



Rural Industry
Community Advisory Committee
Draft Minutes of Meeting



Held on 27 March 2019 at 7:00 pm
in the Board Room, Wollondilly Shire Council

PRESENT: Phillip Bartolo, James Bell, Ed Biel, Louise Davies, Will Davies, John Galea (DPI), Joe Grima, Andrew Pace, Sue Mossman, Joe Vella, Stephen Gardiner (WSC), Carolyn Whitten (WSC) (Chair), Tracy Paul (WSC) (minute taker) and presenters Emma James (Sydney Water), Viji Augustus (Sydney Water) and Kevin Abey (WSC) (*arrived 7.51pm*).

APOLOGIES: Jacqueline Chevis, Edgar Downes, Ally Dench (WSC)

	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country Meeting commenced at 7:13 pm. Apologies received from Edgar Downes and from Edgar Downes and Jacqueline Chevis prior to the meeting.	
2.	Minutes of Meeting 5 December 2018 Harvestable Use Rights for Water <ul style="list-style-type: none">Clarification sought from Committee on intent of action from last meeting related to 'harvest'. Committee interested in whether a response has been received.Council Notice of Motion – Harvestable Use Rights from 15 October 2019;<ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>That Council lobby the State Government for an increase in the harvestable use rights for water within the eastern fall of the Great Dividing Range.</i><i>That this motion also be sent to Local Government NSW as a motion for the 2019 Local Government Conference.</i><i>That if town water restrictions are imposed by the State Government, that farmers' access not be limited.</i> Corrections <ul style="list-style-type: none">John Galea attended the meeting and was not an apology.	<p>Correct Minutes from 5 December 2018 meeting to refer to 'Harvestable Use Rights for water.'</p> <p>Confirm what actions have been undertaken in response to Council's NOM on 'Harvestable Use Rights' from the Council meeting held on 15 October 2018 and whether a</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from meeting on 5 December 2018 to be corrected and recirculated by email for comment. <p>Access to previous minutes/ RICAC webpage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee informed of Rural Industry Advisory Committee page on Council's website. Meeting dates for 2019 are now available. Minutes from previous meeting will be available in the near future. 	<p>response has been received.</p> <p>Make necessary corrections to minutes from RICAC meeting held on 5 December 2018 (Carolyn).</p> <p>Circulate amended minutes from 5 December 2018 (Carolyn).</p>
<p>3. Picton Wastewater Recycling Plant Effluent Management Project (Sydney Water)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emma James, Senior Water Sensitive Urban Designer and Viji Augustus, Senior Project Manager from Integrated System Planning at Sydney Water attended the meeting to present and answer questions. Presentation on 'Picton – Reuse Investigation' delivered by Emma James, Integrated System Planning, Sydney Water followed by discussion. 	<p>Share Sydney Water presentation to the Committee with the Minutes (Carolyn).</p> <p>Contact details for Emma James to be shared with Committee members (Carolyn).</p>
<p>4. Update from Tourism & Business Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's Manager Tourism & Business Investment, Kevin Abey addressed the Committee and provided a brief overview on some of the business initiatives that Council is currently involved in which may be of interest; <p>Agribusiness Database;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A database of agriculture businesses in Wollondilly is being developed. Committee members encouraged to provide details of existing and new agribusiness for inclusion. Committee noted that Dr Samantha Sharpe from University Technology Sydney, may be able to assist with the database as her research focuses on regional economic development. <p>Agribusiness Precinct</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NSW DPI, in collaboration with the Western City & Aerotropolis Authority (WCAA), is examining what a world-leading agribusiness precinct might look like in Western Sydney, as part of the NSW Government's commitment to the City Deal. - Therefore, Council will be looking at what business opportunities this is going to present to Wollondilly <p>Agritourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council is currently working with the Officer for Small Business Commissioner (OSBC) to map what tourism opportunities there are on farming properties. - Committee noted challenges planning faced by potential opportunities. - Council is also looking at planning barriers to the use of rural properties for wedding venues. <p>DPI Mapping Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DPI is undertaking a project to identify Important Agriculture Land in Wollondilly. Council supports this and had some discussions with DPI which resulted in a workshop in late 2018. - The project is to provide more relevant agricultural mapping than is currently available. - Mapping will not be at property level. - The project will help to foster agriculture industry growth and reduce land use conflict in the region. <p>Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Review Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted LEP Review is important for agriculture and Committee encouraged engage in the process. <p>Agribusiness Industry Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding is being sought to facilitate industry development networking events and to invite guests such as Food Innovation Australia <p>Projects Under Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agribusiness Hub; The Hub is to have an innovation centre to help small agribusiness with access to technology and office space. - Agribusiness Training; Council has a relationship with TAFE wherein Council will make office space available for TAFE to offer training. - Agribusiness Incubator Program (AIP); Kevin stated that Wollondilly does not have many small agribusiness entrepreneurs due to the lack of expertise and mentoring available. This program, which is still at a very initial stage, 	

