

7.2 Councillor Representatives on Advisory Committees and Other External Bodies

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY
TO 02 FEBRUARY 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, A0110015

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. receive the report by the Director Community on the Councillor Representatives on Advisory Committees and Other External Bodies;
2. appoint Councillor representatives to the following Council Advisory Committees:
 - 2.1 Mid-Western Regional Youth Council (2 Councillors)
 - 2.2 Mid-Western Regional Access Committee
 - 2.3 Mudgee Sports Council
 - 2.4 Gulgong Sports Council
 - 2.5 Kandos & Rylstone Sports Council
 - 2.6 Mudgee Showground Committee
 - 2.7 Red Hill Reserve Working Party
 - 2.8 Seniors Week Planning Committee
3. appoint Councillor representatives to the following State Significant Development Community Consultative Committees:
 - 3.1 Bowdens Silver Community Consultative Committee
 - 3.2 Inglenook and Charbon Community Consultative Committee
 - 3.3 Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee
 - 3.4 Moolarben Coal Community Consultative Committee
 - 3.5 Ulan Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee
 - 3.6 Wilpinjong Coal Community Consultative Committee
 - 3.7 Burrendong Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee
 - 3.8 Barneys Reef Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee
4. appoint Council representatives to the following other external bodies and committees:

- 4.1 Cudgegong Bushfire Management Committee**
 - 4.2 Western Joint Regional Planning Panel (2 Councillors and 2 alternates)**
 - 4.3 Mid-Western Local Traffic Committee**
 - 4.4 Mudgee Region Tourism**
 - 4.5 Murray Darling Association**
 - 4.6 Arts Out West**
 - 4.7 Public Libraries NSW**
- 5. decline the invitation to provide a Councillor representative for the Lachlan Regional Transport Committee.**

Executive summary

The following report seeks to appoint Council representatives for advisory committees that Council seeks to establish as well as representatives on other external bodies and committees. Some background is provided on the history of Council Section 355 Committees and Advisory Committees as well as setting out the expectations of the Office of Local Government.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Advisory Committees play an important role in the way that Council communicates with the community across a range of issues. In previous years, Council has established Committees under Section 355 of the Local Government Act. It is proposed to Council that we rationalise our approach to these Committees and focus more on the benefit of these as Advisory Committees.

As per Council Circular 16-24 from the Office of Local Government, Council is encouraged to regularly review the operations of Committees formed under Section 355 of the Local Government Act to ensure they continue to be fit for purpose, and their functions and expenditures align with the goals of the incoming council's Delivery Program.

Historically, previous Councils had established many Committees that would oversee a variety of facilities and undertake functions such as taking bookings for sportsgrounds or community halls. All of these functions are now provided by Council. Some examples of these Committees are the various Sports Councils, the Mudgee Showground Management Committee and the Gulgong Memorial Hall Committee.

Previous Councils also established Committees where Council felt that it needed additional specialist input as it did not necessarily have enough expertise on staff. Examples of these Committees include the Cultural Development Committee, the Heritage Committee and the Environment Committees.

There have also been some issues with the operation of some Section 355 Committees, particularly with the ability to reach a quorum. A number of Committees have been affected by

this from time to time during the last term of Council including the Cultural Development Committee, the Access Committee and the Mudgee Showground Committee.

It is proposed that a number of Committees would be better managed as Advisory Committees that do not need to be fully constituted as Section 355 Committees. Under this plan, meetings could still be managed by staff with input from the public but the need for more formal processes such as quorums, motions and annual general meetings would not be required. Consultation at these meetings can be more focused on strategic objectives and discussion around future plans for Council facilities and operations and services. It would also mean that any member of the community can take part in these advisory committees rather than requiring Council to endorse members who have been nominated. This has worked well with other working parties and consultation processes that have taken place more recently (such as the Flirtation Hill Working Party).

It is recommended that whatever decisions are made around this, all advisory committees consider their Terms of Reference at the next meeting. Advisory committees meet 2-4 times each year.

