



WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING HELD TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 4:00PM

30 November 2021

Dear Councillor

NOTICE is hereby given that an **EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING** of the **COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF WEDDIN** will be held in the Council Chambers, Grenfell on **30 NOVEMBER 2021** commencing at **4:00PM** and your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

JAYMES RATH
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 01. Opening**
- 02. Acknowledgement of Country**
- 03. Apologies**
- 04. Disclosures of Interest**
- 05. Mayoral Minute**
- 06. Reports**
 - 06.AGM** Acting General Manager
 - 06.DCS** Director Corporate Services
- 07. Closure**

DRAFT

OPENING

00. PRESENT

The Mayor Cr M Liebich in the Chair, Crs P Best, S O'Byrne, P Diprose, J Parlett, and C Brown. Acting General Manager (J Rath), Director Corporate Services (M Chalmers), Acting Director Engineering (L Woods) and Director Environmental Services (L Sheehan).

01. OPENING by Mayor Mark Liebich

Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council of the Shire of Weddin

In accordance with the WSC Code of Meeting Practice, this meeting will be recorded for the purposes of audio-visual livestreaming via Council's website and Facebook page. Those in attendance are asked to refrain from making any defamatory statements and comply with all relevant WSC codes, policies and procedures at all times.

02. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Weddin Shire Council would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

Weddin Shire Council would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

Cr Diprose entered the room 4:01pm.

03. APOLOGIES

03.01. Cr John Niven

03.02. Cr Stuart McKellar

03.03. Cr Craig Bembrick

MOVED: Cr Parlett **SECONDED:** Cr Brown
The apologies be accepted.

195 CARRIED

04. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

05. MAYORAL MINUTE

File No.: C2.2.7

Budget: \$ -

MOTION:

- (i) Council prepare a joint application with Bland Shire Council for the transfer of the Bimbi-Quandialla Road from a local road to Regional Road.
- (ii) Council lodge the joint application with the Regional Road Transfer and Road Classification Review Panel before 5pm 24th December 2021.

MOVED: Cr Liebich

- (i) Council prepare a joint application with Bland Shire Council for the transfer of the Bimbi-Quandialla Road from a local road to Regional Road.
- (ii) Council lodge the joint application with the Regional Road Transfer and Road Classification Review Panel before 5pm 24th December 2021.

196 CARRIED

Supporting comments

Bland Shire will be nominating the Quandialla Road which is a section of the same road managed by Bland Shire Council.



CR MARK LIEBICH
MAYOR

REPORTS

AGM:	ACTING GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
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AGM.01.	ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021
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File No.: C2.3.1

Attachments: AnnualReport_2020-2021

Precis: Council's Annual Report for 2020/2021 has been finalised for approval.

Budget: \$ -

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) the FINAL Annual Report for 2020/2021, including the Supplementary State of Environment Report be adopted as presented.
- (ii) the FINAL Annual Report for 2020/2021 be submitted to the Office of Local Government by 30 November 2021.
- (iii) the audited Financial Statements be appended to the Annual Report for 2020/2021 upon receipt of the Auditor's report.

MOVED: Cr Diprose **SECONDED:** Cr Brown

- (i) the FINAL Annual Report for 2020/2021, including the Supplementary State of Environment Report be adopted as presented.
- (ii) the FINAL Annual Report for 2020/2021 be submitted to the Office of Local Government by 30 November 2021.
- (iii) the audited Financial Statements be appended to the Annual Report for 2020/2021 upon receipt of the Auditor's report.

197 CARRIED

The 2020/2021 Annual Report is required to be submitted to the Office of Local Government (OLG) by 30 November 2021.

The Draft report has been developed and is attached for Councillors' consideration. Once approved by Council the Final Report will be submitted to the OLG accordingly.

Council's Auditor is still reviewing the 2020/2021 Financial Statements. As per the Local Government Act 1993, a copy of the audited Financial Statements must be included in the Annual Report. Council has applied for an extension to the submission of this component of the Annual Report accordingly. Once Council receives the Auditor's report the Financial Statements will be appended to the Final Annual Report for 2020/2021.

