

## 12.2 Red Hill Advisory Committee Meeting - 31 May 2023

### REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

TO 19 JULY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400103, A0190002

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Director Community on the Red Hill Advisory Committee Meeting - 31 May 2023;**
2. **note the minutes of the Red Hill Reserve Working Party meeting held on 31 May 2023; and**
3. **adopt the Terms of Reference for the Red Hill Reserve Working Party.**

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### Executive summary

This report seeks to inform Council on the Red Hill Advisory Committee Meeting held on 31 May 2023. This Committee has been established by Council to provide advice on the Red Hill site.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

A meeting of the Red Hill Advisory Committee ('the Committee') was held on 31 May 2023. There were a number of issues raised at the meeting by members of the Committee and these are contained in the minutes for review by Council. Several motions were supported by the Committee, although not always unanimously. If Council is of a mind to support any of these items, then an appropriate statement should be added to the recommendation.

The Committee again proposed that Council should make application for the Red Hill site to be added to the NSW State Heritage Register. This idea has been presented to Council previously but has not been further action by Council. If Council is supportive of this proposal then this should be added to the recommendation together with an appropriate budget for work on this matter to be undertaken.

Members of the Committee raised some concerns about the way that Committee meetings were being run and also had concerns about the proposed Terms of Reference. As noted in the minutes, the Committee specifically noted that they expect a minimum of four meetings a year for the Committee. The Committee also wanted to see a requirement for Council to report back to the Committee on each of their recommendations to Council. These items have not been included in the attached Terms of Reference for adoption. However, Council is able to make any amendments to the Terms of Reference to be adopted for the Committee.

The Committee expressed disappointment in the lack of consultation with the Committee over the draft Plan of Management for Red Hill.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to Council for the works undertaken on the Red Hill Cottage. As Council is aware, the cottage has been refurbished to allow for a visitor information centre and café to compliment the Gulgong Gold Experience on the site.

There was significant discussion about the proposal to construct the Gulgong Natural History Museum at the Red Hill precinct. There was strong opposition to this proposal from some members of the Committee. More detailed discussion on this and the related motions supported by a majority of the Committee are included in the minutes. There was a clear sense from some members of the Committee that Council had erred in not consulting the Committee prior to the submission of the funding application. It should be noted that a briefing was provided to the Committee at their meeting in October 2022 soon after the funding application was submitted.

While members of the Committee had valid points to make in terms of the discussion about the Gulgong Natural History Museum, it is disappointing that discussions at the Committee meeting occasionally descended into personal attacks. The finalisation of the Terms of Reference is vital to ensure that there is a good understanding of the role that Council would like the Committee to perform.

It is also noted that, at the time of writing this report, further consultation on the Gulgong Natural History Museum is underway with the Gulgong community. Results on this consultation are likely to be reported to the August Council meeting.

Council has also received a letter from the Gulgong Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is requesting a representative of the Chamber be included as a member of the Committee. It is not recommended that this be supported at this stage. To the best of the knowledge of staff, the Chamber has not previously had a designated representative – all representatives have been appointed as community members, with the exception of the State Government representative from the Red Hill Environmental Education Centre. If Council wishes to support a specific Gulgong Chamber of Commerce representative to be on the Committee, this should be included in the recommendation.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	Vibrant towns and villages
Strategy	Respect and enhance the historic character of our region and heritage value of our towns

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Community Strategic Plan  
Red Hill Master Plan

### **Council Policies**

Not Applicable

### **Legislation**

The Red Hill Committee is operating under Section 355 of the Local Government Act (1993)

## Financial implications

Any further capital works at the Red Hill site will require budget approval.

