	Acknowledged that Implemented and complete	
<b>11. Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan</b>	<p>Louise spoke about her efforts and frustration and believed it didn't get out to the people. Didn't believe the community got to engage due to lack of publicizing.</p> <p>The Mayor noted that it was a State Government led project and that local government fought hard to ensure the State consulted with the local community.</p>	
<b>12. Aerotropolis SEPP Relationship to Agriculture</b>	<p>Stephen advised that Council wrote to land owners a few months ago if they were impacted.</p> <p>Advised that if land is within 13km of the Aerotropolis zone there are restrictions of what type of agriculture. National Safe Guarding framework.</p> <p>Existing operations are OK. If your identified as a high risk, the federal government is liaising with landholders.</p> <p>Louise raised concern about subdivision in certain areas which was clarified.</p> <p>The Mayor briefly advised current planning controls EIS and outlined the approval process for new rural business.</p>	
<b>13. Agricultural Enterprise Credit Scheme</b>	Mayor confirmed with Ed if Agricultural Enterprise Credit Scheme could be deferred until next meeting given the meeting time.	AEC to be moved to next meeting
<b>14. GENERAL BUSINESS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expression of Interest for subcommittee on Scenic Lands Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>DPE expanding Greater Macarthur Area. There was a consideration of our Draft Scenic land Strategy and whether it was inconsistent with that.</p> <p>Need to look at Scenic Lands and a balance and make sure Shire doesn't turn into an Oran Park.</p> <p>Needing 2 more people on the subcommittee. Other spots on the subcommittee will be from Place and Landscape SRG.</p> <p>Members accepted :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James</li> <li>• Louise</li> </ul>	<p>Members nominated for subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James</li> <li>• Louise</li> <li>• Vince</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vince</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minute Preparation</li> </ul>	Covered previously in meeting.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biosecurity Working Group</li> </ul>	<p>Email will be circulated.</p> <p>Marwan Nominated – but not to do all the work</p>	Louise asked if Rural Stock Squad Detective Graham Begley could be at the next meeting. Thought he would be a good person to speak to group about theft on rural properties.
<b>Meeting close</b>	Mayor concluded Meeting at 8.35pm	
<b>Likely agenda items for next meeting</b>	<p>Agricultural Enterprise Credit Scheme</p> <p>Farmland rating policy</p> <p>Farmland rates</p>	