

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL
held at TEMORA OFFICE on 14 August 2024**

The meeting commenced at 10.10am

PRESENT

Cr M Stadtmiller, Cr B Callow, Cr A McAlister, Cr L McGlynn, Cr K Morris, Cr G Sinclair, Cr A White, Cr J Piper.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A Drenovski (General Manager), Mr G Veneris (Production and Services Manager), Mr A Dahlenburg (Operations Manager), Miss S Jung (Engineering Manager), Miss A Burnett (Executive Assistant), Mrs E Hemphill (Accountant).

1. ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/054 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGlynn and Piper that the Board permit the following Councillors to attend this Extraordinary meeting by Audio-Visual Link: Cr M Stadtmiller, Cr K Morris and Cr B Callow.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE/APOLOGIES

Nil

3. WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Attendees of this meeting are reminded that;

- a) The meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on Council's website, and
- b) Persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

4. STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

Councillors are reminded of the oath or affirmation of office they have taken under section 233A of the Act.

The governing body of a county council is responsible for managing the affairs of the county council. Each councillor as a member of the governing body has a responsibility to make considered and well-informed decisions to ensure that the exercise of the functions of Goldenfields Water are performed to benefit the whole of the area of operations of Goldenfields Water.

In addition, Councillors are reminded of their obligations under council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil.

7. DECLARATION OF NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A (2) of the Act and should be dealt with in part of the meeting closed to the media and the public.

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/055 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that Council move into CONFIDENTIAL SESSION.

9. MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

9.1. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY PRODUCTION AND SERVICES MANAGER

**9.1.1. OURA WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES – DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION OF PUMP STATION, DOSING BUILDING AND ASSOCIATED
SERVICES TENDER – 01/2024**

This report is CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 10A(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

d) *Commercial information of a confidential matter that would, if disclosed:*

(i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/056 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and McGlynn that the Board resolves:

a. To award the Design & Construction lump sum contract for the Oura Pump Station and Dosing Design and Construction tender to Van Mal Group Construction Pty Ltd for \$6,259,440 incl GST.

b. Authorise the General Manager or their delegate to enter into a contract with Van Mal Construction Group Pty Ltd.

c. Approve an updated budget allocation of \$10,760,000 noting an allowance of 5% contingency as detailed in the report.

24/057 BOARD RESOLUTION

RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and Piper that that there being no further confidential items that the Board revert back to Open Session at 10:26am.

10. MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO OPEN COUNCIL

10.1. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER

**10.1.1. GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT
COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR AND INDEPENDENT
MEMBER**

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/058 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and Sinclair that the Board resolves:

- 1. Warren Rushby be appointed Independent Chair of the Goldenfields Water County Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for a two year term.**
- 2. Lucy Roberts and Matthew Suter be appointed independent members of the Goldenfields Water County Council ARIC for a term of two years.**
- 3. Council appoint a Councillor as a non-voting member of the ARIC at the first meeting of the newly elected Council following the forthcoming Local Government Elections.**

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1) Warren Rushby be appointed Independent Chair of the Goldenfields Water County Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for a two year term.**
- 2) Lucy Roberts and Matthew Suter be appointed independent members of the Goldenfields Water County Council ARIC for a term of two years.**
- 3) Council appoint a Councillor as a non-voting member of the ARIC at the first meeting of the newly elected Council following the forthcoming Local Government Elections.**

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

Goldenfields Water County Council transition towards compliance with the new Regulations and Guidelines for Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARICs) issued by the Office of Local Government necessitates the appointment of an independent chair and two independent members.

REPORT

As previously reported to Council, amendments inserted into the Local Government Act in recent years require councils to appoint an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). The OLG has issued Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Councils in NSW to guide the operations of ARICs and to require councils to have a risk management framework and internal audit function to support and inform their operations. Councils must comply with the Guidelines from 1 July 2024.

In order to transition towards compliance with the new Guidelines Council, at its meeting held on 14 August 2024 resolved as follows:

Expressions of interest were invited from persons who meet the prequalification criteria contained in the OLG Guidelines, to act as the Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and Independent membership.

A total of 14 EOIs were received with three short listed for interview. The interviews were scheduled to be conducted by a panel of three including the Acting General Manager, Corporate Services Manager and Human Resources Coordinator. It is recommended that Mr Warren Rushby be appointed as the Independent Chair of the Goldenfields Water County Council ARIC for a maximum two year term. Lucy Roberts and Matthew Suter as Independent members for a period of two years.

Under the OLG Guidelines, Council also has the option of appointing one non-voting councillor member to the ARIC who meets the eligibility criteria for councillor members of committees in addition to the independent chair and two independent members. The Chair cannot be appointed as a councillor member of a council's ARIC.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

11. NEXT MEETING

24/059 BOARD RESOLUTION

RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Stadtmiller and White that the next ordinary meeting of Council be held on Thursday 5 September at 10:30am.

12. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business requiring the attention of council the meeting was declared closed at 10:30am.