

10.2

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT - 5 MARCH 2025

File No: 11.00041

RECOMMENDATION:

That the recommendations of the Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of Bathurst Regional Council held on 5 March 2025 be adopted.

REPORT:

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of Bathurst Regional Council held on 5 March 2025 are attached.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

BATHURST COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN – OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

Objective 6: Community leadership and collaboration.

Strategy 6.4 Meet legislative and compliance requirements.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 050325 Policy Minutes Only [10.2.1 - 8 pages]

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
OF BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL
HELD ON 5 MARCH 2025**

1. PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTE

Wayne Feebrey - South Bathurst Action Group: Busby Street Development - Spoke to the planning proposals for 34 and 50 Busby Street. Noted that he is opposed to the proposed planning changes to height and density requirements. Spoke to the history and heritage of the precinct. Noted that a petition is being collated as the proposal is not respectful of the existing planning principles and of the local residents. Spoke to the possible loss of park areas, housing values and the emotional impact to residents. Requested that the current LEP 9m height limit and current density levels be retained. Noted other requirements they had for the area including parks, maintaining the heritage of the area etc and referred to other concerns such as affordable housing and retaining of old world charm. Noted that he would like to have a meeting with Councillors and staff about the project and his concerns of covert influence.

DEPBS objects to comment of 'covert influence' and noted he has declined to meet with the group due to the possibility of aggression towards staff if the meeting was to occur.

Stephanie Luke - Busby Street Planning Proposal - Noted she is opposed to any development in Milltown. Concerns included issue of trees and the social contract of LEP being overturned. Feels the developers have been told to go and double the size of the development. Requests that Council listen to the community. This is the wrong project, in the wrong spot.

DEPBS noted that Council authorised a process to be followed and that peer reviews for traffic and noise are progressing.

Ingrid Pearson - BARN Project - Thanked Council for allowing the Nguring - BARN project to proceed. Spoke to the cost of sporting facilities and asked Council if they are triple the cost of cultural facilities? Raised issue of operational costs and leasing payments.

DCSF will take on notice the issue of cost and will get back to Mrs Pearson. Noted that long term leases are in place, with some recovery of maintenance costs occurring.

Stuart Pearson - Bathurst Airport Masterplan - Spoke to the airport masterplan and the issue of selling/leasing the land at the airport. Spoke to Deed (1992) entered into with the Commonwealth and restrictions on sale and where possible funds received would be paid to. Asked if any arrangements have been entered into since 1992 to alter the Deed.

DCSF advised that no new arrangements have been entered in to.

Mr Pearson then spoke to proposals made by lessees to attract more business revenue to move the airport from loss making to revenue making.

Geoff Fry - Accountability and Disclosure - Spoke to Council's financial statements and noted funds and assets held. Noted that Council is not going broke. Spoke to rates making up 57% of Councils revenue. Spoke to the operations of museums and events, and accounting standards. Noted the losses of the museums operated or owned by Council, including the collections facility. Thought funding was from State Government not Council. Requested financial data such as loans on cultural facilities.

DCCS provided detailed of finances and loans.

Mr Fry then spoke to events and costs, including Mount Panorama.

Bob Triming - Chairperson for Bathurst Regional Access Committee - Sought an update on the Library toilets.

DCCS noted no change since last update, awaiting Go Kart Track funding to be available.

Mr Triming then thanked the works staff for recent works on Bradwardine Rd and the Highway regarding access concerns. Then raised the Hector Park toilets rebuild and inquired about the progress in replacing the toilets. Noted the toilets are in much need of replacement and that the BRAC would not want it to be placed into the centre island.

DES noted the DA will be lodged shortly which will then allow tenders to be called. The engineering department is currently working on resolving the issue of the facilities location.

Mr Triming then spoke to the Busby Street development and noted that the developer of the St Catherine's site has spoken to the access committee. Asked if the other development has taken into account relevant access issues?

DEPBS noted that no specific discussions have been held with the 34 Busby Street developers on the issues raised by Mr Triming at this time.

