

MINUTES OF THE RURAL FIRE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017
Location: Seven Mile Meeting Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 5.30pm

The following members were present:

Clr Joanna Gash - Chairperson
Clr Mitchell Pakes
Mr Chris Palmer - Acting District Manager, Shoalhaven Rural Fire Service
Mr Ben Stewart - Director Assets & Works
Mr Paul Gooley
Ms Jennifer Lawther
Mr Andrew Fielding
Mr Vic Walker
Mr Geoff Phillips

Others present:
Clr Patricia White
Megan Birmingham – Shoalhaven City Council
Lynda Ho – Shoalhaven City Council

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Mayor Amanda Findley, Clrs Nina Cheyne, Mark Kitchener, Greg Watson and Mr Mark Williams.

The Committee welcomed Mr Chris Palmer, Acting District Manager, for Mark Williams.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Vic Walker / Andrew Fielding)

That the Minutes of the Rural Fire Service Strategic Planning Committee held on Thursday 9 February 2017 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Clr Pakes – IEMC “Pad Mount” Transformer – significant non pecuniary interest declaration – Surf Life Saving (SLS) member – remained in the room and did not take part in the vote.

REPORTS

RF17.13 Rural Fire Service Update - May 2017

**HPERM Ref:
D17/138979**

It was noted that Council staff were working through the issues associated with the “pad mount” transformer, including getting an easement through Endeavour Energy.

Formal access for the IEMC through the Crown land “Dog Track” had seen delays to the subdivision due to process requirements for an Aboriginal Land claim.

Ben Stewart undertook to send an update to the Committee when the Aboriginal Land claim is resolved.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee receives the report for information.

RESOLVED (Andrew Fielding / Paul Gooley)

That the Committee receives the report for information.

CARRIED

RF17.14 RFS Infrastructure Preface

**HPERM Ref:
D17/129766**

Paul Gooley noted that funds would be sought in future budgets for projects with a budget shortfall. The Training and Logistics centre was not expected to proceed without the full support of Head Office.

Clr Pakes queried the disparity between the allocated budget and the final cost of projects. In response it was noted that initial cost estimates were based on a builders estimate and were not as comprehensive as a quantity estimator; the standardisation of station design had inflated construction costs and fire truck replacement often necessitated stations being modified for larger bays. Paul Gooley noted that if the Shoalhaven RFS had shovel-ready projects, these could receive funding in preference to other areas.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee receives the report for information.

RESOLVED (Paul Gooley / Andrew Fielding)

That the Committee receives the report for information.

CARRIED

RF17.15 Other RFS Infrastructure Projects

**HPERM Ref:
D17/129956**

In relation to staff movements, James Morris had been seconded to Head Office to take up a media role. It had been challenging to find staff to backfill Chris Palmer’s and James Morris’ position.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee receives the report for information.

RESOLVED (Geoff Phillips / Jennifer Lawther)

That the Committee receives the report for information.

CARRIED

RF17.16 IEMC 92 Albatross Road, South Nowra Master Plan

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130033**

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Council reports to the Committee on the status of the sub division of "Dog Track Road" and pursue this to completion as a matter of priority.

RESOLVED (Paul Gooley / Chris Palmer)

That Council reports to the Committee on the status of the sub division of "Dog Track Road" and pursue this to completion as a matter of priority.

CARRIED

RF17.17 West Nowra Rural Fire Station

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130048**

Clr Pakes noted that staff had been liaising with SLS and their contribution towards the transformer was known. However, he queried what the contribution of the other volunteer services would be. Council would pay a proportion of the cost of the transformer and Ben Stewart undertook to clarify the other payment contribution obligations. The RFS and Logistics Centre would be key demands of the new transformer.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Council expedites the installation and connection of the Pad Mount transformer and connection of permanent power to the WNFS so as all electrical installations can be utilised.

RESOLVED (Vic Walker / Chris Palmer)

That Council expedites the installation and connection of the Pad Mount transformer and connection of permanent power to the WNFS so as all electrical installations can be utilised.

CARRIED

RF17.18 Milton Catering Station Extensions

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130069**

Paul Gooley noted that the leaking hydrant at the Milton Catering Station has been capped and the site was drying out pending negotiations on the maintenance and drainage works to the driveway. The entrance to the station may be relocated as part of these works. Discussion of this matter was ongoing.

Paul Gooley undertook to report back to Ben Stewart on the state of the driveway once it had dried out.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Council & RFS meet on site to plan the proposed alternate station access using Woodstock Road, and work with the RFS to rectify maintenance and drainage issues which remain post

hydrant relocation.

RESOLVED (Paul Gooley / Clr Pakes)

That Council & RFS meet on site to plan the proposed alternate station access using Woodstock Road, and work with the RFS to rectify maintenance and drainage issues which remain post hydrant relocation.

CARRIED

RF17.19 Broughton Vale / Berry Rural Fire Station

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130099**

Staff advised that Crown Lands expected Council to pay for the RFS station site. RFS would only partner with HINFRA if this proved cost effective, otherwise RFS hoped HINFRA would ensure the services were situated as close as possible to the RFS station site. Discussions were ongoing.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That

1. Council and the District Manager continue to work with HINFRA, RMS and Dept Lands to formalise the land use agreements and secure the identified land parcel
2. RFS works with Council on the formal designing, plan preparation, cost estimation and DA submission for the new station within the available land parcel
3. Council assesses and undertakes a cost benefit analysis between the following options:
 - a) Undertaking RFS construction works in sync with HINFRA Ambulance portion
 - b) Remaining separate to HINFRA works and running RFS project completely separately

RESOLVED (Andrew Fielding / Chris Palmer)

That

1. Council and the District Manager continue to work with HINFRA, RMS and Dept Lands to formalise the land use agreements and secure the identified land parcel
2. RFS works with Council on the formal designing, plan preparation, cost estimation and DA submission for the new station within the available land parcel
3. Council assesses and undertakes a cost benefit analysis between the following options:
 - a. Undertaking RFS construction works in sync with HINFRA Ambulance portion
 - b. Remaining separate to HINFRA works and running RFS project completely separately

CARRIED

RF17.20 IEMC "Pad Mount" Transformer

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130330**

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Council expedites the construction and finalisation of this project.

RESOLVED (Chris Palmer / Vic Walker)

That Council expedites the construction and finalisation of this project.

CARRIED

RF17.21 Bendalong / Cunjurong Point / Manyana Amalgamation

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130336**

Paul Gooley noted that it would be some time before the amalgamation was fully processed by Head Office as system updates took time. The new Manyana brigade was operating out of two stations. Bendalong station would be refurbished with a category 1 shed and be a satellite station of Cunjurong Point.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the District Manager continues to monitor the processing of the amalgamation request with a view to finalising this matter as matter of priority.

RESOLVED (Paul Gooley / Chris Palmer)

That the District Manager continues to monitor the processing of the amalgamation request with a view to finalising this matter as matter of priority.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

RF17.22 Code of Conduct

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130698**

There were no matters raised.

RF17.23 Work Health & Safety (WH&S)

**HPERM Ref:
D17/130710**

RFS colleagues were reminded that Work Cover was in the area carrying out forklift checks and staff should ensure their tickets are up-to-date.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 6.30pm.

Clr Joanna Gash
CHAIRPERSON