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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Central Coast Council held in the Council Chamber at the Administration Centre, 19 King Edward Street, Ulverstone on Tuesday, 08 November 2016 commencing at 7.00pm**

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**Present**

Cr Jan Bonde (Mayor)  
Cr John Bloomfield  
Cr Garry Carpenter  
Cr Rowen Tongs  
Cr Philip Viney

Cr Kathleen Downie (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Shane Broad  
Cr Gerry Howard  
Cr Tony van Rooyen

General Manager (Ms Sandra Ayton)  
Director Infrastructure Services (Mr John Kersnovski)  
Director Organisational Services (Mr Vernon Lawrence)  
Executive Services Officer (Miss Michelle Gillett)  
Land Use Planning Group Leader (Mr Ian Sansom)

Mr Declan Banim  
Ms Annette Overton  
Ms Julie Almond  
Ms Adriana Gibson  
Mr Jake Weeda  
Mr Andrew Downie  
Ms Sue Smith  
Mr Lionel Bonde  
Mr Mike Hales  
Mrs Val Fogarty  
Mrs Margaret Hayes

**Apologies**

Mr Cor Vander Vlist (Director Community Services)

**Media attendance**

No media attendance.

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### **Opening of meeting**

The Mayor, in opening the meeting and welcoming those in attendance:

- . advised that the Annual General Meeting had been called in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- . advised that notice of the Annual General Meeting was given in The Advocate newspaper on Saturday, 22 October 2016; and
- . referred the public in attendance to the agenda prepared for the meeting and which incorporated procedures for the conduct of the meeting.

### **Introduction of councillors**

The Mayor introduced the attending Councillors to the meeting.

### **Annual Report**

The Mayor reported that the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2016, including financial statements and audit opinion, had been advertised as available to the public from the Administration Centre and Service Centre and on the Council's website. Electors were invited to make written submissions relating to the Annual Report.

The Mayor spoke in support of the Annual Report.

Additional comment was provided by the General Manager with a PowerPoint display of highlights from the report.

### *Submissions*

One submission was received from Mr Lionel Bonde and is reproduced below including responses to questions.

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*Question 1*

Page 27 of the Annual Report it is mentioned a New Field Layout has been completed after a series of meetings with stakeholders. Was the Ulverstone Show Society consulted?

*Answer*

The new layout related solely to a realignment of the Soccer and Softball pitches. As this in no way affects the Ulverstone Show Society, they were not consulted on this occasion. However, the Council continues to consult with representatives from the Ulverstone Show Society over other proposed changes to the use of the ground.

*Question 2*

Page 22, mention is made of Turners Beach to Leith shared pathway to get the go ahead and yet the most favoured topic of the requests at the Turners Beach Community meeting was that first priority be given to footpaths being completed before the shared pathway was considered?

*Answer*

The reference on Page 22 relates specifically to the implementation of the Central Coast Cycling Strategy which includes the Turners Beach to Leith shared pathway project. The footpaths In Turners Beach are being reviewed as part of the Long Term Financial Plan and estimates process, as advised at the meeting.

*Question 3*

The recent cleaning of Hiscutt Park is costly. Many discussions took place some years ago and decided that radical changes in design needed to take place in the way of self-flushing at times of winter flow. Has this been done?

*Answer*

Modifications were made to the weir to allow self-flushing of the lake as required.

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*Question 4*

Mention is made of shifting the Equestrian events to Batten Park. Has a feasibility study been done to determine the future need or the viability of such a venture as compared to a similar complex at Wynyard. There is a serious decline in this sport right along the coast, and danger of over service.

*Answer*

Council staff are undertaking a feasibility study/business case in consultation with equestrian groups throughout Central Coast to determine whether it is viable to centralise equestrian activities to Batten Park.

*Question 5*

I personally delivered to the Central Coast Council on 1<sup>st</sup> of August, a letter addressed to the General Manager asking for the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17 for the Ulverstone Show Society, Batten Park Rodeo, Ulverstone Festivale and the long term lease of the Gawler Room by the Arts. Despite being told at a later Council meeting that I would get an answer to my request and later reminding the Mayor of Central Coast Council, I have not got an answer.