REPORTS

AGM.02. HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL STRATEGIC PLAN ALTERNATIVES

File No.: C1.4.1

Attachments: 1_RFP Henry Lawson Festival Review
2_Festival Strategic Business Plan 2022-2024
3_Festival Review Discussion Paper
4_Economic ID data RDA Central West

Precis: A review report recommended by the Tourism Committee.

Budget: \$ 140,000 (This figure does not include the \$123k upfront cost to Council for the recent Events Grant received from the Regional Events Acceleration Fund)

RECOMMENDATION:

Council amend Resolution No. 176 to instead read: -

“The matter be considered by Council at a November 2021 Extra-Ordinary Meeting.”

MOVED: Cr Parlett **SECONDED:** Cr Diprose

Council amend Resolution No. 176 to instead read: -

“The matter be considered by Council at a November 2021 Extra-Ordinary Meeting.”

198 CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION:

Council adopt scenario four: -

- (i) The Festival be run by the Section 355 Committee of Council.
- (ii) Council provide \$40,000 for professional event management to support the Committee delivery of the 2022 Henry Lawson Festival.
- (iii) Council contribute in kind resources of up to \$30,000 to assist with traffic management, waste management, and risk management for the 2022 Festival.
- (iv) Council allocate \$40,000 for professional event management for two new smaller events aligned with Council's Destination Management Plan.
- (v) Council contribute in-kind resources of up to \$30,000 to assist with traffic management, waste management for the two new smaller events.
- (vi) Council authorise the Acting General Manager to engage suitable professional event management.

MOVED: Cr Parlett **SECONDED:** Cr Diprose

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- (i) The Festival be run by the Section 355 Committee of Council.
- (ii) Council provide \$40,000 for professional event management to support the Committee delivery of the 2022 Henry Lawson Festival.
- (iii) Council contribute in kind resources of up to \$30,000 to assist with traffic management, waste management, and risk management for the 2022 Festival.
- (iv) Council allocate \$40,000 for professional event management for two new smaller events aligned with Council's Destination Management Plan.
- (v) Council contribute in-kind resources of up to \$30,000 to assist with traffic management, waste management for the two new smaller events.
- (vi) Council authorise the Acting General Manager to engage suitable professional event management.

199 CARRIED

REPORTS

Purpose

The Tourism Committee recommended that this report be prepared to outline several alternatives to The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Strategic Business Plan 2022-2024, allowing Council to make an informed decision.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a suite of alternatives to the recent *The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Strategic Business Plan 2022-2024*.

Background

At the February 2021 Council meeting, it was resolved to undertake a full strategic review of the Henry Lawson Festival, and that Council would fund the review. Tilma Group was engaged in March 2021 and worked closely with the newly formed Festival Steering Committee over several months.

The August 2021 Council meeting resolved to put the Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Strategic Business Plan 2022-2024 on public exhibition.

At the October 2021 Tourism Committee meeting, the Strategic Business Plan was discussed at length. The discussion was focused on several key points:

The brief prepared as part of the Request For Proposal process focused on the Henry Lawson Festival in isolation, without the context of issues affecting the whole of Weddin Shire, such as aging volunteers, the role of tourism events in contributing to the visitor economy, or reference to the Destination Management Plan (DMP) adopted by Council in 2020, the purpose of which is to provide the direction and framework for taking the Shire's tourism sector forward over the next five years.

Grenfell has a low accommodation capacity. As such, several smaller tourism events that fill Grenfell accommodation multiple times a year would deliver better economic impact than one significant event that serves Grenfell's total on one occasion.

A change in focus to a community event rather than remaining Weddin's major tourism event, while simultaneously maintaining Council's significant financial commitment through employing a Community Development Officer, raises doubt over whether the proposed event will deliver an acceptable economic return.

In 2019 Council invested approximately \$120,000 into the Festival. The direct benefits to the Shire are estimated to be \$560,000. When compared to the economic impact of similar regional tourism festivals, this is very low.

Economic impact requires people from outside the Shire to spend new money in the local economy. The spending of people who live in Weddin is excluded from calculations; it is assumed that locally earned money will be spent locally. The proposed shift in focus from a tourism event attracting many people from outside the Shire to a community reunion event not explicitly designed to attract people from outside the Shire will impair economic impact.

