



ORDINARY MEETING OF
COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY
COMMITTEE

25 September 2019

His Worship the Mayor & Councillors

Notice of Ordinary Meeting of Bathurst Regional Council - Wednesday, 2 October 2019

I have to advise that an **Ordinary Meeting** of Bathurst Regional Council will be held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, 2 October 2019 commencing at approximately 6.15 pm (or immediately following the conclusion of the Policy Committee).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D J Sherley".

D J Sherley
GENERAL MANAGER

BUSINESS AGENDA

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY COMMITTEE

TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2019

1. 6:15 PM - MEETING COMMENCES

2. APOLOGIES

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To assist the Councillors and committee members in their correct consideration of business before them at the meeting, please give consideration to Part 4 and Part 5 of the Council Code of Conduct, in relation to Declaration of Interest at meetings.

4. RECEIVE AND DEAL WITH GENERAL MANAGER'S AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS

* DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE'S REPORT

* DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES' REPORT

5. RESOLVE INTO CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO DEAL WITH CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Recommendation: That:

- (a) Council resolve into closed Council to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
- (b) Pursuant to section 10A(1)-(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A(2) as outlined above.
- (c) Correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005,:

1. In accordance with Section 9(2A) of the Local Government Act 1993, it is the opinion of the General Manager that the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.
2. In accordance with Section 10B(1) it is considered that discussion of the matter in open meeting, would on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
3. In accordance with Section 10A(4) members of the public are invited to make representations to the Council as to whether the matters should or should not be dealt with in Confidential Committee.

*** DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE'S REPORT**

ITEM	SUBJECT	REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
1	WAIVING OF FEES - USE OF MOUNT PANORAMA PIT COMPLEX	10A (2) (a) – Deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors) disclosure of which would not be in the public interest as it would reveal personal details of the individuals concerned.

*** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES' REPORT**

ITEM	SUBJECT	REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
1	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF WATER FILLING STATIONS AT HEREFORD STREET	10A (2) (d) (i) – contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. Discussion of the matter in open council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

6. RESOLVE INTO OPEN COUNCIL

7. ADOPT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

8. MEETING CLOSE

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE'S REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2019

1 INTERNAL RESERVES AT 30 JUNE 2019 (16.00055)

Recommendation: That the transfers from reserves as at 30 June 2019 be approved by Council.

Report: Councillors would recall from the 2018/2019 budget deliberations, that the budget included a revenue item for land sales. This item (approximately \$29 million) was predominantly made up of the land sales associated with the Bathurst Trade Centre land release area, and the Sunnybright Stages 1A and 1B land releases. Whilst both releases were substantially completed by 30 June 2019, no lands sales had settled by this date. Consequently, Council's "cash" position as at 30 June 2019 has been adversely affected.

Prior to any remedial action being undertaken to address the 30 June 2019 result, Council was reporting an unrestricted cash result of -\$16,342,988. To resolve this matter, a number of Council's Internally Restricted Cash Assets have been reduced to a nil balance, and a portion of our Externally Restricted Unexpended Loans have been used. The following table identifies the reduction of each restricted asset.

Internal Restrictions	\$10,467,579
Unexpected Loan Funds	\$5,875,409

The internal reserves affected include Employee Leave Entitlements, Election Expenses, Community Buildings Maintenance, Cultural Services Planning, Plant Replacement, Aerodrome Improvement, Planning and Environmental, and Solid Waste Management. The unexpended loan funds include various engineering infrastructure projects that have not started and funds for the Small Animal Pound which is still in the planning stage.

It is intended that as each land sale settles, a number of which have already occurred since 30 June 2019, the proceeds from the sales will be allocated to reimburse each restricted asset that has been reduced.

Financial Implications: These actions are required to correct a short term cash flow shortfall at 30 June 2019 which will be corrected in the 2019/2020 financial year

Bathurst Community Strategic Plan - Objectives and Strategies

- Objective 6: Community leadership and collaboration Strategy 6.6

Community Engagement

- Inform To provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives opportunities and/or solutions.

**2 ITEMS INCLUDED IN CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(11.00005, 04.00009)**

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

Report: The following items have been included in the confidential section of the business paper for Council's consideration:

1 WAIVING OF FEES - USE OF MOUNT PANORAMA PIT COMPLEX 04.00009)

This item relates to a request for waiving of fees associated with the hiring of the pit complex facility.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Bathurst Community Strategic Plan - Objectives and Strategies

- Objective 6: Community leadership and collaboration Strategy 6.4

Community Engagement

- Inform To provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives opportunities and/or solutions.

Yours faithfully



A Jones
**DIRECTOR
CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE**

DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES' REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2019

1 WATER RESTRICTIONS AND IMPACT UPON COUNCIL SERVICES **(32.00017 & 13.00031)**

Recommendation: That Council act in accordance with the report.