Annie Balcomb - Transparency - Asks that Council reconsider not filming the public forum. Noted that filming of the public forum would assist transparency of Council operations. Noted that Orange City Council livestreams their public forum, as do a number of other Council's. Noted it would assist in making public forum less intimidating. Raised concerns with validity of YourSay system, and about getting information concerning grants. Advised that she has submitted a GIPA request about the BARN. Asks Councillors to remember their promise to increase transparency.

2. MEETING COMMENCES

MINUTE

Meeting commenced at 6:33pm.

Present: Cr W Aubin, Cr B Fry, Cr T Gullifer, Cr N Packham, Cr R Taylor, Cr J Underwood, Cr E West

3. RECORDING OF MEETING

4. PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

5. APOLOGIES

MINUTE

MOVED: Cr W Aubin SECONDED: Cr T Gullifer

RESOLVED:

That the apology of Cr S Wright be accepted and leave of absence granted.

That the apology of Cr N Cranston be accepted and leave of absence granted.

6. MINUTES

6.1. Confirmation of Minutes

File No: 07.00064

MINUTE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: POL2025-1

MOVED: Cr N Packham SECONDED: Cr J Underwood

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Policy Meeting of Bathurst Regional Council held on 4 December 2024 be adopted.

7. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declaration of Interest

MINUTE

NIL

**8.1.1. COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW - POLICIES REVIEWED
WITH NO OR MINIMAL CHANGES IDENTIFIED**

File No: 11.00006

MINUTE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: POL2025-2

MOVED: Cr W Aubin SECONDED: Cr E West

RESOLVED:

That Council repeal the following policies:

- a) Section 355 Committee Guidelines – Reserves
- b) Land – Titles – Council Owned Land

8.1.2. CCTV POLICY (CORPORATE)

File No: 11.00006

MINUTE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: POL2025-3

MOVED: Cr E West SECONDED: Cr B Fry

RESOLVED:

That Council:

- a) place the draft Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
- b) if no submissions are received, adopt the draft CCTV Policy.
- c) if submissions are received, provide a further report for Council's consideration.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

MINUTE

Cr B Fry - Tony Lewis OAM: Companionship proposal - Spoke to correspondence received offering his time in a possible "companionship program". Would like to see Living Legends to help new residents when they arrive. Cr Fry asked if the Mayor and General Manager could follow this up.

- Marsden Lane Roundabout - Asked when this will be open?

DES advised the developer advises that they expect it to open end of March 2025.

- Infrastructure Projects: consultation - Spoke to the need for consultation for major projects such as extractive developments and energy projects. Noted that a good example of this has been the engagement process undertaken by ATCO. Spoke to a new project in the east of Bathurst Regional Council concerning renewable energy. Noted that the consultation for this project has not been as good and the community are raising concerns around biodiversity, visual pollution, viability, water pollution etc. Asked if these concerns could be communicated with the company concerned.

DEPBS noted company have been in the area and have recently held 3 public meetings. The proposal is at scoping stage. Noted that he will pass on concerns.

Cr N Packham - Wahluu/Mount Panorama Site Card - Raised concerns around the recent issue concerning AHIMS site card at Mount Panorama and is seeking clarification of the status.

General Manager advised of the current status noting that discussions on the AHIMS site card continue. Noted that the area is not currently listed as a site. There are no new Section 9 or Section 10 applications under ATSIHPA (Federal), nor any recent Aboriginal Place applications under the State legislation.

- Registration of Changing Places Facility and Signage - Requested updated on the registration and signage of the Changing Places Facility.

DES advised that registration is underway and that signage will be followed up with the Traffic committee.

Cr W Aubin - Non-Value of the Policy Meetings - Spoke to the non-value of the Policy meeting and the need to discuss the ceasing of these meetings.

- Scattering of ashes at Mount Panorama - Asked what the legality of scattering ashes at Mount Panorama?

DES advised that Council does not provide approval for scattering of ashes.

Cr Aubin asked that if people scatter ashes, does this create a sacred car race site?

- Wall at Mount Panorama for internment of ashes - Noted he has previously raised this matter for consideration.

DES advised this would require funding to occur and noted that the matter has been the subject of prior budget considerations.

10. MEETING CLOSE

MINUTE

The Meeting closed at 6:50pm.

CHAIR:
