



Wyong Shire Council

# Business Paper

## EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**11 September 2013**

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# MEETING NOTICE

The Extraordinary Council Meeting  
of Wyong Shire Council  
will be held in the Council Chamber,  
Wyong Civic Centre, Hely Street, Wyong on  
Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 5.00 pm,  
for the transaction of the business listed below:

OPENING PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

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Michael Whittaker  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## 1.1 Disclosure of Interest

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TRIM REFERENCE: F2008/01064 - D03728525

MANAGER: Lesley Crawley, Manager Corporate Governance

AUTHOR: Sonia Witt; TL Governance and Councillor Services

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* regulate the way in which Councillors and nominated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public trust.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussions, voting on that matter, and require that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

### RECOMMENDATION

***That Councillors now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.***

11 September 2013

To the Extraordinary Council Meeting

Councillor

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13**

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TRIM REFERENCE: F2004/06511 - D03728333

AUTHOR: Doug Eaton; Councillor

The past 12 months has seen the most change and progress in my 22 years on Wyong Shire Council

We have delivered on getting the structure of the organisation right, creating investment opportunities which create local jobs, direct action on the Lakes and getting our finances in order as we look at delivering a surplus ahead of schedule this financial year.

This has been a team effort between the elected Councillors, management and staff who actually deliver the outcomes to the community.

I would like to thank my Deputy Mayor, Cr Lynne Webster, for her support and advice over the past 12 months. Cr Webster has always been a great help behind the scenes and her work has not gone unnoticed, and deserves special recognition.

Also, I would like to give special thanks to the Committee Chairs: Cr Best (EEDC), Cr's Taylor and Troy as joint chairs of the TLEMC and Cr Nayna as Chair of the Sports Committee.

I also wish to thank all my fellow Councillors for their support, hard work and dedication towards continuing to make Wyong Shire a great place to live.

I would also like to thank Council's four directors; Greg McDonald (Infrastructure and Operations), Maxine Kenyon (Community and Recreation Services) and our two relative newcomers in Jari Ihalainen (Land Management) and Lin Armstrong (Building and Development).

A restructure of the organisation resulted in Jari and Lin winning a merit based recruitment process and becoming part of the Wyong Shire Council team.

Both bring a tremendous amount of knowledge and enthusiasm to their roles as we look to forge ahead with our plans to attract investment and create jobs in the Shire. They have settled in well and I look forward to continuing to work closely together with them.

To our General Manager Michael Whittaker, I also say thanks.

Mike has overseen some significant changes in the organisation since taking up his position in May, 2010.

Mike has been a tremendous help to me and his advice over the past 12 months has been very much appreciated. I know all Councillors value his input, experience and knowledge and certainly his enthusiasm.

In May, Council unanimously endorsed Mike's work by acting early to extend his contract for a further five years.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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At the time, I publically said Mike is without doubt the best General Manager in New South Wales - if not the country - and we are extremely lucky to have him here.

Mike has achieved some outstanding results over the past three years, especially in terms of turning around our financial results and modernising our business practices.

His greatest achievement to date has been driving a \$25 million turnaround of Council's operating budget, and working towards a break even position in 2014-15.

Prior to his appointment, Council faced had faced its worst result ever - annual operating deficit of \$30 million.

Given he still had two years left of his current five year deal, we have essentially ensured he has a seven year deal to remain as our General Manager.

I know Mike has some big plans in place for the future and all Councillors are delighted to be able to offer him this new contract to enable us to continue working with him.

He is a tremendous asset to Wyong Shire, and securing Mike has been one of this Council's great achievements over the past 12 months.

Finally, I would like to thank Monica Redmond and Jacquie Elvidge in the Mayor's office.

Monica came in to replace long serving Mayor's PA Sue Sampson and, despite having big shoes to fill, she has been a great asset to the Mayor's office.

Jacquie joined us soon after Monica, and together, they have worked well to ensure the Mayor's office runs smoothly and with a minimum of fuss.

The Mayor's office will continue to be in great hands with Monica and Jacquie on board.

Now, I wish to expand on some of Council's highlights over the past 12 months.

### **Improving our bottom line:**

The past 12 months has been one of belt tightening, hard work and tough decisions as we have forged ahead to a break-even financial position.

Interim figures indicate we will be back in the black this year, which is a remarkable turnaround after a decade of deficits. Three years ago we had an operating deficit of \$30 million.

We have made some difficult decisions such as streamlining the organisation, resulting in a 10 per cent reduction in staff, including a 20 per cent reduction in management as we looked for savings.

Earlier this year after extensive community consultation, we made the tough decision to push ahead with an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a 6.9 per cent ordinary rate increase over seven years. This was to address our \$130 million infrastructure backlog.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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After evaluating our submission, IPART granted us an increase of 3.5 per cent on top of the 3.4 rate peg for the next four years. This will allow us address our \$130 million infrastructure backlog over a period of 10 to 13 years.

We will be able to improve the conditions of our roads, replace timber bridges and rebuild boat ramps such as Norah Head.

Already, this money from the Special Rate Variation is starting to flow back into the community, and our residents will start seeing some real benefits in the condition of our roads, bridges, while we will be able to construct new Gross Pollutant Traps to improve our Lakes.

I remain confident that we are well and truly on the path to financial sustainability and now we have started to address our infrastructure backlog, you will start noticing a real difference around Wyong Shire over the next few years.

### **Economic Development**

Council has worked on, what I consider to be, three significant projects that have the potential to change the face of Wyong Shire and see us become a real powerhouse region in the country.

There are three projects that have already received a lot of attention not only nationally, but also internationally and will provide millions of dollars of investment, create thousands of jobs and boost the local economy.

Our concept for a **Regional Airport** has gained a lot of publicity, making the front page of Sydney's Daily Telegraph in January.

We have identified land, in our Draft Local Environmental Plan for the airport while such a site is still available as we look to the future of our region.

The facts surrounding an airport are simple. The Central Coast is the ninth largest region in Australia and the only one which does not have an airport.

Even conservative estimates place an airport's value to our economy of around \$250 million per annum. Regional airports attract business, investment and tourism to grow local economies. The airport will also generate hundreds of local jobs.