While there are positive social outcomes from community events, such as improved social connectedness, these qualitative benefits are excluded from economic analysis. It is essentially the quantitative financial analysis that is necessary for successful event funding applications. By consciously repositioning the Festival as a community event, Council limits the event's ability to be financially sustainable.

Four alternatives to the Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Strategic Business Plan 2022-2024 are presented below, along with the anticipated cost to Council in the first year and anticipated direct economic impact. Economic data has been sourced from the RDA Central Wests Economy ID package.

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The annual cost to Council of the proposed Strategic Business Plan is approximately \$120,000, including \$60,000 for a Community Development Officer, \$20,000 for a marketing professional, and \$40,000 for Council resources to assist with traffic management, waste management, risk management, and insurance.

The first three scenarios are from the Discussion Paper presented to the Steering Committee by the Tilma Group. The purpose of these three scenarios is to:

- connect the Grenfell community,
- provide a reason for friends and relatives to come home each June long weekend,
- entertain visitors and residents, and
- provide an opportunity for businesses and community groups to generate income or fundraise.

Scenario 4, developed in consultation with the Tilma Group, Council staff and the Executives of the Sec 355 Committee, incorporates Scenario 2 from the Discussion Paper, allowing Council to use essential information gathered from the proposed strategic review and integrate it with Council's Destination Management Plan. Scenario 4 accommodates the sentimental attachment to June Long weekend local reunions and delivers direct economic stimulus from strategic investment in the visitor economy.

DRAFT

REPORTS

Event Scenarios	Council's contribution	Direct Impact
<p>Scenario 1 – Festival run by Section 355 Committee of Council supported by a Community Development Officer and volunteers.</p> <p>*As per the Tilma Group Discussion Paper.</p>	<p>Total: \$140,000</p> <p>\$20,000 cash to help seed fund the paid professional role for marketing, sponsorship, grant funding.</p> <p>\$120,000 in kind</p> <p>P/T Community Development Officer</p> <p>Council resources to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management • Waste management • Risk Management 	<p>\$0.653M</p>
<p>Scenario 2 – Festival run by event professionals. Council puts out a request for tender to event management companies to deliver the event.</p> <p>The managers would be supported by a skills-based board of community members. Council manages the event management contract</p> <p>*As per the Tilma Group Discussion Paper.</p>	<p>Total: \$70,000</p> <p>\$40,000 cash for professional event management (clear MOU)</p> <p>\$30,000 Council resources to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management • Waste management • Risk Management 	<p>\$0.662M</p>
<p>Scenario 3 – Festival managed at arm's length from Council. The committee returns to being an incorporated association.</p> <p>*As per the Tilma Group Discussion Paper.</p>	<p>Total: \$90,000</p> <p>\$40,000 cash for professional event management (clear MOU)</p> <p>\$30,000 Council resources to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management • Waste management • Risk Management <p>\$20,000 cash to help seed fund the paid professional role for marketing, sponsorship, grant funding.</p>	<p>\$0.653M</p>
<p>Scenario 4 – Festival run by Sec 355 Committee supported by event professionals.</p> <p>Two new smaller annual events (Spring and Autumn) aligned with the DMP, both run by event professionals.</p>	<p>Total: \$140,000</p> <p>\$40,000 cash for professional event management (clear MOU)</p> <p>\$30,000 in kind Council resources to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management • Waste management • Risk Management <p>\$40,000 for professional event management (clear MOU)</p> <p>\$30,000 In kind Council resources to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management • Waste management 	<p>\$0.662M</p> <p>Spring \$0.864M</p> <p>Autumn \$0.864M</p> <p>Total \$2.390M</p>

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Policy/Legal Implications

There are no policy or legal implications

Financial and Resource Implications

There are significant financial and resource implications from all scenarios presented. Implementation of any scenario will be contingent on a Quarterly Budget Review.

Internal/External Consultation

Scenarios 1, 2, and 3 do not align with the DMP.