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	<p>will seek to provide business consulting services to agriculture-related businesses to maximise their chance of business viability and success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee confirmed that diversifying a farms income is important. - Diversification is particularly important during times when the tourism component may become the primary source of income to support the agricultural function. - Biosecurity risks will prevent some farms from agritourism opportunities, e.g poultry - Committee agreed that a workshop on agritourism would be valuable. - Committee interested in someone from Kevin's area attending on a more regular basis. - Links to various agritourism reports provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL) – https://fial.com.au/ Office for Small Business Commissioner (OSBC) – https://www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/home Western Sydney City Deal – https://www.greater.sydney/project/western-sydney-city-deal Agribusiness in the Greater Sydney Region – https://www.rdasymdney.org.au/agribusiness-in-the-sydney-region Western Sydney Aerotropolis Agribusiness Precinct – https://www.wcaa.sydney/s/DPI_AerotropolisAgribusiness_FeasibilityStudy.pdf Production Possibilities Report – October 2018 – https://www.wcaa.sydney/s/PRODPOSS-OCT-2018_SP-LOWRES_20180218.pdf Intensive Integrated Production Hub – February 2019 – https://www.wcaa.sydney/s/Agribusiness-Precinct-Pre-feasibility-efyj.pdf 	<p>Arrange for a workshop at a future Committee meeting on income diversification for the agriculture sector (Kevin).</p> <p>Share contact details for Manager Tourism & Business Investment with Committee (Carolyn)</p> <p>Share links to relevant agritourism reports (Kevin & Carolyn)</p>
5.	<p>Recognition of Service on Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of Committee members were recognised for their service to the Committee over the years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sue Mossman – 5 years - James Bell – 9 years - Ed Biel – 15 years - Joe Grima – 15 years - Louise Davies – 15 years - Edgar Downes – 15 years - Andrew Docking (retired) – 15 years. 	

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<p>6. Local Environment Plan (LEP) Review Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolyn provided an update on the preparation of the Local Strategic Planning Statement with a focus on draft planning priorities relevant to rural land. • Ed Biel, Louise Davies, Jo Grima and Will Davies expressed interest in being involved with the LEP Review Sub-Committee. • As part of broader discussion committee member expressed concern for an issue an applicant was having with a dam. Council staff offered to follow up matter with relevant contact within Council's Development Assessment section. 	<p>Arrange a date for the LEP Review sub-committee to meet to discuss the Local Strategic Planning Statement (Carolyn).</p> <p>Provide committee with a copy of information sheet regarding dams (Stephen).</p> <p>Follow up development application issue with Development Assessment section and arrange contact (Carolyn).</p>
<p>7. General Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin, Koala siting Louise shared a recent koala visit to her property. Martin, the Koala, stayed on her farm for about three weeks. • Road Load Limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee interested in what determines road load limits and advice on the process to change load limits for roads. - Relevant speaker to be invited to speak on this matter at future meeting. • Next Meeting Wednesday, 26 June 2019 at 7.00pm. 	<p>Invite speaker to future meeting to talk about heavy vehicle road load limits (Carolyn)</p>
<p>Meeting closed at 9.50pm.</p>	