



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF  
BLACKALL-TAMBO REGIONAL COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE TAMBO COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ON WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2016  
COMMENCING AT 8.32 AM**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor: Cr AL Martin

**MEMBERS:**

Councillors: PJ Heumiller, BD Holdcroft, GW Jarvis, BP Johnstone, PJ Pullos, LP Russell

**OFFICERS:**

Mr Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer, Miss Ashlee Fry, Minute Clerk

**ATTENDANCE:**

Russell Lowry – RAPAD: Small Business and Industrial Financial  
Councillor

Daniel Westall – LGIS: Geothermal Power

**CONDOLENCES:**

A minutes silence was observed to mark the passing of:

Ian Thomas Austin of Blackall

Kevin Victor Bauer (Tores) of Blackall

Ronald Farrant formally of Blackall

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cr PJ Pullos declared a perceived personal interest in item 06/04B/16.

Cr PJ Pullos left the Meeting at 11:50am and took no further part in discussions.

Cr LP Russell declared a material personal interest in item 06/04B/16.

Cr LP Russell left the Meeting at 11:54am and took no further part in discussions.

Cr BP Johnstone declared a material personal interest in item 17/04B/16.

Cr BP Johnstone left the Meeting at 2:46pm and took no further part in discussions.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr BD Holdcroft

Seconded: Cr GW Jarvis

**“That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 8 March 2016 be taken as read and confirmed, and that the Mayor be empowered to sign same.”**

**Minute No. 01/04B/16**

**CEO to action**

**Carried**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr BP Johnstone

Seconded: Cr BD Holdcroft

**“That the Minutes of the Post Election Meeting held on 1 April 2016 be taken as read and confirmed, with change of meeting date to 10 May 2016 and that the Mayor be empowered to sign same.”**

**Minute No. 02/04B/16**

**CEO to action**

**Carried**

**COUNCILLOR PORTFOLIOS:**

The Councillors discussed their Portfolio Reports, which are attached to these Minutes (Attachment A).

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

- Woolscour
  - Upgrades to buildings (Toilets, Kitchen, Shearers Quarters)
  - Hire out for weddings
  - Funding for steam tickets
  - Accommodation (Caravan Park, Shearers Quarters)
- Wild Dog Meeting
  - Lindsay to attend the meeting as a Council Representative
- Councillor Portfolios
- Operation of the works department

**ATTENDANCE:**

Cr BP Johnstone left the Meeting at 9:42am

**ATTENDANCE:**

Cr BP Johnstone returned to the Meeting at 9:46am

**The Operational Report for March 2016 was presented**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr PJ Pullos

Seconded: Cr LP Russell

**“That the Operational Plan be received for consideration”**

**Minute No. 03/04B/16**

**CEO to action**

**Carried**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10:03am and resumed at 10:25am

**ATTENDANCE:**

**MOTION: Moved: Cr LP Russell** **Seconded: Cr GW Jarvis**

**“That Council advertise an Expression of Interest for the position of Funeral Director with the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.”**

**Minute No. 05/04B/16**

**MCS to action**

**Carried**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Cr PJ Pullos declared a perceived conflict of interest in the following item and left the Meeting at 11:50am.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Cr LP Russell declared a material personal interest in the following item and left the Meeting at 11:54am.

**Tambo Western Sporting Complex Lighting**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr PJ Heumiller

**Seconded: Cr BD Holdcroft**

**“That Council request MCS leave the project lay on the table until further information on quotes for power supply and power distribution within the complex.”**

**Minute No. 06/04B/16**

**MCS to action**

**Carried**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Cr PJ Pullos and Cr LP Russell returned to the Meeting at 12:07pm

**Cluster Fencing**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr LP Russell

**Seconded: Cr PJ Pullos**

**“That Council advise until the applicants of the cluster group which may include the Tambo Town Common has been clearly identified Council reserves its decision, however Council fully supports cluster fencing in principle.”**

**Minute No. 07/04B/16**

**MCS to action**

**Carried**

**Microsoft Surface Tablet Policy**

The purpose of this policy is primarily to establish a best practice procedure for the use of Microsoft Surface Tablets that have been provided to Councillors for official use.

This policy clarifies the allocation of Council Microsoft Surface Tablets to Councillors whilst ensuring that Councillors are accessible via email.

It has been developed to enhance communications and to ensure clear understanding of the responsibilities of the Councillor whilst performing their various functions.

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr PJ Heumiller

Seconded: Cr BP Johnstone

**“That Council adopt the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Microsoft Surface Tablet Policy as presented incorporating identified changes.”**

**Minute No. 08/04B/16**

**MCS to action**

**Carried**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Susan Jarvis, Manager of Corporate Service left the Meeting at 12:27pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Meeting adjourned for luncheon at and resumed at 12:27pm and resumed at 1:05pm.

**The Manager of Works’ Report for December 2015 was presented**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr GW Jarvis

Seconded: Cr LP Russell

**“That the Manager of Works’ Report be received for consideration.”**

**Minute No. 09/01A/16**

**MOW to action**

**Carried**

Business items discussed from the Manager of Works’ Report included:

- Low Maintenance Gardens
- Slasher breakdowns
- Overgrown allotments
  - Council footpaths the same length
- Turnover of plant and equipment
- Re-training of plant operators
- Town footpaths
  - Council only receive funding to put footpaths in certain areas of town

**Blackall State School Car Park**

Correspondence was received from Blackall State School dated 19 February 2016 in regards to the construction of a sealed car park at the entrance of the school grounds via Hawthorn Street.