I have written to Premier Barry O'Farrell, Planning Minister Brad Hazzard and Central Coast Minister Chris Hartcher outlining the importance of an airport to our region, and its impact on much needed jobs now and into the future.

I can categorically say that this is NOT a bid for Sydney's second airport. It is a plan to build a Category 3 Regional airport, with a maximum runway length of up to 2600 metres.

I envisage this future regional airport would have a strong focus on freight operations, given the proximity to freeway and rail links at the proposed Bushells Ridge site. In turn, this will spawn industry nearby.

A Central Coast Regional Airport is needed to cater for the Central Coast's growing population, and allow our residents more local job opportunities, and easier air travel options from their doorstep.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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An initial public survey shows a high level of support and we will be looking for partners to invest, design and help construct the airport.

On a trip to China in June, the Shanghai Government was particularly keen to hear about our regional airport concept ... especially given the proposed location close to the Cultural Village and I got the impression they were very interested in exploring potential funding opportunities.

We will continue to take the necessary steps including all required studies to investigate this airport concept for the benefit of our community.

The proposed development of an **International University** at Warnervale is certainly incredibly exciting.

This is still very much in the planning stage, but we are talking about 7000 students – both local and international – and staff of 1500, along with a language centre to support international students.

On our China trip in June, we met with the Chinese Entrepreneurs' Foundation -- which recently visited Wyong Shire – in Beijing.

They were very receptive with our University plans and again, I was encouraged in regard to potential investment opportunities regarding our International University proposal.

The land we have earmarked for such a project is entirely Council owned.

The **Chinese Cultural Village Theme Park** at Warnervale is a big achievement.

I said last year this project has the potential to rival the Harbour Bridge and Opera House as the biggest tourist attraction in NSW and I firmly believe that.

As Mayor, I have worked hard in the past 12 months to see this project go from being a concept brought to us to becoming a reality.

Last December, we officially signed an agreement to sell land at Warnervale to be developed into the Cultural Village.

Council approved the sale of 15.7 hectares of land to the Australian Chinese Theme Park Pty Ltd (ACTP) for \$10 million, for the purpose of constructing the \$500 million Park.

I travelled to Chatswood to sign the agreement to sell the land in front of Mr Aimin Fu, the Director Consular representing the Chinese Consular General, and representatives of the ACTP.

My vision is that this proposal turn the Wyong Shire into a tourist mecca and bring millions of dollars' worth of tourism into the area which will have a flow on effect to the entire region's economy.

By selling this land, we have not only made a significant profit, but we have set in place a unique and, in time, iconic tourist venture that will benefit the entire Central Coast.



## 2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)

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The Park will comprise seven sections including: China City Gate entrance, Tang and Song Academy, Water Towns in South China, Wyong Theatre, Panda Paradise, Royal Villa and Thanksgiving Temple.

In June, I led a delegation on a nine day self-funded trip to China, where the Theme Park was launched on the world stage.

In China, I addressed a major event at the newly opened Shanghai Yacht Club where guests included Australia's Consul-General in Shanghai, Alice Cawte, Austrade's Trade Commissioner Liu Bing, Shanghai Government officials, a representative from NSW Trade and Investment and the top 200 businessmen in Shanghai.

At this event, Bruce Zhong, from the Australia Chinese Theme Park (ACTP) company, also gave a speech and announced his organisation had signed a heads of agreement – or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – with three major business groups who had promised to support the Cultural Village.

Following that, I remain confident the first stage of construction will be brought forward and should now start next year, and include the City Gate, Temple, Water Town and Academy. The remainder of construction is expected to start in 2018.

The whole project will be completed by 2020 and, upon completion, the development is expected to provide between 1500-2000 jobs.

In August, I had the pleasure of being on site for a media call, where I met the proponents of the 'Key Site' development at The Entrance.

Now at the Planning Proposal stage, this development shapes up as one of the most historic in Council's 65 year history.

Why? Because it is the first of our **Iconic Development Sites** to reach this stage, and it is on arguably the most iconic site in Wyong Shire – being the 'Key Site' on the corner of The Entrance Road and Marine Parade. This prime piece of real estate has been vacant for more than 30 years.

Council has identified 28 Key Iconic Development sites throughout the Shire with the ability to generate significant economic return and revitalise our town centres. The sites were chosen for their ability to provide a significant economic benefit to the community, stimulate further development and provide a significant public domain benefit.

Staff have been working closely with several owners, such as the owners of the 'Key Site', which has progressed to the Planning Proposal stage. The development proposed is a 20 storey building with 93 apartments, speciality shops and restaurants at what I believe is the best location in the Shire.

The former planning controls on this site severely restricted the types of development that could proceed, which is one of the reasons why the site was left vacant for so long. The owners of the site publically stated the development would not have been possible if Council had not taken these pro-active steps in reviewing the planning controls for the site.

I am hopeful the Klumper Development – west of The Entrance Bridge and complete with an indoor water theme park -- and the Lakeside Plaza Development at The Entrance will follow in the near future.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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All up, this is around \$500 million in investment into The Entrance, with the potential to create thousands of jobs during and after the construction phase.

Finally, in terms of economic development, a new committee was formed shortly after this Council came together for the first time last year ... the **Employment and Economic Development Strategic Committee**.

The role of this Committee is to help foster economic development and sustainable growth within the Wyong Shire and Central Coast community in alignment with Council's Strategic Plan and other regional strategies.

The Committee contributes to Council's strategic and business planning processes and policy development and is responsible for providing strategic advice and guidance to Council on identifying, recommending and supporting projects and initiatives that will generate employment, economic development and sustainable growth within the Wyong.

### **Creating jobs and investment:**

Shortly after being re-elected for my third term as Mayor, Council took the step of holding a media conference to announce one of the biggest investment plans in the history of this Council.

Known as **Precinct 7A**, the planning proposal and Masterplan covers 540 hectares at Warnervale and Hamlyn Terrace. It is bounded by Sparks Road to the north, North Wyong Industrial Estate to the South and Porters Creek Wetland to the south-west.