*Answer*

The General Manager sent a response on 20 September 2016.

*Question 6(a)*

Mention has also been made regarding the start of work on the Dial Sports Complex. My questions are; has all of the finance required been promised, and what happens if there is a shortfall in Government funding?

*Answer*

The contract for works will not be let until all funding is confirmed. If the expected funding does not eventuate then the project scope will be reviewed.

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*Question 6(b)*

Has any feasibility studies ever been done into determining what financial gains or loss will occur in the unlikely event of the allocating of an AFL practice match or roster match at the Sports Centre, surely there should be a financial review carried out to determine the viability or otherwise of such a massive financial project.

*Answer*

AFL Tasmania would be responsible for making the decision on whether any practice or roster match would be played at the Dial Regional Sports Complex. The Councils role would be in relation to hiring out the facility.

*Question 7(a)*

Is the Council concerned at the marked difference in Councillors attendance at workshops and meetings as indicated page 48?

*Answer*

This is a matter for individual councillors. No concern has been raised at workshops or Council meetings on this matter.

*Question 7(b)*

Is the Council concerned regarding the low numbers of Notice of Motions submitted by Councillors to Central Coast Council meetings where my records show only 4 notice of motions in 2014-15 and only 2 in 2015-16.. With all the Notice of Motion being moved by only 2 Central Coast Councillors and only 2 of the 6 being passed at the relevant Council meetings. This should be a concern to Council at the apparent lack of thought, and imagination displayed by Councillors.

*Answer*

Councillor Workshops provide a mechanism by which Councillors can raise issues of concern with the Senior Leadership Team which then enables council staff to then provide reports on those matters for consideration by the Council.

Councillors still have the opportunity to bring forward a 'Notice of Motion', if they wish.

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*Question 7(c)*

Do we need 9 Councillors to rubber stamp or review the Council staff submissions to the Council actions. Do the ratepayers have an expectation of a better performance from the Council in this regard? And do the Councillors make proper use or enough use of the Questions Without Notice section as there seems to be a very moderate use of this opportunity.

*Answer*

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1993 defines the functions of councillors. It does not include 'rubber stamping' or reviewing the Council staff submissions to the Council actions'. Councillors have many opportunities and regularly ask questions on behalf of the community, of which Questions Without Notice, is just one avenue

*Question 8*

A hole in footpath in Reibey Street caused by the cutting off of a pipe was brought to the notice of Council in June at Turners Beach Community meeting but has still not been addressed.

*Answer*

Council maintenance teams were responding to the severe flooding of Gunns Plains and Forth that occurred in early June and did not locate the hole in the *Victoria Street* footpath as was recorded by the Director Infrastructure Services at the Turners Beach Community Meeting. Staff have now filled in the hole in the footpath in Reibey Street.

*Question 9*

Is the Central Coast Council interested and aware of the extra ordinary difference in the setting of rates in Devonport and Central Coast Councils. I am aware of a rates demand for a house in Devonport with a valuation of \$155,000 being charged \$1018 up from \$918 last year. If that house was in Central Coast the rates demand would be around \$351 less, and if my house valued at \$250,000 was in Devonport I would be charged about \$531 more than I pay now.

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*Answer*

Yes, rate comparisons were reported in the Auditor General's report to Parliament.

*Question 10*

It was good to see Central Coast Councillors manning a stand at the Ulverstone Show. They would appreciate the opportunity provided by the Show Society for them to be able to extol the advantages of Central Coast. But I wonder did they relay to the public that they fully support the CC Councils excessive charges of around \$3600 to the Show Society for the use of the facilities on the showground, a lot of which the Show Society originally built. I have been a member of the Ulverstone Show Committee for 63 years and I have witnessed a gradual strangulation of the Show Society in the latter years by these excessive charges imposed by CC Council for the use of the facilities.