- Rate arrears
- Loans
- Overall financial position
- Aerodrome over budget
  - Overstaffed due to renovations
- Relocation of Ram Park/Information Centre
  - Better use of Buildings
  - Better parking for caravans
- Council Housing
  - Cost of rent for Council Staff

**Carried**

**Carried**

**Carried**

A request to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Forest Products to transfer Sales Permit 201304400 to Blackall-Tambo Regional Council has been approved. It is understood by DAF that Council proposes to lease the Tambo Sawmill as a commercial operation and as such the Lessee would be responsible for sourcing the required cypress sawlogs under the terms and conditions of Sales Permit 201304400 and for engaging any required harvesting and hauling contractors. Council however will be the holder of the

Sales Permit and would remain responsible for compliance with its terms and conditions.

The sale contract has been received and the proposed settlement date is May 31, 2016. DAF will commence the preparation of the Operational Harvest Plan (OHP) once the contract of sale for the Sales Permit has been finalised. The preparation of the OHP takes a period of 3.5 months, it is therefore necessary to formalise the purchase to contract stage to enable DAF to begin the OHP to ensure it is ready in time to open the mill by the end of September 2016.

**MOTION:**    **Moved: Cr LP Russell**

**Seconded: Cr GW Jarvis**

**‘That Council defer the decision on Purchase of Sales Permit 201304400 from Millmerran Timbers Pty Ltd to provide Cypress Sawlog supply for the Tambo Sawmill pending a request for further information.’**

**Minute No. 17/04B/16**

**CEO to action**

**Carried**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Cr BP Johnstone returned to the Meeting at 3:31pm

**Surplus Timber from the Tambo Sawmill**

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council successfully purchased the Tambo Sawmill in July 2014 with the aim of providing employment for the community and stimulating the economy of the region.

Included in the purchase was a significant quantity of sawn timber products of varying dimensions.

An auction was held on April 2nd at which bundles of the timber to the combined value of \$4600 approx. were sold. A significant portion (50-55 %) of this timber stock remains.

Councillor G Jarvis inspected the timber stocks on April 6th and identified that the timber has significant value as floor boards once processed further. The timber has been bound in bundles and is well seasoned and not warped meaning it is ideally suitable for floor boards.

Council has the funds under the Federal Drought Communities Program to install a moulding machine and shed to enable value adding to the timber products on site in Tambo. The previous owner of the mill, NK Collins Pty Ltd, had several sawmills and his business model meant that all raw sawn timber products were transported to Toowoomba for dressing.

It is therefore proposed that Council stockpiles the remaining bundles of timber until the moulding machine is installed. Council could value add to the product in partnership with the Lessee once appointed. This would provide several benefits for Council and the Lessee including:

- Increase Council's return on the product sales.



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- Provide an initial incentive/financial boost for the Lessee.
  - Provide employment until logging commences.
  - Provide an avenue of testing/running the moulding machine.
  - Provide a finished product for the Lessee to establish markets for.

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr PJ Heumiller

Seconded: Cr PJ Pullos

‘That Council removes the surplus timber from sale and stockpiles it until such time as it is able to be processed into a dressed product through the Tambo Sawmill’.

**Minute No. 18/04B/16**

CEO to action

**Carried**

**Tambo Street Naming**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr PJ Pullos

Seconded: Cr BD Holdcroft

“That Council advise that it can not easily undo this decision made by previous Council however your concern on naming streets will be considered on naming future streets. Further the replacement signs you are referring to will be replaced immediately.”

**Minute No. 19/04B/16**

CEO to action

**Carried**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Meeting adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:37pm and resumed at 3:50pm

**QGAP Services in Tambo**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr AL Martin

Seconded: Cr LP Russell

“That Council provide a letter of support for the investigation of QGAP services in Tambo to be presented to the appropriate Minister.”

**Minute No. 20/04B/16**

CEO to action

**Carried**

**Chief Executive Officer Resignation**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr AL Martin

Seconded: Cr LP Russell

“That Council accept with regret the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer Mr Ken Timms as of 1 July 2016.”

**Minute No. 21/04B/16**

CEO to action

**Carried**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr LP Russell

Seconded: Cr PJ Heumiller

**“That Council delegate to the mayor to appoint an interim Chief Executive Officer and further advertise for the permanent position of Chief Executive Officer.”**

**Minute No. 22/04B/16**

**CEO to action**

**Carried**

**Due Diligence Report**

**MOTION:** Moved: Cr AL Martin

**Seconded: Cr PJ Heumiller**

**“That Council enlist the services of the Reinforcements to undertake a “due diligence report” of Council operations and report back to a future meeting of Council.”**

**Minute No. 23/04B/16**

**CEO to action**

**Carried**

**GENERAL BUSINESS RAISED:**

General Business items discussed included:

- Rating
  - Differential Rating
  - Increase of Rates
- Watering system at the Blackall Showgrounds
- War Memorial needs tidy up
- Transportable boat ramp for flooding
- Seats at Aerodrome need to be cleaned regularly
- Rubbish and Water truck for Blackall Show
- Works on Council Buildings

**CLOSURE:**

There being no further business to consider, the Mayor Cr AL Martin declared the Meeting closed at 5:24pm

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

Confirmed by Council as a true and correct record at the General Meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2016.

Signed:.....