Besides a proposed future high school for the Warnervale area, Precinct 7A also contains plans for a new neighbourhood retail centre adjacent to the existing Warnervale Railway Station; low and medium density and aged housing.

The new release precinct will accommodate approximately 2000 new dwellings which will translate to approximately 5000 new residents. Plans are also included for a new business park which will provide a significant number of jobs.

All up, the plan outlines more than \$1 billion in investment for the Shire and has the potential to create in excess of 1300 jobs for the local economy.

On any level, this is a significant development proposal that will have some very positive flow on effects for the whole Shire.

In April, following the exhibition period and review of the submissions, Council endorsed the proposal to be forwarded to the State Government for gazettal.

It is my understanding that the Department of Planning will endorse Precinct 7A as part of our Draft Local Environmental Plan, which is due back next month.

In May, we took the first steps towards establishing two new rural residential developments in the area by referring two locations, west of freeway, to the State Government's Gateway review process.

Council resolved to send the **Jilliby Stage 2 Development** and **'Old Farm' located on Old Maitland Road** to the State Government in what will be the first step in a spot rezoning process.

## 2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)

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If the rezoning is successful, it could allow **rural residential developments** to proceed in both locations.

There is a real need for this type of development in our Shire. What these developments are about is giving people a choice of housing and we hope they will attract professionals to buy property and establish themselves in the area.

There are rural residential developments at Matcham, Holgate and Pickett's Valley that are full of professionals and executives on high wages and we need more of this in the Shire.

There is demand for this type of land in the Shire but there's a real shortage of it.

The land which we are proposing to rezone is not suitable for rural use, and would certainly help to provide more rate income for Council as well as help boost our local economy.

All up, we are talking about a combined total of more than 600 hectares of land, divided into close to 500 lots ranging between one and three hectares.

Jilliby Stage 2 contains 355 hectares of land, which will be the potential home for 197 lots. In addition, 76 hectares of land at this location is proposed to be set aside for conservation and drainage.

The 'Old Farm' on Old Maitland Road is located around two kilometres south of the F3 Tuggerah interchange.

It has been proposed to be rezoned into 270 lots in village zoning and 30 lots in environment living and conservation areas.

Developing both sites is expected to create in excess of 620 jobs over 10 years.

We need a balance of housing around the Shire and this Council is very conscious of creating housing that can cater for all budgets ranging from low cost, affordable granny flat style accommodation to these rural developments catering for highly paid professionals.

I am pleased the Department of Planning, under the current Government, is willing to look at this and potentially move it through the system.

In November, we welcomed the start of construction of the new \$20 million **Woolworths Lake Munmorah** Shopping centre. The centre was officially opened in July and is trading strongly.

As part of our focus on economic development and creating jobs for our residents, this development ticks every box.

We were working with Woolworths for the best part of two years to progress the development and I'm delighted that 100 jobs were created during construction and around 150 retail related jobs upon completion.

The development also aligns with the North Wyong Structure Plan, which is the State Government's regional strategy identifying the northern area of our Shire will accommodate the majority of our region's new greenfield development to 2031.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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This new shopping centre not only serves existing residents, but caters for planned growth in the area.

In June, we announced two more shopping centres to cater for our residents and create local jobs.

**Aldi** was granted development consent for a new supermarket and shopping centre at **Blue Haven**.

At a total cost of \$3.7 million, the new supermarket is expected to employ upwards of 20 staff, while there will be also be three shops created at Roper Road and the corner of Blue Haven Way.

Construction is expected to start in early 2014, with the store open for trading later that year.

Council also endorsed a planning proposal in June to be forwarded on to the State Government's Gateway Review Panel for an initial determination, which will lead to the establishment of a **Woolworths** being constructed at **Wadalba**.

The 1.5 hectare site on Figtree Boulevard has been earmarked for a \$14 million Woolworths development that will include a supermarket, speciality shops and a petrol station.

The proposed development has the potential to create more than 220 jobs, including around 130 jobs during construction.

**Aldi** was also granted approval for an amended design submitted to allow for the construction of a new supermarket in **Wyong**, which is scheduled to start early next year.

In November, we supported a rezoning proposal which could eventually see an Officeworks business built at Tuggerah, providing an employment boost to the local economy.

The proposed **Officeworks** is planned to be constructed on the corner of Johnson Road and Tuggerah Straight, and is a \$3 million investment in the Shire.

What this shows is that Tuggerah-Wyong is fast becoming the northern capital of the Central Coast and I am sure Officeworks recognises this fact and many more large retailers will follow their lead.

I am delighted that a company as reputable as Officeworks can see potential in investing \$3 million into opening a business in Wyong Shire, and equally delighted at the prospect of 50 local jobs being created.

I am extremely pleased that we have now secured funding for the **Wyong Skills Centre**.

This much needed facility will help to address the youth unemployment crisis in the Shire, with figures showing this is well above the state and national average. That is simply unacceptable.

Last year, when the Federal Government offered us money for the facility, the previous Council voted to knock it back.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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I am pleased this Council has been able to come together, and we have lobbied hard, to secure \$2.7 million for stage one funding to start construction of this much needed facility, which will equip our youth with the skills and training to secure a job.

This year, some of our **Town Centre Masterplans** have started to take shape.

In recent years, Council has worked closely with the development industry and the general community to develop Masterplans for several of the key centres within the Shire.

These Masterplans have identified a range of projects including further rezonings (normally to business or higher density residential zones) to significant public domain improvements.

Council recognises the importance of having vibrant and active centres and has earmarked funding through various avenues including Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs), grants and general revenue to improve the amenity of these areas.

This financial year, we have set aside \$1.76 million for public domain upgrades at our Town Centres.

Works will include replacing the tiles within The Entrance Town Centre, developing a detailed design for the redevelopment of Memorial Park at The Entrance, improving pedestrian links at Toukley and further improvements at Long Jetty and Budgewoi.

The Masterplans contain a program of works that will extend into future years and I expect both the business and general community will see significant changes to our centres.