Scenario 4 aligns with the following strategies from the DMP:

9.4.10 Develop and attract cycling events, including:

- Reinstate and grow the Tour de Greenethorpe.
- Organise a gravel grind event – as a signature event for the Shire.
- Assess the potential to introduce a cycling festival.
- Invite cycling groups and clubs from the surrounding area to hold events in Weddin Shire.
- Invite commercial cycle event organisers to hold events in Weddin Shire.

15.2.1 Explore options to leverage the Shire's assets to develop new events (e.g., road cycling, gravel grinding)

Council's Acting General Manager met with the Executives of the Sec 355 Committee to discuss scenario 4 in light of the recommendations emanating from the recent Committee Meeting held 3 November 2021.

Conclusion

The Tilma Group is a highly respected and experienced regional event management company. The Strategic Business Plan states: 'The challenges faced by the Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts regarding human resourcing and funding suggest that event revitalisation is either not possible or not the best use of local government resources, particularly when considering the opportunity cost.'

Council has invested more than \$50,000 in consultants over the last two years to review the Festival. To date, none of the alternatives presented have met all of Council's desired criteria. It is unlikely that such a solution exists and that some requirements must be compromised to allow a path forward.

Given the community's sentimental attachment to the Festival and the concurrent challenge of the community's increasing demand for robust and transparent decision-making, it is clear there is no simple solution. Leadership is required to generate an organisation-wide commitment to a sustainable path forward that aligns with Council's integrated planning.

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AGM.03. IMPACT OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS ON COUNCIL MEETINGS

File No.: C2.8.1

Attachments: nil

Precis: 2021 local government elections will impact upon the ordinary schedule of Council meetings.

Budget: \$ -

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) Rescind Resolution 173 of the Ordinary November 2021 Meeting.
- (ii) the December 2021 Ordinary Council meeting be cancelled.
- (iii) an Extra-Ordinary Council meeting be held on Tuesday 11 January 2022.
- (iv) the January 2022 Ordinary Council meeting be cancelled.
- (v) the above be advertised accordingly.

MOVED: Cr Brown **SECONDED:** Cr Diprose

- (i) Rescind Resolution 173 of the Ordinary November 2021 Meeting.
- (ii) the December 2021 Ordinary Council meeting be cancelled.
- (iii) an Extra-Ordinary Council meeting be held on Tuesday 11 January 2022.
- (iv) the January 2022 Ordinary Council meeting be cancelled.
- (v) the above be advertised accordingly.

200 CARRIED

As Councillors are aware, their term of office will expire on 4 December 2021 being the date of the next NSW local government elections. The NSW Electoral Commission have advised that, due to postal delivery services changing in light of current COVID-19 conditions, it is anticipated that the election results will not be declared before 21 December 2021.

This means that the first meeting of Council following elections cannot occur before this time. Given the proximity of the Christmas/New Years period, it is proposed that the December 2021 Ordinary Council meeting be cancelled. Under section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to meet at least ten times a year; cancelling this meeting will not conflict with the Act.

Furthermore, section 290 of the *Local Government Act 1993* stipulates that councils that elect their mayor must do so within three (3) weeks of the declaration of the election. Council must also elect a deputy mayor at this time. It is proposed that an Extra-Ordinary Council meeting be held on Tuesday 11 January 2022 at which time the administration of Councillors' oath or affirmation of office will take place as well as the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Traditionally, a January Ordinary Council meeting has not been held for various reasons. Given the need for an Extra-Ordinary Council meeting in January 2022, it is proposed to also cancel the January 2022 Ordinary meeting.



JAYMES RATH
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

REPORTS

DCS.01. AUDIT OF COUNCIL'S 2020/21 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

File No.: C2.3.1

Attachments: nil

Precis: Prior to the audit of Council's Annual Financial Statements, Council is required to formally resolve to refer the accounts to the auditor.

Budget: \$ -

RECOMMENDATION:

Resolution No. 128, made by Council at its Ordinary October 2021 meeting be amended to include the following: -

- (v) The statements be signed by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the Acting General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer.