*Answer*

The Mayor, General Manager and Director Community Services met with the Executive of the Ulverstone Show Society in September 2016 in relation to your issues regarding the charges set for the Ulverstone Show. The committee advised that they had no issue with the fees with their main concern being the ongoing patronage of the show itself i.e. range of events provided.

For the last 4 years the Council has hired exhibition space from the Ulverstone Show Society to enable the Council to raise awareness or projects we are undertaking within the Central Coast and to enable the community to provide comment or raise concerns with Councillors.

*Other Business*

The Mayor invited questions and/or comments from the floor.

. Mr Declan Banim indicated he had a number of comments and questions:

- 1 Referring to report on Page 23 of the Financial Report – noted that he could see the Council holds 36.8% of Dulverton tip site, but, further down the page it is referred to as Total Investment in water corporation, what is that?

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The General Manager advised this was a typographical error and should state 'Total investment in Regional Waste Management Authority.

- 2 Mr Banim wanted clarification on who owned and ran the Central Coast Community Shed and also what activities take place there. Mr Banim advised he hadn't seen a report in the Council Minutes on Councillors or reps that have made it to any meetings. He also advised that the website itself didn't give details of all the users of the shed and it currently only listed two organisations.

The General Manager confirmed that the Central Coast Community Shed is owned by the Council with the main tenant being the Mens Shed. The Central Coast Community Shed committee meet monthly and Council representatives attend as well as representatives from other groups and the community,. The minutes from the Committee come to Council each month and are attached to the Agendas.

- 3 Mr Banim queried why the AGM details weren't advertised on the Council's website.

The General Manager advised that it was advertised on the website, as well as, the Advocate newspaper and in the Mayor's Message..

- 4 Mr Banim advised you still get a lot of 'red lights' from the planning department. He advised he asked for details in relation to the minimum size of a block and was told 600m<sup>2</sup>, then after the person looked, he was advised a different figure. He questioned why the answers were different and the reason he was given was because the government is looking to increase the number in the future. He advised he didn't see any relevance between this and the question he asked.

- 5 Mr Banim queried why the name of the residential zone had been changed to urban. He advised it was his opinion that it should remain unchanged and if it keeps chopping and changing there will be complete confusion.

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- 6 Mr Banim advised it was his opinion that very little is being done to mitigate the inherent problems due to flooding within this municipality. He advised that when he discusses this matter with people the answer he receives is that we don't own the river, it is owned by the Crown and permission is required to do anything in relation to the river. He advised that it was his belief that no one has a decent solution on how to tackle this issue and that the Crown seemed incapable of meeting our expectations in this respect.

The General Manager advised that the Council is mitigating issues with solutions, such as, rebuilding the bridges with concrete materials as opposed to the existing wooden constructions. The General Manager also advised Council are looking at areas such as Gunns Plains and identifying ways to mitigate problem areas. The General Manager spoke in relation to the State Flood Recovery Taskforce and the Regional Flood Recovery Committees, with outcomes from the State Flood Recovery Taskforce feeding into Cabinet. The General Manager also advised that discussion had been held between the Council and the Bureau of Meteorology in relation to being provided with early warning alerts etc. and how this information would assist in the mitigation of issues in the future.

- . Mr Jake Weeda indicated he had a number of comments and questions:

- 1 Mr Weeda advised that he wrote to Council approximately 12 months ago in relation to alfresco dining at Subway. Mr Weeda followed up with Cor Vander Vlist and John Kersnovski, where he was advised there was a policy that had been written six years ago, and they were going to dust this off and make a determination soon. The policy covers awnings, etc in Reibey Street. Mr Weeda advised it would be nice for this to be done, gazetted and in place.

The General Manager advised that the Director Community Services is in the process of reviewing the policy, as one of the Annual Plan actions for the 2016–17 year.