In April, Council adopted a **Temporary Economic Stimulus Plan**, recognising the need to be part of a national economic stimulus initiative by reviewing Council's Section 94 developer contributions.

The aim was to facilitate residential development to create additional employment opportunities and stimulate the local economy.

The principal feature is a reduction of contributions for residential development in the Warnervale growth area to:

- \$25,000 per allotment in Wadalba, Woongarra and Hamlyn Terrace
- \$625,000 per hectare of NDA in Warnervale Town Centre (25 dwellings per hectare)
- \$18,000 per three bedroom unit
- \$13,000 per one and two bedroom units.

This represents a reduction of between \$5,000 and \$9,000 per lot when compared to the Draft Wadalba, Woongarra and Hamlyn Terrace Contributions Plan and the Warnervale Town Centre Contributions Plan.

This incentive is starting to work with approved developments now being activated in Wadalba and Warnervale.

### **Planning our future:**

In May, Council endorsed one of the most significant documents in the history of this Council the draft **Local Environmental Plan (LEP)**. This document establishes planning directions for the Shire over the next 25 years and beyond.

## 2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)

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It is an extremely important document because it plans future land use in the Shire.

Since the establishment of the Wyong LEP 1991 – which we are currently operating under – the Shire is now facing a range of different issues and challenges.

This new LEP provided us with a great opportunity to undertake a major review of all our current planning instruments and policies and as a result, we will create a better, more prosperous Wyong Shire.

I am expecting the LEP gazetted next month by the Department of Planning.

Some of the initiatives in the LEP are designed to boost investment and jobs in the Shire, streamline the process for establishing a business in a designated employment zone, and create affordable housing options for the Shire's growing population.

Our new **Development Control Plan (DCP)** – which was on public exhibition the same time as the LEP – simplifies Council's requirements for investment to take place and makes it easier for investors to plan business in the Shire.

The fact is, we don't know what businesses will be around in 20 years and who might want to invest in the Shire. That is why, as part of the review, we have ensured our processes are more flexible.

The LEP also includes:

- Identification of a strategic location for a Type 3 regional airport for the Central Coast in the Bushells Ridge area.
- Clauses to stimulate Town Centre renewal
- Reduction of lot sizes to stimulate affordable housing
- Provision of new enterprise corridors to attract innovative uses to the Shire
- Identification of significant employment generating lands to provide jobs to the community.

The document also ensures the natural amenity of our area will not be compromised with a purely development focus.

We have made a great effort to look after our natural environment and ensure that it remains well into the future. We have not got rid of any environmental land and we aren't proposing to develop on environmental land, while mandatory clauses from the NSW State Government's Standard Instrument related to tree preservation and removal have been incorporated.

A specific objective of the clauses is to preserve the amenity of the area, including biodiversity values, through the preservation of trees and vegetation.

This means, we want to maintain the natural beauty of our area while creating investment and jobs for our residents.

It is an incredibly thorough document and it strikes the perfect balance in moving Wyong Shire forward, and I congratulate all staff involved in what was a very long period of preparation.

As part of the DLEP, a total of 393 Council owned properties were **reclassified** from 'community' to 'operational' land.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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Classification of Council land as either 'community' or 'operational' is required under the Local Government Act and determines how the land can be used, managed, and whether it can be leased or sold.

Extensive public consultation was carried out throughout the exhibition period including four public meetings.

We received 45 submissions in regards to land reclassification with one of the main concerns being the loss of public land through sales and development.

Many of the sites reclassified were roads or used for water, sewer and drainage purposes. There were 70 sites previously unclassified, so the change of these properties will have little to no impact on the community.

The remaining sites include car parks, shopping centres, community buildings and vacant blocks of land, and none of these properties have been identified for sale at this stage.

There are still approximately 440 properties classified as community land and more than 1,800 hectares of land zoned RE1 Public Recreation in the endorsed Wyong LEP 2012.

This is well above the Department of Planning and Infrastructure open space requirements of 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people and doesn't include land that has been identified within the Environmental Protection Zonings.

A review of these classifications was essential to ensure suitability of the current classifications and ensure the land can be used effectively now and in the future.

Many of the classifications were outdated, incorrect, and could be put to better use by Council.

The new reclassifications will help provide more efficient and cost-effective management of Council land and help reduce Council maintenance costs as well as stimulate development and create jobs for the local area.

It is possible the classification of Council land may not even be required in the future.

The *Local Government Acts Taskforce Discussion Paper – A new Local Government Act for NSW (2013)*, identifies that the current land reclassification provisions under the LG Act are '*unnecessarily prescriptive, costly, onerous*' and '*in need of review*'.

It is proposed that, at the time Council acquires or purchases land, the proposed use will need to be specified and process of reclassification may one day be a thing of the past.

### **Estuary Management Program:**

One of the first commitments of this Council was to start a program of **more direct action** when it came to our **Lakes**, and I'm pleased to say, that is something that we have been able to achieve.

The election of two Councillors, Cr Troy and Cr Taylor, from the Save Tuggerah Lakes Party was a clear indication the community views the rehabilitation of our Lakes as a major priority.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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To that end, Council made it known one of our first priorities was to **double** the amount of **wrack** (dead seagrass) **collected** from our Lakes.

In May, after a second meeting with State Environment Minister Robyn Parker – to gain support from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries), who regulate the removal of wrack activity, we started on our wrack removal program complete with new equipment.

Our goal is to remove approximately 8,000 cubic metres of wrack a year as part of the new direct focus on enhancement of the Lakes system.

Council allocated additional funding in an effort to double the wrack removal, where we contracted an additional harvester and trialled a small amphibious craft - known as a Truxor - which can operate in shallow water and push the accumulated wrack out to the harvester.

The Department allowed us to operate closer to the foreshore. So we have been able to cut through this 'green tape' and simply get on with the job.

In July, we inspected the machinery being used. We found that the Truxor was particularly good at clearing the wrack in shallow waters, where the harvester couldn't reach.

In March, we also welcomed three members of the public to sit on our streamlined **Tuggerah Lakes Estuary, Coastal and Floodplain Management Committee**.

This Committee's role is to advise Council on the development and implementation of Estuary, Coastal and Floodplain Risk Management Plans.