## Associated Risks

Not Applicable

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

26 June 2023

*Attachments:*

1. Red Hill Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 31 May 2023.
2. Letter - to MWRC Chamber Position on Red Hill 355 Committee.
3. Terms of Reference - Red Hill Reserve Working Party 2023 - for adoption.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER



MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL  
PO Box 156, MUDGEE NSW 2850  
86 Market Street, Mudgee | 109 Herbert Street, Gulgong | 77 Louee Street, Rylstone  
T 1300 765 002 or 02 6378 2850 | F 02 6378 2815  
E council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au

## MINUTES

### RED HILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting commenced at 3.05pm on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at Red Hill School Gulgong

Attendees: Councillor Percy Thompson (Chair), Joy Harrison, Tony Harrison, Chris Pearson, David Warner, Rebecca Neilsen, Bill Murphy, Richard Cushway (MWRC Staff), Simon Jones (MWRC Staff).

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Paul Cavalier

**Moved: J Harrison    Seconded: D Warner    Carried unanimously**

#### 2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 2022

David Warner queried the action item to 'review process of listing Red Hill Site on the State Heritage Register'. Council staff reminded all Committee members that the request from the Committee in April 2022 to seek support from Council was actioned and included in the August 2022 Council report on the Red Hill Committee Meeting and Minutes. This request from the Red Hill Committee was not supported by the Council in this meeting.

**Motion – that the Committee again seek support from Council to make application for the Red Hill Site to be added to the NSW State Heritage register.**

**Moved: D Warner    Seconded: J Harrison    Carried unanimously**

#### 3. RED HILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council staff reminded the Committee that the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Red Hill Advisory Committee had been circulated via email following the last Committee meeting in October 2022.

Chris Pearson then raised concern that he believed the draft ToR was not aligned to the Local Government Act for a Section 355 Committee. There was some discussion on this matter including whether this was a reference to Council's 2005 document "Code of Practice for Section 355 Committees".

The Committee specifically noted that they would like to see a minimum of 4 meetings a year and reference to Council being required to report back to Committee members on their recommendations to Council.

***Motion – The Committee would like to express their disappointment with the level of consultation during the development of the (draft) Plan of Management for Red Hill.***

***Moved: D Warner    Seconded: C Pearson    Carried unanimously***

#### **4. GULGONG GOLD EXPERIENCE REPORT**

It was reported that the GGE has been going really well and the visitation has been continuing to increase. ***Council Staff Action – GGE Report for July – Dec 2022 to be circulated by Council staff to the Committee and also included with the minutes.***

#### **5. REVISED MOU – GGE & RED HILL COTTAGE**

Council staff advised the revised MOU for the Cottage had been adopted by Council and the Tourist Office & Tea Room is due to open in July 2023. Joy Harrison advised the hours of operation as Wed-Sun 10am till 2pm (closed Mon and Tues except for Public Holidays). Joy advised the opening date as 15<sup>th</sup> July (after school holidays) however the GGE will open during school holidays.

#### **6. RED HILL COTTAGE REFURBISHMENT & OPENING OF TEAM ROOM / TOURIST OFFICE**

The refurbishment of the Red Hill Cottage was discussed and an invitation was extended to the Committee members to attend the site following the meeting.

***Council Staff Action – to investigate extending the disabled car park bay on the western side following input from Bill Murphy.***

***Motion – That the Committee wishes to pass on their appreciation and thanks to Council for the works done in refurbishing Red Hill Cottage.***

***Moved: D Warner    Seconded: B Murphy    Carried unanimously***

#### **7. GOLD EXPERIENCE WALKWAY**

Council staff advised the works are due to commence in June 2023.

#### **8. GULGONG NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

David Warner began discussions with a pre-prepared statement which opened with a declaration of a non-pecuniary interest in this proposal as he has a long association with Red Hill and is passionate about the site. David then explained his extensive experience and knowledge of the Red Hill site and that there was a lack of communication and consultation with the committee on this proposed development.

David then tabled the following documents for attention of the Committee and Council staff;

1. *The Burra Charter (2013) – Australia ICOMOS International Council on Monuments and Sites*
2. *Council's Heritage Conservation Fact Sheet*
3. *Council's Conservation Management Plan for Red Hill Gulgong (2002)*

David then put forward the following motions to the Committee and these were discussed and voted on in the meeting.

