



**NORTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2022



MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held on 12 December 2022 at 5.00pm in person at the Council Chambers, 13 Smith Street, Longford

1 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert, Cr Dick Adams OAM, Cr Alison Andrews AM, Cr Richard Archer, Cr Matthew Brooks, Cr Richard Goss, Cr Paul Terrett

In Attendance

Mr Des Jennings - General Manager, Miss Maree Bricknell - Corporate Services Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh - Works Manager, Mr Trent Atkinson - Project Manager, Mr Paul Godier - Senior Planner, Mrs Gail Eacher - Executive Assistant

APOLOGIES

Cr Andrew McCullagh



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3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

4 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mayor Knowles delivered her welcome and opening address.

Mayor Knowles provided the following statement from which she read:

Council at its 19 July 2021 meeting endorsed the 2021/2022 Municipal Budget which, included a \$29.4 million capital works program and it is now my pleasure to present to you, the Northern Midlands Council 2021 – 2022 Annual Report.

Council made steady progress through the year despite the challenges and disruptions of the Covid 19 pandemic, particularly once borders reopened in December 2021, and I would like to thank our staff for their ongoing dedication in achieving such great outcomes while continuing to support our communities.

Maintaining with our community recovery, supporting local businesses and contractors, projects of various scales across the municipal area were completed including:

- *Cricket Net relocation at Morven Park Evandale \$75,000*
- *Replacement of Bryants Lane bridge near Evandale \$315,000*
- *Perth Recreation Ground electronic scoreboard, carpark and goal netting \$128,000*
- *Construction of a new toilet facility at Seccombe Street playground \$111,000*
- *Installation of a Level 1 Lift and renovation of squash courts at Northern Midlands Sports Centre \$335,000*
- *Construction of Longford Waste Transfer Recycling shed \$200,000*
- *Cressy Pool kiosk, covers, and entrance improvements \$914,000*
- *Upgraded amenities at the Cressy Recreation Ground \$1,061,000*
- *Kerb, footpath and parking verge at Queen Street in Campbell Town \$280,000*
- *Provision of oval irrigation, new public toilet, a tennis hit up wall and car parking improvements at the Campbell Town Recreation Ground \$505,000*
- *Completion of the new Ross Village Green \$1,150,000*
- *Road Reseal Program \$968,000*
- *Rural Roads Reconstruction (sections of Glen Esk Road and Barton Road) \$961,000*
- *Footpath Program \$338,000*
- *Gravel Road Re-sheeting Program \$378,000*

The 2021 Census data revealed that the Northern Midlands municipality is growing with a population increase of 923 people, with the greatest increases being 510 in Perth and 414 in Longford, an additional 424 families. There was also an increase in the number of private dwellings being built of 509 since 2016, explaining an increased demand for services. In planning for the future and the increased demand for services, construction has commenced at the purpose-built Perth Early Learning Centre, adjacent to the existing kindergarten and primary school. When completed, the \$3.7m purpose-built facility, federally funded through the Community Development Grant Program (\$2.6m), and Local Roads, Community Infrastructure Grant (\$1.1m), will include:

- *dedicated activity areas and covered play areas.*
- *separate sleep/quiet rooms.*
- *fenced outdoor play areas.*
- *ample storage areas, furnishings, and equipment.*
- *kitchen, laundry, and pantry.*
- *staff office/training rooms.*
- *1 sealed car park.*
- *extensive landscaping for shade provision and aesthetics.*



The new facility will provide local families with more spaces for childcare in a new and modern childcare facility. Expected to be completed in early 2023, this project also enables the return of the Perth Community Centre for usage by the community.

In consideration of the community growth identified, Council is focused on continuing its work with key identified infrastructure projects in 2022/2023 including the re-roofing of Evandale Town Hall, and playground upgrades at Perth Train Park and Pioneer Park in Evandale. Works will also commence on the upgrade of the Memorial Hall at Longford Victoria Square, the extension of the William Street Reserve to George Street at Perth including a footbridge and footpath, rural road reconstruction (continuing sections of Glen Esk Road at Nile and Bishopsbourne Road) and an increased Footpath Program.

With an increase in population comes an increase in waste, an issue identified by the Tasmanian Government with a plan to introduce a levy on all waste sent to landfill across Tasmania. Council has chosen to commence a kerbside Food Organics, and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service in 2023 to divert waste away from landfill and reduce costs.

Over the last twelve months most of our sporting facility upgrades have been completed or are nearing completion, and important future project funding has been successfully lobbied for. I represented Council at the NTDC Sporting Facilities Plan consultation and IT consultation encouraging collaboration and sharing of services within our region. I co-chaired the Premier's Covid Regional Recovery meetings and was invited to be a Guest speaker at the Tasmanian Leaders 'Governance in Tasmania' event in Launceston. I attended the Official Opening of the long-awaited Longford Sewerage Treatment Plant near Longford, the Climate Change Conference in Launceston, the KPMG Aged Care Service Provision meeting, and the Cancer Council morning tea in Devon Hills.

I also attended numerous community and tourism events including Australia Day and Anzac Day commemorations in Longford, Ross and Avoca, the official opening of the Soaring Club of Tasmania's new hanger in the Northern Midlands near Tunbridge, the 'Missing' Mona Aboriginal silhouette project launch and 'Dancing in Fetters' convict story telling at Ross.

I have continued to work closely with the State Government and agencies on the issue of family and domestic violence, with a focus on providing housing for women and their children who are forced into homelessness.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my fellow Councillors, Management and Staff for their commitment and ongoing support throughout the past year to enable and allow the Northern Midlands to continue to be a leader in growth and development.

I acknowledge and thank all our previous Councillors and extend a warm welcome to all our new Councillors.

5 DECLARATIONS OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST OF A COUNCILLOR OR CLOSE ASSOCIATE

As per the *Local Government Act 1993, Part 5 - Pecuniary Interests, section 48:*

- (1) *A councillor must not participate at any meeting of a council, council committee, special committee, controlling authority, single authority or joint authority in any discussion, nor vote on any matter, in respect of which the councillor—*
 - (a) *has an interest; or*
 - (b) *is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.*
- (2) *A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences.*

No declarations of interest were received.



6 PROCEDURAL

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1.1 Confirmation Of Minutes: Annual General Meeting

MINUTE NO. 22/402

DECISION

Cr Adams/Cr Goss

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 13 December 2021 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried

Noted that Councillors Andrews, Archer and Terrett abstained from voting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 13 December 2021 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

6.2 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report for the 2021/2022 financial year was circulated by the General Manager.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting together with the Annual Report was advertised in the Examiner Newspaper on Saturday, 26 November 2022 and Wednesday, 30 November 2022. The community were invited to submit comments on the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

No submissions received.



6.3 QUESTIONS

6.3.1 Questions On Notice

No questions on notice received.

6.3.2 Questions Without Notice

Questions not on notice welcomed by Mayor Knowles, to be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A person seeking to ask a question must firstly identify himself or herself by stating their name and the town they reside in.
- If more than one person wishes to ask a question, the Mayor is to determine the order in which those questions are asked
- Questions must be directed to the Mayor (Chair) who shall answer or direct the question to the appropriate Councillor or Council Officer. A question will be answered if the information is known otherwise taken on notice and responded to in writing as soon as possible.
- A person is entitled to ask no more than 2 questions on any specific subject. If a person has up to two questions on several subjects, the Mayor may defer those questions until other questions have been asked and refer back to that person only if time permits.
- Each speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

No questions without notice forthcoming from the gallery.

7 CLOSURE

Mayor Knowles closed the meeting at 5.09pm.

MAYOR _____ DATE _____