The Committee comprises seven voting members including Councillors, professional staff from Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage and the three new community members Marlene Pennings, Bob Davies and Ken Derry.

All have made a valuable contribution to the Committee.

The Federal Government's Caring for our Country Funding of \$20 million finished in June, yet there is still much more to do on our Lakes.

At the time of producing this report, only the Federal Coalition had committed Election funding to the Lakes - \$3.25 million over four years.

Our Estuary Management Program has been greatly assisted by the Federal Government grant over the past five years and we would love to be able to pour as many resources as we can into continuing to improve our Lakes.

The reality is, we can't do that without Government support.

The SRV will allow us, however, to get on with implementing a program to replace many of our **Gross Pollutant Traps** (GPTs) around the Lakes.

These traps act as filters to stop objects entering the lake and we have 211 of them in the Shire. We are embarking on a replacement scheme, and the first was recently completed at Charmhaven.



## 2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)

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All up, we will replace six of the existing devices this financial year, however staff are aiming to undertake upgrade works to three other existing devices in order to improve their performance. This will result in nine upgraded GPTs that capture rubbish before it enters the Lakes.

Council has cleaned about 90 of the traps and all up, we have removed the equivalent of around five backyard swimming pools worth of rubbish that would have otherwise ended up in our Lakes.

Whilst it is great to have this type of set-up in our GPTs, I would like to encourage residents to take some pride in their community and not litter in the first place.

### Water:

**Water levels** are at an almost 20-year-high, thanks to the \$120 million Mardi-Mangrove Link.

Our dam levels are a touch over **62 per cent** the last time they were at this mark was in 1994.

It is a remarkable turnaround considering only six years ago, we faced the prospect of having to truck water into our region as our dams dropped to 10 per cent.

Had the Link not been in place, our levels would only be around 40 per cent and the public would still be on Level One restrictions, as opposed to the current water wise rules.

So fantastic was the rainfall early this year, it allowed us to pump more water into our main holding dam of Mangrove Creek in a three month period than the entire yearly water supply for the Central Coast.

What makes this an even better story is that the Mardi-Mangrove Link has provided more than a **100 per cent return** on its investment in only 18 months.

In March, statistics revealed the value of water pumped into the system is more than the Wyong Shire and Gosford Council's investment into the pipeline.

Both Councils invested \$34 million into the Mardi-Mangrove Link, and the project has resulted in \$35.5 million worth of water being banked in Mangrove Creek Dam with more to come.

That is remarkable in any sense.

It was February when our dam levels hit the magical 50 per cent mark, which allowed me an opportunity to host a **special event** at The Entrance where we were able to turn the popular **Vera's Watergarden pink** for the day.

It was all designed to thank the community for their water saving efforts over the best part of a decade, when our residents faced some of the harshest water restrictions in the country for a period of time.

It was only fitting residents were able to celebrate this achievement, because they did a wonderful job in tough times to help conserve our water.

### **Warnervale Town Centre:**

Anyone who has driven along Sparks Road at Warnervale lately will see the amount of work taking place ... and it's all do to with preparation for the Warnervale Town Centre.

In July, the State Government announced they were contributing \$10 million towards the completion of the **Town Centre intersection**, which we are told will be completed by the end of next year.

This involves a lot of work being done on Sparks Road to facilitate the start of construction of the Town Centre entry road.

It is a **significant milestone** for the Warnervale Town Centre

Council took another step toward the construction of the Town Centre last October by accepting a tender for the **construction of sewer trunk mains** to service the proposed development.

This is about us putting infrastructure in place for the start of the Town Centre's construction.

The sewer trunk main project is for the construction of more than 3000 metres of sewer mains at total budget cost of more than \$2 million.

The designs for this vital infrastructure work were completed for some time in anticipation of the development proceeding.

The works will be funded under our Sewer Capital Works Program.

Last month, **history** was made with the first **development** in the Warnervale Town Centre **granted approval** by Council.

The proposed \$19 million development by Yeramba Estates involves a new 125 block sub division in what will be a seven phase land release.

This subdivision layout comprises a mix of small lots from 202m<sup>2</sup> to large lots of 675m<sup>2</sup> for a variety of housing opportunities and affordable housing options for local families.

There are still a few things to negotiate with Woolworths and Urban Growth NSW in regard to costs to the town centre entry road, all indications are all roads will soon lead to the Warnervale Town Centre.

### **Community Facilities:**

From planning a future major regional sports facility, to finding money for the Art House, and improving our current ovals, Council has worked overtime this past 12 months on facilities for the community.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of opening the new **amenities** building at the **Ourimbah Football Club**, the final piece of an almost \$500,000 makeover at the club over the past four years.

## 2.1 **Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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The \$210,000 building comes complete with large change rooms, a canteen, storage area and toilets, and comes on the back of a brand new playing surface.

Council started the Ourimbah facility upgrade four years ago by fully funding new floodlights to the value of \$150,000 and levelling the uneven playing surface.

In June, I was on hand at Ourimbah again – alongside Member for the Entrance Chris Spence – to inspect the construction of **new cricket nets at Ourimbah**, to be used by the Ourimbah Lisarow Cricket Club.

To top it off, in late June I was on hand to officially open the Shire's newest playground – a state-of-the-art \$300,000 facility at Ourimbah's **Sohier Park**, complete with a **25 metre flying fox**.

Further north, **Toukley tennis courts** received a \$60,000 make-over, which has already resulted in more people using the courts.

Late last year, I opened the 7.6 kilometre **Coast to Lake Scenic Walk**, which starts at The Entrance, goes to Toowoan Bay and snakes it way back along the Lake towards Picnic Point, where a fitness station has been constructed.

This walk includes some of the best scenery on the Central Coast and includes beaches, lookouts and public art, all joined by unique interpretive signage.

Council entered into a partnership with the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation to construct the Coast to Lake Scenic Walk. The project was funded by a NSW Government grant of \$800,000 through the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation.

