



**Rural Industry  
Community Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting**



Held on 2 October 2019 at 6:38 pm  
in the Board Room, Wollondilly Shire Council

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Matthew Deeth	Councillor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr Noel Lowry (arrived at 7.35pm)	Councillor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr Judith Hannan	Councillor	Wollondilly Shire Council
James Bell	Committee Member	
Ed Biel	Committee Member	
Louise Davies	Committee Member	
Sue Mossman	Committee Member	
Joe Vella	Committee Member	
Edgar Downs	Committee Member	
Stephen Gardiner	Manager Sustainable Growth	Wollondilly Shire Council
Ally Dench	Executive Director Community & Corporate	Wollondilly Shire Council
Carolyn Whitten	Principal Planner LEP Review	Wollondilly Shire Council
Sam Sharpe	Research Director	Institute of Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
Richard Stephens	Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator	Local Land Services, DPIE
Mia Hallowell	Minute Taker	Wollondilly Shire Council

**APOLOGIES:**

John Galea	Audit Officer	Natural Resources Access Regulator, NSW Department of Industry
Joe Grima	Committee Member	
Andrew Pace	Committee Member	
Will Davies	Committee Member	
Vince Hewson	Committee Member	
Phillip Bartolo	Committee Member	
Deputy Mayor Matt Gould	Councillor	
Kevin Abey	Tourism & Business Investment Manager	Wollondilly Shire Council
Ben Taylor	Chief Executive Officer	Wollondilly Shire Council

**CHAIRPERSON:** Toni Averay

DESCRIPTION		ACTION
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country with Toni welcoming those in attendance, including guest speakers Dr Sam Sharpe and Richard Stephens.</li> <li>Apologies were received from Joe Grima, John Galea and Will Davies.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting 26 June 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were endorsed and are uploaded to Council's website.</li> <li>Action items were discussed and updated accordingly.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Update from Executive Director Community and Corporate Update on Sydney Peri Urban Network of Councils (SPUN)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ally noted the next SPUN meeting is scheduled for November 2019; primarily focusing on reviewing the Action Plan around agribusiness and agritourism opportunities with the Western Sydney Airport.</li> </ul> <p><b>City Deal Agribusiness Precinct</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ally provided an overview of her attendance at Warwick Farm for a briefing from the Australian Centre of Excellence in Food innovation (ACE-FI), with Wollondilly in the lead in terms of agribusiness as part of City Deals.</li> <li>It was noted a collaboration document for agreement across agencies will be finalised by February 2020.</li> <li>Further discussion was held around significantly higher farming rates compared to neighbouring Councils. Councillors had noted a review of the rating strategy was planned for this financial year which may address issues in this area.</li> </ul>	CFO to attend next meeting to discuss review of rating strategy.
4.	<p><b>Update from Tourism &amp; Business Investment Manager – Ally Dench on behalf of Kevin Abey</b></p> <p><b>Agritourism Business Development Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ally provided an update on behalf of Kevin Abey, with stats from the recent Field Day held 8 August 2019.</li> <li>It was noted 24 farms had participated on the day with 18 EOIs received and 16 offers to participate in the program.</li> <li>Ally then distributed further information from the Small Business Commissioner which looked at the Agritourism Project.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Update from Manager Sustainable Growth – Stephen Gardiner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephen noted the Community Participation Plan is currently on exhibition and accessible through the Your Say Wollondilly</li> </ul>	

