



Central Coast Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting

Held via *Microsoft Teams* on 13 April 2021,
Commencing at 3.32pm

Present

Dick Persson AM	Central Coast Council Administrator
Carl Millington (Interim Chair)	Independent member
John Gordon	Independent member

In Attendance

David Farmer	Chief Executive Officer
Rik Hart	Interim Chief Executive Officer (Former)
Natalia Cowley	Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer
Tina Baker	Chief Internal Auditor
Peter Correy	Unit Manager Finance
Shane Sullivan	Unit Manager Governance and Risk
James Taylor	Section Manager Governance
Zoie Magann	Meeting Support Officer

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

The Chairperson, Carl Millington, opened the meeting.

Apologies received:

Dr Colin Gellatly

Natalia Cowley (Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer) thanked members for convening on short notice and noted the meeting is to provide an update on progress of the 2019/20 Financial Statements.

1.2 Disclosures of Interest

Resolution

30/2021(ARIC) John Gordon declared a perceived less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest as done so previously, in regard to discussion around audit of Council's Financial Statements as:

- a. he was a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for a period of 22 years, retiring December 2008. PwC were the Auditors for the former Gosford and Wyong Councils in 2016. John was not involved in either of the 2016 Council audits; and*
- b. he is an independent member of the NSW Audit Office Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee who are the Auditors of Central Coast Council. The Committee does not discuss client business.*

John indicated he would leave the meeting as required.

2 FINANCE

2.1 Presentation of Financial Statements and related Auditor's Reports for Central Coast Council and Central Coast Council Water Supply Authority for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Natalia Cowley (Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer) provided an update on the progress of the 2019/20 Financial Statements and related Audit for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. The Audit is not yet finalised as some reporting details still need confirmation.

Resolution

31/2021(ARIC) The Committee noted the verbal update provided by the Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer regarding the prior period error, going concern, and limitation of scope for the 2019/20 Financial Statements.

32/2021(ARIC) *The Committee is satisfied with the processes being undertaken by Council to finalise the 2019/20 Financial Statements and support the approach in principle, pending further review of the statements and comments to be submitted to the Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer by Thursday 15 April 2021.*

33/2021(ARIC) *The Committee is comfortable with the pragmatic approach to this complex situation, and agrees with the intent to progress to finalisation of the 2019/20 Financial Statements.*

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Central Coast Council Chief Executive Officer

It was noted that Rik Hart's term as Council's Interim Chief Executive Officer concludes as of Monday, 12 April 2021. David Farmer commenced as Chief Executive Officer following appointment at the 25 February 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting.

The Committee thanked Rik for his input and welcomed David.

3.2 Revised ARIC Charter

The Administrator, Dick Persson AM, noted a report is coming to Council at the 13 April 2021 Ordinary Council meeting that proposes a revised ARIC Charter. The proposed changes include amendment to Councillor representation on ARIC. Mr Persson sought feedback from the Committee.

The meeting closed at 4.52pm.

Next Meeting Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 16 June 2021
2pm – 5pm
Microsoft Teams/Wyong Committee Room