We have passed the 100 kilometre milestone in our ongoing network of **Shared Pathways**, connecting the Shire and taking in some beautiful scenery around our Lakes. However, I remain in discussions with National Parks in an effort to complete the 'missing link' between The Entrance North and Noraville.

I am hopeful we are close to achieving this, as I believe this particular stretch will become one of the most popular in the Shire.

We have continued our push to turn 18 hectares of land at **Pioneer Dairy** into a major regional sporting precinct. Our plans there include a number of playing fields, a premier field with a grandstand, club house, fitness track and public amenities.

This will have a positive economic impact on the Shire including tourism events, sporting and recreational events and creating more jobs.

We are also on track to start a much needed upgrade of the **Norah Head Boat Ramp**, while

The establishment of a **northern 'civic hub'** at Lake Munmorah will help bring together local, state and federal Government agencies under the one roof, making it easier for people to do business.

We have dedicated our own funding - \$12 million over three years - for the **Art House** project, which will involve a 500 seat theatre, studios and a café and be located on the Wyong Memorial Hall site.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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A revised building plan is currently being developed and works are due to start in early 2014 for opening in December, 2015.

### **Roadworks:**

After increasing the annual roads budget to \$23.59 million, Council undertook 49 kilometres road reseals and 16 kilometres of road surfaces pavement renewals last financial year.

This year, our budget has increased to \$24.3 million and we have a target of resealing 75 kilometres of road and 13.8 kilometres of road upgrades/pavement renewals.

The measurement used to indicate the standard of our roads is the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), which shows our roads are currently rated at 6.3, which is average. At the end of the 2013/14, we anticipate this figure will rise to a relatively healthy seven.

Later this month, Minnesota Road at Hamlyn Terrace, which has undergone a \$5.6 million upgrade which residents have been advocating for years, will be officially opened. This is a road that has been plagued for flood problems for years.

We have worked on this road for more than year, widening it, putting in pathways alongside it, putting in new pavement and most importantly, putting in drainage that will see the road usable in all but a one in 100 year flood.

Residents have been extremely patient as the road has been closed to allow this work to be completed.

The good news for local residents – and residents right across the Shire – is that we aren't about to park our graders in the shed following this upgrade.

We will move straight onto Warnervale Road, and then other projects all over the Shire, including work on a \$2 million upgrade Ruttleys Road at Mannering Park, of which Council has contributed \$200,000, and the State the rest.

Major achievements in the roads capital works program for May 2013 included:

- Minnesota Road upgrade
- Completion of new water main replacement, drainage, pavement, safety facilities and footpaths at Tuggerawong Road, Tuggerawong
- Completion of asphaltting in Canton Beach Road, Curtis Parade, Boronia Ave, Tuggerah Parade and Bateau Bay Road
- Progress on stabilising of pavements and sealed surfaces at Bluebell Ave, Tuggerah Parade, Thomas Mitchell and Playford Roads and Mort Street, McPhersons Road, Johns Road, Ourimbah Creek Road, and Kullaroo Road.

### **Environment:**

Council has continued to support all **Landcare/Bushcare** groups this financial year, as these volunteers do a wonderful job looking after our dunes and natural bush areas.

I congratulate these volunteers for their continued hard work, commitment and community spirit to make their patch of our Shire great.

## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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In March, we embarked on a major job to stabilise a stream bank on Wyong River, just off Alison Road.

The \$2.5 million project was jointly funded by Council and the Federal Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

This was a major project aimed at minimising erosion to protect the nearby roadway and stop sediment entering into the Tuggerah Lakes.

The work will greatly benefit the community by providing long term stability to Alison Road, whilst also helping our environment courtesy of mitigating any future erosion at the site.

### **Community:**

Marlene Pennings, a tireless community worker, was named as this year's **Citizen of the Year** back in January.

In the past 12 months, Marlene was responsible for obtaining almost \$1 million in grants to help the community. She has previously been recognised as a 'Hidden Treasure' by the NSW Government.

Marlene's work includes being a driving role with Coastcare – The Entrance North, our Estuary Committee, The Entrance Community Precinct Committee, The Entrance North Progress Association and Wycare.

Our Youth of the Year was Rachel Davis, who raised \$16,000 for the Cancer Council by running 1,000 kilometres on a treadmill at Westfield Tuggerah. Community Volunteer Winner was Allen Currie, who has given 30 years' service to the Scout Association, while our Business Person of the Year was Don Dagger, who was instrumental in establishing the Tuggerah Lakes Tourist Association.

It never ceases to amaze me the wonderful array of hard working and unsung community heroes we have in the Shire.

In March, we celebrated the Shire's cultural diversity with a **Harmony Day** celebration.

The message was 'Everybody Belongs' and it was a perfect opportunity to launch our Multicultural Advisory Committee.

The primary role of this committee will be to increase and promote awareness of the valuable role that people from a multicultural and our culturally and linguistic diverse background can contribute.

In the last census, almost 10 per cent of residents speak another language at home other than English.

It also gave me great pleasure, earlier this month, to launch an e-book program at our libraries, where you can borrow a book and read it on-line.

## 2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)

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### The Future:

We've achieved a lot this year but we still have some challenges ahead of us.

I will continue to fight the State Government's Waste Levy, which is a major impost on our ratepayers and sees us become nothing more than a State Government tax collection agency. This tax impost has resulted in tip fees rising well above the CPI over the last few years and contributed to an increase in illegal dumping in the Shire.

I have also met with Environment Minister Robyn Parker to discuss the issue of us having to pay to dispose of the wrack removed from our Lakes. Whilst I am still waiting a solution, I remain hopeful.

The *Future Directions* discussion paper released earlier this year by the Independent Local Government Review Panel makes it clear the preference is for Gosford and Wyong Councils to merge.

Personally, I have always been in favour of a single, large regional Council, however such a thing could not happen without a proper cost benefit analysis to prove the real benefits for Central Coast ratepayers.

I believe the State Government should pay for this, as they are the ones who want Councils to merge.

I remain in favour of pursuing a County Council for our bulk water operations, and discussions will continue to be held with Gosford City in this regard.

We have made progress by removing sea level rise notations on properties along our coastline, which should be a tremendous relief to more than 10,000 households in the Shire.