**Motion 1** – This Committee, in exercising its responsibilities to the Gulgong community, strongly recommends that the Red Hill Reserve, or at the very least, those areas covering the Red Hill Mining Museum and Historical Precinct (Sections 472 and 458 on DP755434) should be classified as areas of CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE and thus be granted the same status, in terms of their Management Objectives and Strategies etc., as applies to the Red Hill Cottage, i.e. “to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (including its historical, technical, research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods” (MWRC DPOM page 66).

**Moved: D Warner    Seconded: C Pearson**

**For: Cr Thompson, D Warner, C Pearson, B Murphy, Against: J Harrison, Abstained: T Harrison, Carried by a vote of 4 to 1**

**Motion 2** – This Committee, in exercising its responsibilities to the Gulgong community, strongly advises Council that the introduction of any elements and/or structures, including the proposed Natural History Museum, anywhere within the Red Hill precinct which have no relevance to the history of this cultural significant site, is not supported.

This advice is in line with:

- a. Council's on Heritage Conservation policies (MWRC Fact Sheet No. 001, July 2018) which states that: *professional guidelines are provided in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter and the Burra Charter (the Australia ICOMOS Charter for places of cultural significance), which underpins all heritage legislation in Australia.*
- b. The principles and protocols for the conservation and management of cultural heritage legislation in Australia.
- c. The conservation principles and protocols as outlined in the commissioned Conservation Management Plan for Red Hill, Gulgong (Draft Report April 2022) prepared by the internationally acclaimed (then) Sydney University archaeologist/conservationist/historian, Dr Aedeon Cremin.

- d. The stated intent of the Red Hill Exhibition Space as detailed in MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING – 16 OCTOBER 2019 REPORT 12.5 pages 164-165 AND in the MWRC DPOM Red Hill Reserve April 2021 page 51 (11.10 Development of New and Improvement of Existing Facilities) *“If developed we would see this Exhibition Space being utilised for a variety of Mining themed activities and would increase the length of time visitors would stay at the site and provide increased visitation to the region. It would be created in a style that references historical buildings depicted in old photographs from the Red Hill site. This space would be used to exhibit ‘old trades’ such as a blacksmith, leather maker and a wool spinner, and would provide memorable photo opportunities for visitors.”*

**Moved: D Warner    Seconded: B Murphy**

**For: Cr Thompson, D Warner, C Pearson, B Murphy, Against: J Harrison, Abstained: T Harrison, Carried by a vote of 4 to 1**

**Motion 3** – In line with the conservation management guidelines that are now available, this committee strongly advises Council that a review of the current Red Hill Master Plan 2019 is essential to ensure that the future strategic direction of the Red Hill Precinct is based on internationally accepted principles and protocols for the management of areas of cultural significance as outlined in: the Burra Charter, 2013; the commissioned Conservation Management Plan for Red Hill Gulgong (Draft Report April 2002); and MWRC DPOM Red Hill Reserve April 2021.

**Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter Process**

26.4 Statements of cultural significance and policy for the place should be periodically reviewed, and actions and their consequences monitored to ensure continuing appropriateness and effectiveness. (Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013).

**Moved: D Warner    Seconded: C Pearson**

**For: Cr Thompson, D Warner, C Pearson, B Murphy, Against: J Harrison, Abstained: T Harrison, Carried by a vote of 4 to 1**

David then proceeded to ask Council staff the following questions, all of which were taken on notice, with a response to be provided back to the Committee in due course.

1. *Given the role of this committee as stated by Council, and since community consultation is an acknowledged and fundamental part of the conservation process, why was there no consultation with the Gulgong community, nor with the committee*

*as a whole, leading up to Council’s decision to proceed with the development of the NHM and its location on Red Hill?*

2. *Why is it that only 2 members of this committee, who have a pecuniary interest in the development of the Red Hill Precinct, were privy to Council’s intention to proceed with the NHM prior to the last Red Hill Committee Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022? (Letter of Support from Joy Harrison – application due 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022)*
3. *What consultation was there by Council with heritage conservation specialists prior to proceeding with the planning for the NHM and, specifically, its location on Red Hill?*

**9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Council staff advised that discussions have been held recently between Council, Crown Lands and the regarding the request to extend the area of Crown Land that is managed by the NSW Dept Education further to the south.