	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
	<p>webpage which can be accessed through the link below <a href="https://www.yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/community-participation-plan">https://www.yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/community-participation-plan</a>. He encouraged committee members to have a look as community consultation is essential for this process.</p> <p><b>Development Applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen gave an update on a DA relating to an intensive market garden which has completed its exhibition period. He noted Council officers had undertaken a site inspection, however, it is still currently under assessment.</li> <li>• This led to further discussion around ePlanning, with a demonstration to be held at a future RICAC meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>An update and presentation on ePlanning be provided to the committee</p>
6.	<p><b>Draft Wollondilly 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carolyn provided an overview of the LSPS which is currently on exhibition and available through the Your Say Wollondilly webpage at <a href="https://www.yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/love-your-neighbourhood">https://www.yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/love-your-neighbourhood</a>. She encouraged members of the committee to make an individual submissions.</li> <li>• The committee raised some concerns around the koala corridor and protecting the character of the Shire, particularly given the constraints the LSPS has under the District Plan.</li> <li>• The committee acknowledged the significant amount of work Carolyn had undertaken of the LSPS.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Guest Speakers</b></p> <p><b>a. Dr Sam Sharpe, Agricultural Enterprise Credit Scheme (AECS) research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Sam Sharpe presented on the Agricultural Enterprises Credit Scheme which is based on production compared with the City of Sydney Council scheme based on floor space.</li> <li>• This committee recommends to Council that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Dr Samantha Sharpe be acknowledged and thanked for her extensive and innovative work carried for a proposed Agricultural Enterprise Credit Scheme (AECS);</li> <li>(ii) Council consider the inclusion of this work in a review of its planning agreements to provide greater direction to proponents on Council's expectations for planning agreements, including contribution towards a significant and demonstrable community benefit.</li> <li>(iii) the revised policy include a requirement for the contribution to be used towards the retention and enhancement of agricultural land used for food production within the Wollondilly Shire under the AECS.</li> <li>(iv) Council also consider including the AECS to its State Issues Paper; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A report be drafted noting the RICAC recommendation for the next Council meeting</p>

DESCRIPTION		ACTION
	<p>(v) That this matter is raised at a future SPUN network meeting</p> <p><b>b. Richard Stephens, Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Richard Stephens introduced himself as the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator for Local Land Services. Richard distributed his business card and recommended committee members join the Small Farms network.</li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><b>a. Cooperative Farms – Sue Mossman</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sue provided a presentation on the creation of small lot farms. There are some complexities to consider with planning rules but the concept is consistent with broader vision around cooperation and sharing.</li> <li>The committee provided comments around animals and biosecurity, which Sue may wish to consider when amending her presentation before distributing to the Committee for consideration and further discussion at a later time.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Land use planning and light pollution in rural areas – Louise Davies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Louise raised concern around light pollution and requested more information from Council staff at the next Committee meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>c. Other issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil</li> </ul> <p><b>d. Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday 4 December 2019, 6.30pm</li> </ul>	<p>Distribute updated presentation to Committee with Minutes and further comments to be discussed at next meeting.</p> <p>Council to review Planning Controls and State Policies / neighbouring Councils approach to light pollution</p>
	Meeting closed at 9.36pm.	

## Action Items

Meeting Date	Agenda Item No.	Action	Responsible	Due Date	Update
2 October 2019	3	CFO to attend next RICAC meeting to discuss review of rating strategy.	Clair Hardy	Next meeting	
2 October 2019	5	An update and presentation on eplanning be provided to the Committee	Toni Averay	Next meeting	
2 October 2019	7	A report be drafted noting the RICAC recommendation for the next Council meeting	Toni Averay	Next meeting	
2 October 2019	8a	Revised presentation from Sue Mossman to be distributed to Committee with draft Minutes	Sue Mossman	Next meeting	
2 October 2019	8b	Council to review Planning Controls and State Policies / neighbouring Councils approach to light pollution	Toni Averay	Next meeting	
26 June 2019	2	Write to NHVR to seek understanding of the reason the link to Camden LGA is restricted.	Stephen Gardiner	Next meeting	
26 June 2019	7a	Write to DPI seeking a new representative on the Committee.	Toni Averay	Next meeting	
27 March 2019	2	Confirm what actions have been undertaken in response to Council's NOM on 'Harvestable Use Rights' from Council meeting held on 15 October 2018 and whether a response has been received.	Stephen Gardiner	Next meeting	
27 March 2019	6	Provide committee with a copy of information sheet regarding dams	Stephen Gardiner	Next meeting	In progress

Meeting Date	Agenda Item No.	Action	Responsible	Due Date	Update
27 March 2019	7	Invite speaker to future meeting to talk about heavy vehicle road load limits	Carolyn Whitten	Next meeting	Complete – National Heavy Vehicle Regulator confirmed to attend meeting on 26 June 2019
5 December 2018	2	Seek regular update on general Compliance matters at future RICAC meetings	Carolyn Whitten	Next meeting	