



BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL

Extraordinary Minutes

17 November 2015



**Minutes of the Closed and Confidential Section of the Ordinary Meeting of Bogan Shire Council
held in the Council Chambers on 20 August 2015 at 9.30am**

PRESENT: Councillors RL Donald OAM, JE Hampstead OAM, WG Deacon, JL Douglas, HJ Griffiths, EM McLaughlin and KM Ryan.

Also present were Mr Derek Francis (General Manager), Mr Alister Quarmby (Works Manager), Mr Ty Robson (Acting Manager Development and Environmental Services), Mr Luke Taberner (Manager of Corporate Services), and Mrs Debb Wood.

425/2015 APOLOGY: RESOLVED that the apology received from Councillor GRJ Neill be received and he be granted leave of absence from the meeting.
(Hampstead/Ryan)

426/2015 APOLOGY: RESOLVED that the apology received from Councillor LH Dutton be received and he be granted leave of absence from the meeting.
(Griffiths/Hampstead)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nil

REPORTS TO EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – GENERAL MANAGER

1 FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROCESS

427/2015 RESOLVED that:-

1. Council respond to the NSW Government's invitation to participate in the final consultation for the Fit for the Future process by making a submission.
2. Council notes that Bogan Shire Council has been assessed as Fit for the Future as a stand-alone Rural Council. As this is consistent with community wishes and the Independent Panel's Final Report it is therefore not appropriate to consider merger partners as part of this final consultation process.
3. The following feedback is provided to the NSW Government on IPART's assessment of Bogan Shire Council's Fit for the Future submission:-

Bogan Shire Council welcomes the news that it has been found "Fit for the Future" demonstrating, by meeting all seven of the Fit for the Future Benchmarks, that it is in a sound, sustainable position.

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In its submission, Council developed a robust 10-year plan based on the Rural Council options provided in Template 3. Council has now commenced the implementation of this Rural Council Plan to ensure it is strong, efficient and able to deliver the services and facilities that our local community deserves now and into the future.

For example, initiatives forming part of our Rural Council Plan that are already being implemented include:-

- *Resource Sharing (Working in partnership with other OROC Fit for the Future Rural Councils on the implementation of a joint asset management system).*
- *Specialty Services (Developing the concept of a Centre of Excellence to provide services to other Councils).*
- *Service Review (Constructing infrastructure to increase own source revenue).*
- *Refocus Expenditure on Asset Renewals (Allocation of \$400k already made to asset renewals fund).*

Council is reassured by recent correspondence from the Minister that the NSW Government is not imposing a single legislated model on Rural Councils as contemplated by the Independent Panel. Any savings gained under this model would be outweighed by costs of charge-outs from the Joint Organisation, loss of local understanding, personal investment in the community, jobs and families. Significantly, Bogan Shire's successful Rural Council Plan submission does not require "the JO performing most of the higher level functions of the Rural Council" as contemplated by the Panel.

It is recognised that Rural Councils are more reliant on Financial Assistance Grants than some other Councils. A Rural Council is therefore one that requires a more equitable share of these Grants acknowledging that, through contributions by mining and agriculture, our communities, though sparse, contribute significantly to the wealth of New South Wales.

Additionally, many of the anticipated reforms that the Government has proposed including rating and reduction of red tape (especially for Rural Councils) will have a positive impact over a period of time.

(Ryan/McLaughlin)

Unanimous



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There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00am.

These Minutes were confirmed by resolution at a meeting held on.....
and were signed as a true record.

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GENERAL MANAGER

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MAYOR

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