However, I have held meetings with Insurance Agency Australia about the impact on residents' insurance. I remain hopeful insurance agencies will be able to use common sense, and review individual policies.

### Conclusion:

This was my diary for the past 12 months:

#### **Number of Citizenship Ceremonies & Citizens**

09/07/2013 – 24 citizens  
22/04/2013 – 26 citizens  
05/03/2013 – 24 citizens  
26/01/2013 – 46 citizens  
04/12/2013 – 24 citizens  
29/10/2012 – 1 citizen (private ceremony)  
23/10/2012 – 26 citizens  
21/11/2012 – 2 citizens (private ceremony)  
**TOTAL = 8 ceremonies / 173 citizens**

#### **Number of External Meeting**

Central Coast Group Training - 4  
Wyong Chamber of Commerce - 9  
Central Coast Water Corp - 2  
Central Coast Tourism (AGM only) – 1

## 2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)

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The Entrance Town Centre - 5  
Precinct Committees – 4  
Draft LEP - 6  
Joint Regional Planning Panel - 1  
**TOTAL = 33 external meetings**

### Number of Internal meetings

Ordinary Council meetings - 22  
Extraordinary Council meetings – 5  
CCROC & CCROC Exec meetings – 6  
Committee meetings - 24  
**TOTAL = 57 internal meetings**

### Number of Visits to Parliament & Ministers Met (State & Federal)

9/11/2012 - Central Coast Minister & MP's Meeting

- The Hon Chris Hartcher, Minister for the Central Coast
- Mr Chris Holstein MP, Member for Gosford

15/11/2012 - NSW Parliament Visit

- The Hon Robyn Parker MP, Environment Minister
- The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning
- The Hon Don Page MP, Minister for Local Government

16/01/2013 - Ourimbah Precinct Committee Meeting

- Mr Chris Spence MP, Member for The Entrance

08/02/2013 - Minister for the Central Coast - Regional Action Plan

- The Hon Chris Hartcher, Minister for the Central Coast

14/03/2013 - Visit to State Parliament

- The Hon Chris Hartcher, Minister for the Central Coast
- The Hon Robyn Parker MP, Minister for Environment and Minister for Heritage

21/3/2013 – Visit Federal Parliament

- Minister Burke – Environment
- Advisor Minister Crean
- Advisor Minister Garrett

02/04/2013 - Strategic Direction in the Shire's North

- Mr Garry Edwards MP, Member for Swansea

## 2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)

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- 22/04/2013 – Meeting with Senator Sinodinos
- Senator Arthur Sinodinos AO
- 7/6/2013 - Quarterly Meeting with the Minister for the Central Coast, local MPs and DPC
- Attendees not listed
- 17/6/2013 - Meeting with Senator Barnaby Joyce, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water
- Senator Barnaby Joyce, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water
- 17/6/2013 – Meeting with Greg Hunt MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage
- Mr Greg Hunt MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage
- 19/6/2013 - Meeting with Mr Tony Abbott MP, Mr Joe Hockey MP and Senator Sinodinos
- Mr Tony Abbott MP, Leader of the Opposition
  - Mr Joe Hockey MP, Member for North Sydney & Shadow Treasurer
  - Senator Arthur Sinodinos AO
- 19/6/2013 - Meeting with The Hon. Warren Truss MP
- The Hon. Warren Truss MP, Federal Member for Wide Bay & Leader of the Nationals
- 18/7/2013 – Meeting with Mr Chris Spence MP
- Mr Chris Spence MP, Member for The Entrance
- 23/7/2013 - Ruttleys Road Meeting
- The Hon Duncan Gaye MLC
- 30/7/2013 - Meeting with Donald Page Minister for Local Government
- The Hon. Donald Page MP, Minister for Local Government
- 6/8/2013 - Tony Abbott at Charmhaven Depot
- Mr Tony Abbott MP, Leader of the Opposition
- 23/8/13 – Greg Hunt Shadow Environment Minister (Tuggerah Lakes, Canton Beach)

**TOTAL = 20 Meetings/ 18 Ministers met**



## **2.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Report for 2012-13 (contd)**

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As you can see, the role of a Mayor is time consuming and all-encompassing.

From community members to senior Government Ministers, you are constantly conversing with different people.

In a Council as dynamic as Wyong Shire, you need to be on the front foot in order to fight and achieve the best outcomes for our community.

Council will continue to facilitate and drive transformational projects and transition our regional economy to being the driving force of the Central Coast.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Mayor during this period, and I wish to thank Council and the community for the privilege of leading it for the last year.

***I formally move:***

***That Council note the Mayoral report for the past 12 month term, 2012 - 2013.***

### **3.1 Election of Mayor and Voting Procedure**

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TRIM REFERENCE: F2004/06511 - D03728466  
MANAGER: Lesley Crawley, Manager Corporate Governance  
AUTHOR: Sonia Witt; TL Governance and Councillor Services

#### **SUMMARY**

Nominations are invited for the Office of Mayor for the term from September 2013 to September 2014. The election of Mayor of Wyong Shire Council must be held in accordance with Schedule 7 – “Election of mayor by Councillors” of the Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005 and Council's Code of Meeting Practice. The Office of Mayor commences on the day the person is elected and becomes vacant when the person's successor is declared elected.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1** *That Council hold an election for the Office of Mayor by all councillors in accordance with the provisions of Section 290(a) of the Local Government Act 2003.*
- 2** *That Council determine whether the vote is to proceed by preferential ballot, by ordinary ballot or by open voting.*
- 3** *That Council note the election of Mayor will be for the term September 2013 to September 2014.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with Section 227(a) of the Local Government Act, 1993 the Mayor of Wyong Shire Council is elected by the Councillors from among their number.

Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005, outlines the following procedures for the election of a Mayor.

#### **Returning Officer**

In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 7, the General Manager (or a person appointed by the General Manager) is the Returning Officer.

#### **Nomination**

A Councillor may be nominated without notice for election as Mayor. The nomination is to be made in writing by two or more Councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.