Tony Harrison advised that the poppet head requires further works as it is deteriorating.

**Council Staff Action – to investigate repairs works required and action accordingly.**

*Meeting Closed 4.38pm*

*Next meeting confirmed for 16<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm Red Hill School.*

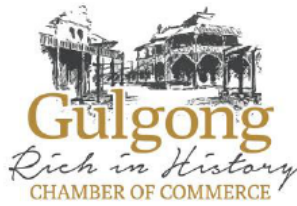
**ACTIONS – UPDATED 02/06/2022**

TASK	WHO	PROGRESS
Review process of listing Red Hill Site on State Heritage Register	MWRC	Committee has again sought Council support to apply for Red Hill to be added to the register. Council staff to add to report with minutes.
Consult with NSW Dept of Planning re possible funding for Signage	COMMITTEE/MWRC	No Action



Extend GGE MOU to include operations of Visitor Information Centre and Tea Room	MWRC	COMPLETED (REMOVE FROM ACTION LIST)
Installation of Mullock Heaps around Red Hill site	COMMITTEE	No Action
Repair/upgrade of pathway between Cottage and GGE entrance	MWRC	Work to commence June 2023
Improved Directional Signage to the new Visitor Information Centre (Cottage) once open.	MWRC	To be considered as cottage works progress
Gulgong Gold Experience Activity Report	MWRC	COMPLETED (REMOVE FROM ACTION LIST)
Draft Plan of Management	MWRC	COMPLETED (REMOVE FROM ACTION LIST)
Automated entrance gate for Gulgong Gold Experience	MWRC/GGE	To be investigated with Council staff and update provided at next meeting

Temp ID: GCOC-LET    Template Ver No: 2.2



PO Box 400  
GULGONG NSW 2852

03 May 2023

Mid-Western Regional Council  
PO Box 156  
MUDGEES NSW 2852

**Request to have the Gulgong Chamber of Commerce Represented on the Red Hill 355 Committee**

Gulgong Chamber of Commerce requests that Ms Voren O'Brien, who chairs the Chamber's Museums and Tourism Liaison (Working) Group, be appointed to the Red Hill 355 Committee as its representative.

Mr Bill Murphy, who represented the Gulgong Chamber of Commerce on the Red Hill 355 Committee has advised that he is a member of the subject Committee in a different role.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

**PAUL FOOKES**

Secretary

M: 0448 741 446

E: [secretary@gulgong.com.au](mailto:secretary@gulgong.com.au)





## TERMS OF REFERENCE Red Hill Reserve Working Party

*A prosperous  
and progressive  
community.*

ADOPTED	REFERENCE
EMT	REVIEW DATE
DATE ADOPTED: <a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>	FILE NUMBER

### Preamble

Mid-Western Regional Council appreciates the advice, voluntary time, interest and dedication demonstrated by members of its advisory committees. Council will consider recommendations stated in minutes of Advisory Committees. Such recommendations are considered in the context of Council's management and strategic planning process.

### Responsibilities

The Red Hill Reserve Working Party will be primarily responsible for providing advice to Council on the Red Hill Precinct and the Red Hill Masterplan.

The Committee will:

- Provide input to Council on maintenance issues or where improvements are required
- Provide input to Council on the Red Hill Masterplan and suggestions on future expansion
- Promote the use of the Red Hill Reserve to locals and visitors to the region
- Share any feedback received on the Red Hill Reserve from members of the community

### Composition of Committee

The Committee shall comprise of the following:

- 1 or 2 Councillors
- 1 Council Staff member
- 1 RHEEC Staff member
- 8 Community members (up to)

### Meeting frequency and quorum

The Committee shall meet 2 times per calendar year. A quorum does not apply.

### Delegations

NIL

### Council contact and support

The Manager Customer Services & Governance is the Council contact officer for the Committee