

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Great Lakes Council held at the Council Chambers, Breese Parade, Forster on Tuesday, 14 April 2009 commencing at 9.57am.

Present Councillor J Weate (Chairperson) Clrs L Gill, K Hutchinson, L Roberts, J Stephens, M Tuffy and L Vaughan.

In Attendance General Manager - Keith O'Leary, Director Engineering Services - Ron Hartley, Director Planning & Environmental Services - Glenn Handford, Acting Director Corporate & Community Services - Phil Brennan, Manager Finance - Gary Collins and Col Davies - Revenue Accountant.

Apologies Mayor Clr McWilliams and Clr C McCaskie.

223 RESOLVED that the apologies from Clr McWilliams and Clr McCaskie be accepted.

(L Gill/K Hutchinson)

224 RESOLVED that the ExtraOrdinary Meeting be adjourned to reconvene after the completion of the scheduled presentation on the Employment Land Strategy to the Strategic Committee.

(L Gill/K Hutchinson)

The Meeting adjourned at 10.00am.

The Meeting reconvened at 11.38am with the same Councillors and staff in attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The following Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest were declared:

Councillor Designated Person	Division, Item No. and Subject	Nature of Interest
Clr Tuffy	D1 - Proposal to Increase the Business Rate to Help Offset the Costs of Tourism	Pecuniary Interest - as a Licenced Sports & Entertainment Agent that supplies Entertainment to venues in Great Lakes and Sporting Venues.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ATTACHED DATED 14 APRIL 2009

Item: D1
Subject: Proposal to Increase the Business Rates to Help Offset the Costs of Tourism

Clr Tuffy declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting, taking no part in discussions or voting.

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RESOLVED

1. Make application to the Minister for Local Government for an increase to the business rates in order to raise an additional amount of \$250,000 (with 75% of this amount being attributable to Forster/Tuncurry businesses and 25% to businesses located elsewhere throughout the Great Lakes local government area).
2. That a 12 monthly reporting structure be established which outlines where the additional funds provided have been allocated.
3. That appropriate consultation with Great Lakes business ratepayers be undertaken in order that the reasoning for the additional business rate is known.
4. That sponsorship still be sought from the business community for large scale or major events.

(L Gill/K Hutchinson)

Clr Tuffy returned to the meeting at 11.50am.

Item: D2
Subject: Highlights of the Successful Environmental Special Rate (ESR) Funding Model and Extension Opportunity

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RESOLVED that Council make application to the Minister for Local Government to approve an extension/expansion of the Environmental Special Rate to 6.0% in perpetuity to cover initiatives such as:-

- additional works associated with the implementation of the Water Quality Improvement Plans for Myall, Smiths and Wallis Lake and implementation of water quality improvement programs for the Karuah catchment and sustainability infrastructure development such as cycleways and energy and water efficiency.
- 1% per year of the special rate being allocated to dredging for lake / river maintenance navigation dredging and associated hydrodynamic assessment and approvals so that Council has the ability to match funding available under the NSW Waterways program for the Lower Myall River and Wallis Lake.

(L Gill/J Stephens)

Item: D3
Subject: Draft Budget 2009/2010

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RESOLVED

1. That Council make application to the Minister for Local Government for a special rate variation of 6.0% for environmental purposes (incorporating a renewal of the previous environmental rate of 3.55%, an additional increase in the environmental rate of 1.45% to incorporate environmental and sustainability projects, and a 1% levy to fund dredging projects.
2. That Council include in its application for a special rate variation, an additional increase of 1.19% (\$250,000) of Council's total rate revenue to be applied to Council's business rate as a direct contribution towards Council's Tourism Budget.
3. That the 2009/2012 Draft Management Plan, inclusive of the 2009/2010 Budget and Fees and Charges, as amended to incorporate changes discussed at Council's Workshop be adopted.
4. That the adopted 2009/2012 Draft Management Plan be placed on public exhibition for comment by the community.
5. Council's 2009/2010 rating structure option will be the Base Rate Option as discussed at Council's Workshop on 7 April 2009
6. Council refers the 09/10 Budget to the Operational Review Committee to conduct an in-depth examination of Council's operations including areas such as Staff Structure, Pools, Libraries etc to identify options to reduce the projected deficit.

(L Roberts/K Hutchinson)

The meeting closed at 12.12pm.

CHAIRMAN