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- 2 Mr Weeda advised that along the Shared Pathway from Ulverstone to Turners Beach, there are a lot of places where the hot mix is coming up due to the root system. He would like to suggest that in future the pathway is constructed with concrete.
  - 3 Mr Weeda acknowledged the wonderful job the Council has done with the dog facilities available and the roll on affect by the number of dog shows that are being held. Mr Weeda noted that in the coming year there are a number of international judges being appointed to judge shows and believes this will be a positive for the town.
  - 4 Mr Weeda questioned why the Council is putting deciduous trees in Reiby Street and questioned why green trees are not being planted? Mr Weeda advised that the community would like to see some greenery throughout the year rather than leaves on the ground.
  - 5 Mr Weeda advised that he had noticed the projects around climate change and advised he is a practicing Christian and doesn't believe in climate change and hopes the Council don't go too far down the track. He advised he has been going to the beach for years and doesn't believe the sea level has risen at all.
  - 6 Mr Weeda advised that the 'T' is still missing from the old Court House signage, and could Council please look at taking the lettering down.
  - 7 Mr Weeda advised that he thinks its great to see a surplus, however sometimes it doesn't hurt to borrow money. Mr Weeda advised he believes if there is something smart coming up, let the next generation pay for it.

The General Manager confirmed that funds were borrowed to rectify the issues at Hiscutt Park pond as opposed to spending money on major maintenance every few years. Also, in the upcoming budgets, the Council intends to borrow for the Dial Regional Sports Complex Project. The General Manager advised that Council's policy was to borrow for long-term new assets but not for maintenance or renewal.

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8 Mr Weeda advised that Coles were ready to commence work on painting the façade. The colour would be Coles red, and is currently yellow. The canopy which is currently blue will be painted white and there will be a cleanup of the area underneath. Mr Weeda advised they are working with Council's Infrastructure Services Department to complete the works before Christmas.

9 Mr Weeda questioned who actually has authority over the timber on the beach. People have been asking him and he's advised that it's free to go and grab. Mr Weeda believes that there needs to be a notice in the newspaper giving direction and instruction.

The General Manager confirmed that it is the responsibility of the Crown and Council received permission from Crown to take timber from the wet sand but were not able to take the timber from the dry sand. The timber that was taken was given partly to the Lions Club of Ulverstone for use in the Community and there was also timber available for people to collect. The Council is aware that there may be some issues now it's coming up to summer with all the dry timber laying on the beaches and will be speaking with the Crown in relation to this.

10 Mr Weeda advised he is still having issues with the Council's computer server only having a size capacity of 10MB for emailing of plans. Mr Weeda has spoken to IT, in relation to increasing the size capacity, who advised it cannot be done at this stage. Mr Weeda would like to see Council investigate this further as files are too big to send through and need to be split in order to be submitted or they bounce back.

11 Mr Weeda suggested that the Council consider building a jail in the Central Coast municipal area. Mr Weeda advised currently prisoners go to Risdon jail, and before that they go to a lock up in Launceston if not granted bail. Mr Weeda believes there may be an opportunity for light industry if we can find a spot for a new jail on the North West Coast.

12 Mr Weeda advised he is still getting some 'red lights' when he attends the planning group counter. He advised that when the community come to Council and enquire about doing

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something the tendency is to say no it can't be done, or that Hobart says it can't be done. Mr Weeda would like to see more 'yellow lights' where the answer is that it might be a good idea and are given instructions on what they need to do. Mr Weeda would like to see Council encourage staff to encourage the Community and inform them of what is required.

. Mr Mike Hales indicated he had a number of comments and questions:

- 1 Mr Hales advised that the Annual Report had statistics on Community assets, the Civic Centre, public halls and buildings, but there was no mention of the Gnomon Room in the report. Mr Hales asked if this data could be included in future Annual Reports.
- 2 Mr Hales advised that the new signage for the Wharf Precinct is great and that while it mentions a couple of businesses in the Wharf precinct, there is no mention of the community space. Mr Hales advised it doesn't indicate to visitors of the community space details of directions to the Gnomon Room.

The General Manager advised that the business' had paid for the current signage, and Council was looking at signage for the community spaces.