### **3.1 Election of Mayor and Voting Procedure (contd)**

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The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the Returning Officer, who shall announce the names of the nominees at the Council meeting at which the election is to be held.

#### **Election**

If only one Councillor is nominated for the position of Mayor, that Councillor is elected. If more than one Councillor is nominated Council must determine if voting is to proceed by preferential ballot, by ordinary ballot (both secret ballots) or by Open Voting (voting by a show of hands or similar means). The elections of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are the only times Council can choose to vote by way of secret ballot. In all other matters open voting must be used. The election is to be held at the Council meeting at which the Council resolves on the method of voting.

#### **Ordinary Ballot**

- 1 If the election proceeds by ordinary ballot, the Returning Officer is to decide the manner in which votes are to be marked on the ballot-papers.
- 2
  - a If there are only two candidates, the candidate with the higher number of votes is elected.
  - b If there are only two candidates and they are tied, the one elected is to be chosen by lot.
- 3
  - a If there are three or more candidates, the one with the lowest number of votes is to be excluded.
  - b If three or more candidates then remain, a further vote is to be taken of those candidates and the one with the lowest number of votes from that further vote is to be excluded.
  - c If, after that, three or more candidates still remain, the procedure set out in subclause 3 (b) is to be repeated until only two candidates remain.
  - d A further vote is to be taken of the two remaining candidates.
  - e Clause 2 of the above then applies to the determination of the election as if the two remaining candidates had been the only candidates.
  - f If at any stage during a count under subclause 3 (a) or 3 (b), two or more candidates are tied on the lowest number of votes, the one excluded is to be chosen by lot.

#### **Open Voting**

Follows the same procedures as for ordinary ballot excepting it is by a show of hands or similar means.

### **3.1 Election of Mayor and Voting Procedure (contd)**

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#### **Preferential Ballot**

- 1 This Part applies if the election proceeds by preferential ballot.
- 2 The ballot papers are to contain the names of all the candidates. The Councillors are to mark their votes by placing the numbers "1", "2" and so on against the various names so as to indicate the order of their preference for all the candidates.

#### **Count**

- 1 If a candidate has an absolute majority of first preference votes, that candidate is elected.
- 2 If not, the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes is excluded and the votes on the unexhausted ballot-papers counted to him or her are transferred to the candidates with second preferences on those ballot-papers.
- 3 A candidate who then has an absolute majority of votes is elected, but, if no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes, the process of excluding the candidate who has the lowest number of votes and counting each of his or her unexhausted ballot-papers to the candidates remaining in the election next in order of the voter's preference is repeated until one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes. The latter is elected.
- 4 In this clause "absolute majority" in relation to votes means a number which is more than one-half of the number of formal unexhausted ballot-papers.

#### **Tied Candidates**

- 1 If, on any count of votes, there are two candidates in, or remaining in, the election and the numbers of votes cast for the two candidates are equal the candidate whose name is first chosen by lot is taken to have received an absolute majority of votes and is therefore taken to be elected.
- 2 If, on any count of votes, there are three or more candidates in, or remaining in, the election and the numbers of votes cast for two or more candidates are equal and those candidates are the ones with the lowest number of votes on the count of the votes the candidate whose name is first chosen by lot is taken to have the lowest number of votes and is therefore excluded.

#### **Ballot Papers**

Ballot papers will be issued at the election as required. The Returning Officer will decide the manner in which votes are to be marked on the ballot papers.

### Formality of Ballot Paper

Under Schedule 7 to the Local Government (General) Regulations, 2005, the formality of a ballot paper will be determined in accordance with Clause 345, 1 (b) (c), 6 and 6A of that Regulation, as follows:

- 345 (1) *A ballot-paper of an elector at an election is informal if:*
- (b) it has not been initialled on the front by an election official, or*
  - (c) it contains a mark or writing that, in the returning officer's opinion, would enable the elector to be identified.*
- (6) *Despite subclause (1), a ballot-paper of an elector at an election is not informal by virtue of the existence of an unnecessary mark on the ballot-paper if, in the opinion of the returning officer, the elector's intention is clearly indicated on the ballot-paper.*
- (6A) *Despite subclause (1), a ballot-paper is not informal by reason only that the elector has placed one or more numbers, a tick or one or more crosses, adjacent to but outside a square or squares, if, in the opinion of the returning officer, the elector's intention is clearly indicated on the ballot-paper. In such a case, each such number, tick or cross is taken to have been placed within the relevant square.*

### General

To choose a candidate by lot, the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes are written on similar slips of paper by the Returning Officer, the slips are folded by the Returning Officer so as to prevent the names being seen, the slips are mixed and one is drawn at random by the Returning Officer and the candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is chosen.

It is custom at Wyong Council that each nominee for the Office of Mayor may appoint one scrutineer who is not a Councillor.

Two Nomination Forms for the position of Mayor have been enclosed with the Business Paper.

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Two nomination forms for the position of Mayor Enclosure D03728450

### **3.2 Election of Deputy Mayor**

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TRIM REFERENCE: F2004/06511 - D03728476

MANAGER: Lesley Crawley, Manager Corporate Governance

AUTHOR: Sonia Witt; TL Governance and Councillor Services

#### **SUMMARY**

Nominations are invited for the Office of Deputy Mayor for the term from September 2013 to September 2014. The election is held in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005 and Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

The Local Government Act states:

#### ***"231 Deputy mayor***

- (1) *The councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the deputy mayor.*
- (2) *The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.*
- (3) *The deputy mayor may exercise any function of the mayor at the request of the mayor or if the mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of mayor.*
- (4) *The councillors may elect a person from among their number to act as deputy mayor if the deputy mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising a function under this section, or if no deputy mayor has been elected."*

The Code of Meeting Practice provides that the procedures will be the same as those which apply to the election of the Mayor.

Two Nomination Forms for the position of Deputy Mayor have been enclosed with the Business Paper.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1** *That Council determine whether to appoint the position of a Deputy Mayor.*
- 2** *That Council conduct the election of Deputy Mayor in the same manner as the election of Mayor for the term September 2013 to September 2014.*

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1** Two nomination forms for the position of Deputy Mayor Enclosure D03728491