It is proposed that some Committees are no longer required. Of the Committees that were in operation in the second half of 2021, it is recommended that the Australia Day Selection Committee, the Gulgong Memorial Hall Committee and the Cultural Development Committee are no longer required.

The function of the Australia Day Selection Committee is to consider nominations for the Australia Day Awards. Determining who is on the selection panel for this can be dealt with at any meeting of Council. It does not require a Section 355 Committee to be constituted.

The function of the Gulgong Memorial Hall Committee is to promote the use of the Gulgong Memorial Hall. They also organise a Christmas event. The operation of the hall itself in terms of major maintenance issues as well as bookings and collection of fees are all managed by Council staff. We are now in a different time to when this Committee was established. In previous times, the Committee managed all of the bookings and takings. There is also a lease agreement in place with the Gulgong Men's Shed to provide an additional layer of community oversight to ensure the Hall is looked after.

The original function of the Cultural Development Committee was to assist Council to undertake the works highlighted in the Cultural Plan. Fifteen years ago, Council did not have any specialist cultural staff. With the opening of the Mudgee Arts Precinct, this has changed and specialist, qualified staff are now available to manage cultural matters for Council and the community.

It is important that Council review the operation of these Committees as they do require resources to ensure they are functioning effectively. Council is also spending resources in more significant consultation processes outside of these Committee structures. It is believed that this updated approach will lead to a better overall result for the community.

The link between Councillors and these advisory committees is important and thus Council should continue to select a representative Councillor. Rather than having Section 355 Committees where positions such as Chair or President are elected, it is proposed that the representative Councillor can chair the meetings.

It is noted that it is ultimately up to Council which Committees it would like to see and in what form. It is also open to Councillors to discuss and recommend other advisory committees that may be required or consider previous Committees that were not operational at the end of the

previous term (such as Heritage, Environment, Saleyards, Community Safety and previous Hall Committees such as Botobolar).

In terms of appointing Council representatives to other external bodies and Committees, it is noted that it is a requirement for Council to have a representative on the ones listed in the recommendation For the State Significant Developments, it is required that this representative be a Councillor. There are a couple of external bodies such as Arts OutWest and Public Libraries NSW where the representative does not need to be a Councillor. However, it is up to Council to determine this.

The following is a table of the current Committees and their most recent representative as well as the proposal for the Committee in the future.

Committee	Previous Representative	Proposal
Mid-Western Regional Youth Council	Cr Paine, Cr Karavas	Advisory Committee meeting monthly or bi-monthly
Mid-Western Regional Access Committee	Cr Paine, Cr Karavas	Advisory Committee meeting 2-4 times per year
Mudgee Sports Council	Cr O'Neill	Advisory Committee meeting 2-4 times per year
Gulgong Sports Council	Cr Thompson	Advisory Committee meeting 2-4 times per year
Kandos & Rylstone Sports Council	Cr Shelley	Advisory Committee meeting 2-4 times per year
Mudgee Showground Committee	Cr Karavas, Cr Holden	Advisory Committee meeting 2-4 times per year
Red Hill Reserve Working Party	Cr Thompson, Cr Cavalier	Advisory Committee meeting 2-4 times per year
Seniors Week Planning Committee	Cr Thompson, Cr Martens	Advisory Committee meeting as required
Australia Day Selection Committee	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and another Councillor	Committee no longer required
Gulgong Memorial Hall Committee	Cr Thompson	Committee no longer required

External Committee	Previous Representative	Comments
Bowdens Silver CCC	Cr O'Neill	
Inglenook & Charbon CCC	Cr Martens	
Crudine Ridge Wind Farm CCC	Cr Karavas	
Moolarben Coal CCC	Cr Kennedy, Cr O'Neill	