Report: Council would be aware of the significant discussions regarding water security and the impact to Bathurst town water supply.

At the time of writing this report, Chifley Dam remains at 45%, with recent rain not surprisingly having an insignificant impact on the dam storage level. Winburndale Dam, with a significantly smaller size to Chifley Dam, is at 87% capacity.

As Council will recall, Level 3 restrictions were introduced on 26 November 2018 since it was clear that the previous two winter rain periods, where traditionally Chifley Dam would fill, had failed to provide any meaningful inflows to the dam. At this time, the dam was at 58% storage, with Council's adopted Drought Management Plan not recommending Level 3 restrictions be imposed until dam storage was at 30%. Similarly, due to the failure of any meaningful rain in the Chifley Dam catchment in 2019, Council has resolved to introduce Extreme Level 4 restrictions, with the Drought Management Plan not recommending this until 25%.

The introduction of Level 3 restrictions has been well responded to by the community. Releases from Chifley Dam have last year been considerably reduced, due to decreased residential demand and support from local irrigators, who where possible and practical, also entered into a voluntary odds and evens irrigation regime. Water savings due to these practices are estimated to have conserved approximately 14% of storage within Chifley Dam.

Council will recall that at its Ordinary Meeting dated 17 July 2019 that it resolved:

That Council:

- (a) *Implement Level 4 – 5 (Extreme) Water Restrictions on Monday, 14 October 2019 as outlined in the report, and*
- (b) *continue the ongoing community engagement campaign in regard to Water Restrictions, and*
- (c) *undertake regulatory actions to ensure compliance with Level 4 - 5 (Extreme) Water Restrictions, and*
- (d) *authorise the Mayor and General Manager (or their delegates) to commence discussions with the relevant Ministers to progress any necessary actions to ensure the existing supply of water in Chifley Dam lasts for as long as possible, and*
- (e) *note the actions taken and proposed as detailed in the report.*

As Council is aware, a plan of works has been proposed that provides three options to keep Bathurst's water supply at no worse than Level 4. Details of this have been presented to the Council Ordinary Meeting 18 September 2019 as a Confidential report. Once commercial negotiations have concluded, a further report will be presented to Council providing advice regarding Council's preferred method to achieve this.

Council is the largest consumer of both filtered and raw water. Over the last 5 years, significant projects have been carried out by Council to reduce the demand on the water network, including:

1. The construction of a supernatant recycling system at the Bathurst Water Filtration Plant, which recycles sand filter backwash water into the intake of the WFP, rather than discharging back into the Macquarie River below the WFP intake point. This has saved an estimated 365ML of water per annum.
2. The use of treated effluent for cleaning and treatment processes within the Waste Water Treatment Plant, saving an estimated 640 ML per annum
3. The introduction of telemetry and smart meters to sporting fields and parks, which allows for closer monitoring and control of watering schedules, thus allowing water efficiencies.
4. Regular maintenance and as required replacement of water mains where leaks are located.

However, due to the imposition of Extreme Level 4 water restrictions on October 14, an assessment of Council assets has been carried out. Water savings will be made as described below.

Construction of new assets

Council would be aware that it has allocated in its current Operating Plan the construction of two new rugby league / union fields to the Hereford Street Complex, the complete refurbishment of the Bathurst Sports ground and a full reconstruction of an additional 3 football fields at the Proctor Park football complex. These projects have an estimated expenditure at approximately \$5M.

Given the sheer scale of new turf required for these three facilities and the quantity of water that would be required to ensure establishment and ongoing growth, these works have been deferred.

Parks and Reserves

Council manages 305 individual parks and gardens within the urban area. Of these 221 are not watered.

Of the remaining parks it is intended that reduced watering will occur to all sites, in three categories.

1. Minimum Watering.

Minimum watering will be provided to ensure survival of parks. 59 locations have been included in this category, with examples including John Matthews complex, Haymarket Reserve and roundabout garden beds.

2. Basic Watering

This watering regime will allow for sporting fields to function and be kept in a usable condition for the Bathurst community, albeit that watering will be reduced as low as possible. This will enable passive and active recreational use for all members of Bathurst, providing social, psychological and other health benefits. Examples of parks that will have irrigation frequencies reduced to a basic level include Ann Ashwood Park, Jack Arrow Rugby League Complex, George Park and Cubis Park / Eglinton Oval. the number of parks to have watering reduced to this level equates to 8 sporting precincts with a combined watering area of only 18.39ha.