. Ms Adriana Gibson indicated she had a number of comments and questions:

- 1 Ms Gibson suggested that as many walkways and pathways as possible be concreted, noting that you are unable to see, every unevenness and this could be considered a trap. Ms Gibson advised that the debris on the beach was very dangerous and believes Council need to consider a risk management plan for this situation. Ms Gibson advised that the paths are excellent and the new bridge that goes to West Ulverstone is wonderful as she doesn't have to cross the road. Ms Gibson is grateful that the community has been made friendly for children and older people. Ms Gibson advised that she recently visited Europe and rode a duo-bike and believes these are a great experience and would like to investigate the use of them in the Central Coast area.
- 2 Ms Gibson queried the progress of the bridge from Leith to Turners Beach as this will provide further walking access.

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The Mayor advised this is a major priority and Council is seeking extra funding to see this happen.

- 3 Ms Gibson advised that there is a special swing available, for people with a disability, so they can enjoy a swing safely. Ms Gibosn requested that Council look into these swings and the possible installation in our recreational facilities.

The Mayor confirmed that Council is aware of such swings and has been looking into the use of these in our parks.

- 4 Ms Gibson stated that she is very interested in the statistics in relation to the wellbeing of staff in the Central Coast Council and believes it to be very important. Ms Gibson believes there is a strong moral compass within the Community. Ms Gibson advised however, that she recently had doubts about the moral compass of some, not being as strong as she'd hoped with the recent issues with the adult shop, stating that the Central Coast area is a vibrant Community and believed it would continue to be so. Ms Gibson agreed with the resistance to amalgamation.

. Mr Lionel Bonde indicated he had a number of comments and questions:

- 1 Mr Bonde mentioned previous comments in relation to the June floods and the need for a more solid solution to the bridge issues. Mr Bonde advised it wouldn't take much to turn the bridge upside down with a big log and maybe the bridges needed a pole system in the centre of the rivers upstream of our road bridges to turn any floating trees so that they do not hit directly against the bridges and thus less damage to the bridge results.

The Director of Infrastructure Services is aware of this and discussions as to how this system can be implemented in appropriate areas is taking place.

- 2 Mr Bonde referred to his letter in relation to the Show Society, and advised he hadn't received an answer and was disappointed with the Council decision to discuss the matters with the Executive of the Show Society. Mr Bonde believed it disrespectful and disappointing.

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The Mayor advised that Council wanted to know the Show Society's point of view and how they felt in relation to the matter. The Mayor advised that Mr Bonde's letter was replied to, which she understands was not received, but the General Manager had a copy of this letter for Mr Bonde's records.

- 3 Mr Bonde referred to a hole in the footpath and advised that the Council says it has been mended but the hole still exists. He advised that the hole is behind the seat that's facing the shops in Reiby Street just east of Victoria Street. He confirmed that it is between the flower shop and the first seat on the street.

The General Manager advised there may have been some confusion as there was a hole in Victoria Street that was rectified. Since receiving the submission the Council had been to Reibey Street and followed up on this request.

• Cr Gary Carpenter indicated he had a number of comments:

- 1 Cr Carpenter commented generally in respect of the excellent result of building approvals. Cr Carpenter also noted that with over 400km of rural road and the increase of trucks going to Simplot going forward, as well as the increase in timber work, that Council may need to look at a different way of funding the maintenance and construction of rural roads which will be required in the next few years.
- 2 Cr Carpenter also discussed the EHO reports. He advised it was noted that two high levels of microbiological counts had been noted between December and March, and that as a food producing municipality the last thing we want is that land use or weather patterns destroy the area. Cr Carpenter urged the Council to investigate this further moving forward.
- 3 Cr Carpenter on behalf of the flood affected rural areas, thanked the Council for the help in cleaning up and particularly mentioned the help of Blaze Aid, and that the help from Blaze Aid then extended across the whole of the state and congratulated the Council on their efforts in this.

■ Mr Jake Weeda moved and Cr Viney seconded, "That the Annual Report be received."

Carried unanimously

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**Close of meeting**

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.25pm and, in doing so, thanked those in attendance for their participation.

Sandra Ayton  
GENERAL MANAGER