Ulan Coal Mine CCC	Cr Kennedy, Cr Martens	
Wilpinjong Mine CCC	Cr Kennedy	
Burrendong Wind Farm CCC	Cr Paine	
Barneys Reef Wind Farm CCC		New request
External Committee	Previous Representative	Comments
Cudgegong Bushfire Management Committee	Cr Cavalier, Cr Thompson	
Western Joint Regional Planning Panel	Cr Holden, Cr Cavalier	2 Councillors and 2 alternates recommended
Mid-Western Local Traffic Committee	Cr Karavas	
Mudgee Region Tourism Inc.	Mayor	General Manager is alternate
Murray Darling Association	Cr Kennedy, Cr Holden	
Arts OutWest	Lizzy Galloway (staff)	Can be a Councillor, staff member or community member
Public Libraries NSW	Cr Paine	Councillor preferred

In addition to these Committees, it is noted that the Mayor and General Manager are representatives on the Mudgee Health Council by invitation.

It is also noted that a letter of request has come from the Lachlan Valley Transport Committee suggesting involvement from this Council. This is not recommended given the distance between this Council and the area of interest to the Lachlan Valley Transport Committee, which is focused on the area south of the Blayney Shire.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Governance
Goal	Strong civic leadership
Strategy	Provide accountable and transparent decision making for the community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Community Strategic Plan

Council Policies

Code of Conduct

Legislation

Local Government Act

Financial implications

The three Sports Councils are currently provided with a separate budget that allows them to make recommendations to Council for expenditure. It is proposed that these budgets cease operation from the end of June 2022. However, the funds that are currently within those budgets will be held to allow the Sports Councils as advisory committees to make recommendations to Council on the expenditure of those funds.

Associated Risks

The result of the recommendation is to ensure that all Council operations and finances are managed fully by the organisation with full oversight of the management of Council funds. While these operational frameworks are important, it is also important that appropriate opportunities are provided for ongoing community consultation on a variety of matters and advisory committees are one way in which Council can have this contact with the community and liaise with those groups, organisations and individuals who may be impacted by Council operations, projects and decisions.

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

17 January 2022

Attachments: 1. Lachlan Regional Transport Committee letter.
2. Burrendong Wind Farm CCC.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

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ACTING GENERAL MANAGER



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Dear General Managers

As you may be aware that the Lachlan Regional Transport Committee was established in Gooloogong on the 19th July 1983 as a result of the then State Government announcing that all branch lines country passenger trains would cease at the end of that year.

Since that year the LRTC has written many submissions and maintained dialogue with all levels of Government about freight and passenger transport. Including the reopening of the Blayney to Harden including Greenethorpe and the completion of the Picton to Port Kembla Line for freight to Port.

Our mission is to establish the most efficient and fair transport system covering all means of transport for freight and people in the State of New South Wales.

The LRTC has widened its membership to include Wollondilly, Wollongong, Dubbo, Lachlan Shire, Cowra Shire, Weddin Shire, Temora Shire, Hilltops Council, Cabonne Shire and Lachlan Valley Rail, plus a wide range of private members from across the State.

The LRTC is now requesting your council's ongoing support for the coming year so this Committee can continue its mission to improve all Rail Services. Please advise by return email contact details and names for your Councils LRTC delegates.

Please General Managers would you include this letter in your next meetings correspondence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Hughes".

Thanking You
Dennis Hughes
Sec/Trea LRTC

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Mr. Brad Cam
General Manager
Mid-Western Regional Council

BY EMAIL

**Burrendong Wind Farm
Community Consultative Committee**

Dear Sir,

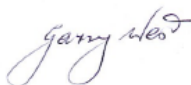
As you will recall the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) determined that a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) be established for the Burrendong Wind Farm project and I was appointed as the Independent Chairperson.

A CCC is not a decision making or regulatory body, however it performs an important advisory and consultative role.

Following the 2021 Local Government elections it is important that Council nominate its representative(s) to attend the CCC meetings.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at garry.west@gbwconsulting.com.au or on my mobile if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Garry West

3 January 2022