3. Optimal Watering

Included in this category are parks and gardens that have a high community value, such as Machattie Park and Kings Parade; also sporting facilities such as Carrington Park, Learmonth Park and Proctor Park. Watering of these facilities will continue to be undertaken via best practice watering principals to reduce water waste, however be of a required frequency to ensure that these heritage and high profile community assets are able to operate and provide the amenity for the community at existing service levels. This will ensure that residents of Bathurst do not lose mature and replaceable vegetation assets such as the majestic trees and gardens of Machattie Park, or be required to contribute to the significant cost of re-establishing high profile regional facilities. It should be noted that a number of these parks and reserves are serviced by raw water sourced from Winburndale Dam.

NOTE: for a full list of the various parks and reserve areas identified within this report identifying proposed watering regimes, please refer to **attachment 1**.

It is intended that the implementation of the above watering changes will be in effect by the commencement of Extreme Level 4 restrictions on 14 October 2019. The Drought Management Plan identifies a reduction in daily use of 2.6ML per day when going from Level 3 to Level 4. Council has 15 facilities in the top 50 water users and the regime changes to watering would save about 2ML per week.

In addition to the watering activities proposed for Bathurst's various community parks and sports ground facilities, it should be noted that Council will continue to undertake irrigation activities utilising the most water efficient means possible in the attempt to minimise water use. Best practice activities will continue to be conducted by Council's Recreation Staff, utilising extensive water saving processes such as automatic controlled and monitored systems, sub surface watering infrastructure, mulched areas where applicable, watering at optimal times to minimise evaporation losses and only watering when it is required. For example, Council may be aware that out of the 84 sites that are proposed to have irrigation continue to some level, 40 of those areas generally have their watering switched off during the winter / spring seasons.

Business Water Saving Audits

Council has reviewed the top water users across 2018/19 and also on the 3 year average basis. Council has commenced a process to carry out independent water saving audits of major water consumers in Bathurst, including businesses, schools and council facilities. Quotations have been assessed and a consultant appointed to provide water auditing across 26 organisation/facilities including 20 businesses and 6 council properties. Part of the work will identify aspects of the operations that are already water efficient and the identification of improvement actions that will result in further water savings. Council will cover the costs of the water audit and the implications of the identified water saving actions will be the responsible of the property owner.

Bathurst Aquatic Centre / Commercial Pools

It is recommended that the Bathurst Aquatic Centre continue to operate, given that this is a community facility that is provided to the people of Bathurst and will be one of the only areas that will be available to the general public for swimming activities, given that the filling of private residential pools will not be permitted.

It is also considered that commercial and educational facilities that operate pools need not apply for an exemption. This is since a number of these facilities provide learn to swim classes or provide opportunities for health and well-being of the community.

Given the small number of accommodation providers that have swimming pools (6 are registered) it is considered reasonable that these continue to operate since water savings would be insignificant when it is considered the use that they will receive.

Mount Panorama Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000 / Bathurst 12 hour race preparations

Council has not carried out any watering of grassed circuit verges for this year's Supercheap Bathurst 1000 race event, nor will this occur for the 2020 Bathurst 12 hour. Whilst not a significant volume of water, nevertheless it is not necessary for the running of the events in drought conditions.

Campground unsealed access roads will be watered for purposes of dust suppression, for public health and safety reasons.

All toilet and shower facilities will by the commencement of camping at this year's Bathurst 1000, will have signage advising of need to conserve water. This will enhance Variable Message Board signage placed at the entry to the Mount Panorama circuit precinct.

Conclusion

Should it become apparent that it may be necessary to further restrict the water supply to Level 5 conditions, the above will be reconsidered.

Equally, should extensive rainfall occur that results in a major increase in storage within Chifley Dam, appropriate consideration to relax water restrictions will also occur.

Financial Implications: Nil.

Bathurst Community Strategic Plan - Objectives and Strategies

- Objective 6: Community leadership and collaboration Strategy 6.6
- Objective 3: Environmental stewardship Strategy 3.2

Community Engagement

- Inform To provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives opportunities and/or solutions.

**2 ITEM INCLUDED IN CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(11.00005, 36.00720)**

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

Report: The following item has been included in the confidential section of the business paper for Council's consideration:

**1 TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF WATER FILLING STATIONS AT
HEREFORD STREET (36.00720)**

This report considers the tender for the supply and installation of four water filling stations at Hereford Street.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

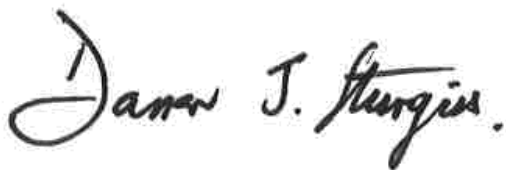
Bathurst Community Strategic Plan - Objectives and Strategies

- Objective 6: Community leadership and collaboration Strategy 6.4

Community Engagement

- Inform To provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives opportunities and/or solutions.

Yours faithfully



Darren Sturgiss
**DIRECTOR
ENGINEERING SERVICES**