MOVED: Cr Best **SECONDED:** Cr Diprose

Resolution No. 128, made by Council at its Ordinary October 2021 meeting be amended to include the following: -

- (v) The statements be signed by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the Acting General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer.

201 CARRIED

Purpose

Prior to the audit of Council's Annual Financial Statements, Council is required to formally resolve to refer the accounts to the auditor. Council has prepared the draft Annual Financial Statements (attached under separate cover) and this paper seeks approval for the statements to be referred to audit.

Background

Council's auditors, the Audit Office of NSW, have undertaken preliminary auditing of Council's accounts for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2021. Auditing of the Annual Financial Statements will be carried out in November 2021.

Council has now completed its first draft of the 2020/21 Annual Financial Statements. These Statements have been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, the Australian Accounting Standards, and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

Details of Council's preliminary (pre-audit) result are provided under separate cover, as is a copy of Council's Monthly Finance Report for the month ending June 2021 (i.e. the Monthly Finance Report for the 2020/21 financial year).

Council is still required to formally resolve to refer the accounts to the auditor and the proposed resolution below achieves this end.

Council's financial statements and the June Monthly Finance Report will be published on Council's website post completion of the audit of the 2020/21 financial statements.

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DCS.02. COMMUNITY PROJECT SUPPORT APPLICATION – GRENFELL GOANNA POKER RUN

File No.: C1.1.3

Attachments: 1_Community Support Application – Grenfell Goanna Poker Run
2_Scoring Matrix

Precis: Grenfell Goanna Poker Run has requested financial support for their event

Budget: \$ 1000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Council donate \$1,000 to Grenfell Goanna Poker Run.

MOVED: Cr Parlett **SECONDED:** Cr Brown

Council donate \$1,000 to Grenfell Goanna Poker Run.

202 CARRIED

Purpose

To respond to a request for a Community Support Application for \$1000.

Background

The Grenfell Goanna Poker Run has a different route each year, but always begins and ends at Grenfell Bowling Club. Motorbike rider's/car users register at the Bowling Club and ride a course that will involve 4 small country towns. The route for 2022 is Grenfell/Wallendbeen/Cootamundra/Temora/Bribaree/Grenfell.

The Poker Run is organised by a group of volunteers to help sustain the viability of the Grenfell Goannas Rugby League Club. The event benefits the local community with the Bowling Club selling breakfast/coffees during the registration process and a presentation is held at the Club after the event with participants enjoying a live band and purchasing dinner and drinks. Other local business's also benefit in the way of fuel, breakfast, retail shopping and accommodation.

Issues

Nil

Policy/Legal Implications

There are no policy implications as all applications are considered on a case-by-case basis not to be taken as a precedent for any other application.

Financial and Resource Implications

\$1,000.00 to be sourced from Council's Donations budget.

Internal/External Implications

There has not been any specific internal or external consultation carried out. However, Council can look to previous community consultation carried out as a guide. Support of Grenfell Goanna Poker Run could be considered to align with the following strategic objectives within the Community Strategic Plan:

4.1 Sporting facilities and events are maintained and developed.

Assessment of Application:

The application submitted was the Community Project Support Application – Large (> \$1,000). Reference is made to the attached scoring matrix, which provides a framework with which to assess the application.

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Community Need/Extent of Benefit – As detailed above the activities of the Grenfell Goanna Poker Run event does align with some of the strategic objectives of Council. The event raises money for the Grenfell Goanna's but the majority of the event is held outside the Weddin Shire.
Score 4/10

Project Viability – The information provided is appropriate to the request being made.
Score 6/10

Financial Viability – No budget figures were given but as the request was for a donation there is minimal financial risk to the Council.
Score 6/10

Previous Funding – The event has not received support in the past (average score given).

Application Quality – The application was completed with good attention to detail and addressed all relevant questions but lacked any supporting documentation.
Score 6/10

Overall Score 26/50 (52%)

Conclusion:

Options available to Council are: -

- 1) **Council donate \$1,000 to Grenfell Goanna Poker Run.**
- 2) **Council donate an alternative amount of \$500**
- 3) **Council deny the request for donation**



MICHAEL CHALMERS
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

CLOSURE

07. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:07pm.

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