

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING`  
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,  
ON 9/04/24 AT 4:00 PM**

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**Attendance**

Crs Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor - in the chair), Kiri Dicker (on-line), Simon Chate (on-line), Eoin Johnston (on-line, joined at 4.14pm), Stephen McCarthy, Nigel Buchanan (on-line), Eva Ramsey (arrived at 4.20pm), Phillip Meehan and Rodney Bruem.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Director, Civil Services Director), Matthew Wood (Director, Planning and Environmental Health Division), Caroline Klose (Director, Corporate and Community Division), Linda Coulter (Manager Financial Services) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were six people in the gallery at this time.

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

In opening the meeting the Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

**2. Apologies**

An apology was received from Cr Jeff Johnson.

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That such apology be accepted and leave of absence granted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston and Cr Eva Ramsey

**3. Declarations of Interest**

**Cr Sharon Cadwallader** – declared an interest in Item 5.10 – Fees and Charges – 2024/25. (Nature of Interest: non-significant, non-pecuniary – she is a civil celebrant and has no direct involvement in bookings for weddings). She will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.

**4. Deputations**

- **Detective Sergeant Mick Smith and Damien Loome**– spoke in relation to Item 5.1 – Public Domain Closed Circuit Television (CCTV).

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- **Mick Albany, St Vincent de Paul** – spoke in relation to Item 5.11 – Community Infrastructure – Non-Recurrent Capital Projects – and especially in relation to the need for an activity centre for youth.

Cr Eoin Johnston joined the meeting on-line at 4.14pm

**Extension of Time for Deputation**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Stephen McCarthy/Cr Rodney Bruem)

That Mr Albany be granted an extension of time for his Deputation.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Eva Ramsey

Cr Eva Ramsey arrived at the meeting at 04:20 pm.

**Change in Order of Business**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That the Committee change the order of business to deal with items as per the Deputations received.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

**5. Committee Reports**

**5.1 Public Domain Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Eva Ramsey)

1. That Council write to the Member for Ballina (Tamara Smith) for an update on their election commitment to fund CCTV for the Ballina CBD and expected timeframe for delivery and installation.
2. That Council lobby the State Government for the reintroduction of the funding program for the provision of CCTV in regional centres/targeted areas.
3. That Council undertake the CCTV scoping study, with the contract funded from the Strategic Planning Reserve.

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FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Nigel Buchanan, Cr Eva Ramsey, Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Rodney Bruem

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Stephen McCarthy

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

**5.11 Community Infrastructure - Non-Recurrent Capital Projects**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Phillip Meehan)

1. That Council notes the contents of this update on non-recurrent community infrastructure projects.
2. That Council receive a report on the progress of the shared pathway between Lennox Head and Byron Shire.
3. That Council receive a report for options for improved weather protection at the Northern Rivers Regional Gallery.
4. That Council include funding in 2024/25 for an additional mobile parklet, estimated at \$25,000.
5. That Council receive a report on the estimated cost to complete the shared path along Pearces Creek Road from the Seventh Day Adventist Home to the Wollongbar Sporting fields.
6. That Council investigate the establishment of a sculpture trail in Ballina Shire.
7. That Council investigate the installation of a bus shelter on the corner of Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar.
8. That Council investigate options for additional youth services and activities in the Ballina Shire.
9. That Council investigate options for a skate park in Alstonville.

Cr Nigel Buchanan left the meeting at 04:50 pm and returned at 04:53 pm during the discussion on this item.

Cr Nigel Buchanan left the meeting at 05:09 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

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**5.2 Seven Mile Beach - 4WD Management Options**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

1. That based on the contents of this report, Council retain the existing permit administration system and work with the system vendor to introduce the provision of education information to drivers on responsible 4WD use of Seven Mile Beach, where this can be accommodated through the existing technology.
2. That taking into account the costs and operational difficulties as outlined in this report and recognising that Council has resolved to cease 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach by 2028, that Council does not proceed to install a boom gate.
3. That Council continue to monitor 4WD usage and compliance at Seven Mile Beach to determine the effectiveness of the change in the permit fee structure, and the distribution of education information, if enabled.

Cr Simon Chate left the meeting at 05:23 pm and returned at 05:26 pm during the discussion on this item.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

Cr Kiri Dicker left the meeting at 05:27 pm.

**5.3 Newrybar - Provision of Wastewater Services**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council initiative talks with Byron Shire Council to examine the feasibility of a reticulated sewerage system for Newrybar connecting to the Bangalow sewerage treatment system.

Cr Simon Chate left the meeting at 05:28 pm and returned at 05:34 pm.

Cr Simon Chate left the meeting at 05:46 pm and returned at 05:52 pm.

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Eoin Johnston and Cr Rodney Bruem

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phillip Meehan

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

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Cr Simon Chate left the meeting at 05:57 pm.

**5.4 Wildlife Protection - Virtual Fencing**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Rodney Bruem)

That Council notes the report and takes no further action.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

**5.5 Water and Wastewater Assets - Insurance**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That based on the contents of this report, subject to the concurrence of the Audit, Risk and Insurance Committee, in lieu of purchasing insurance, Council transfer the premium savings, being an amount of approximately \$200,000 per annum, to a reserve in the Water and Wastewater Funds for the next five years, to respond to damage to our assets caused by a natural disaster or other event.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

**5.6 Policy (Review) - Commercial Use of Footpaths**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That Council adopts the Commercial Use of Footpaths Policy, as per Attachment 1 to this report, with an amendment to remove the one year annual fee waiver on renewal of the licence, after the seven year period.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

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**5.7 Strategic Asset Management Plan - 2024/25**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Strategic Asset Management Plan, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

**5.8 Ballina Byron Gateway Airport - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Phillip Meehan)

That Council approves the inclusion of the Long-Term Financial Plan for the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, as per Attachments 1 and 2 to this report, in the draft 2024/25 to 2027/28 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

**5.9 Fees and Charges - 2024/25**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2024/25, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

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**5.10 Community Infrastructure - Recurrent Capital Works**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That Council approves the inclusion of the recurrent capital expenditure priorities, as outlined in this report, in the draft 2024/25 to 2027/28 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, for public exhibition.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

**5.12 Workforce Management Plan 2024 - 2028**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Workforce Management Plan 2024 to 2028, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

**5.13 General Fund - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Long Term Financial Plan, as per Attachments 1 and 2 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

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**5.14 Delivery Program and Operational Plan - 2024/25 to 2027/28**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Rodney Bruem)

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2024/25 to 2027/28, as per Attachment 1 to this report, inclusive of any changes arising from this meeting.
2. That Council adopts the following fees for the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee independent representatives for 2024/25:
  - \$1,800 for the Chair per meeting
  - \$900 for Independent Committee Members per meeting.

These payments are exclusive of superannuation.

3. That Council note the information and take no further action in relation to PV Walsh Park at Wardell.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan

**MEETING CLOSURE**

6.33 pm