

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE OF UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD ON FRIDAY 14 APRIL 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SCONE COMMENCING AT
9.00AM**

PRESENT:

Cr Adam Williamson (Chair), Cr James Burns, Cr Elizabeth Flaherty and Cr Belinda McKenzie.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Greg McDonald (General Manager), Mr Wayne Phelps (Acting Director Corporate & Community Services) and Ms Karen Boland (Governance & Executive Support Officer).

APPLICATIONS FOR ATTENDING MEETING VIA VIDEO LINK

Nil

APOLOGIES:

Nil

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:

Nil

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Nil

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

CORP.04.1 *FINANCIAL SUMMARY & INVESTMENT REPORT*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Wayne Phelps - Acting Director Corporate & Community Services

23/084

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- 1. note the Fund and Function Summary Report;**
- 2. note the Cash and Investment Report;**
- 3. note the Responsible Accounting Officer's Statement on the Investments;**
- 4. note the Capital Works Expenditure Report; and**
- 5. adopt the proposed budget variations.**

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr E Flaherty

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Questions

Cr Flaherty enquired with regard to the reduction in administration and economic affairs costs by approximately \$704k, is Council able to be productive in these areas with fewer staff?

Response: Acting Director Corporate & Community Services advised that vacant roles have been covered internally reducing staffing costs.

Cr Flaherty further enquired whether the reduction in costs were all staff related costs or whether it included other costs.

Response: Taken on notice by the Acting Director Corporate & Community Services.

Cr Flaherty requested a breakdown of the cost revenue for the Hunter Warbirds Café.
Response: Taken on notice for the Acting Director Corporate & Community Services to provide.

Cr Flaherty enquired whether a schedule of loans held by Council could be provided in the monthly reports?

Response: Acting Director Corporate & Community Services advised a breakdown of the loans is provided at each quarterly meeting but can be included in the monthly meetings as well.

CORP.04.2

AIRPORT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Karen Lee - Senior Administration Officer - Business Services

23/085

RESOLVED

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the Airport Management Committee meeting held on 22 March 2023.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr B McKenzie

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Questions

Cr Flaherty sought clarification for the minutes of the Airport Management Committee where it stated *"the General Manager advised that context and some figures reported were incorrect"*, exactly what figures were incorrect?

Response: The General Manager advised that incorrect statements and incorrect figures were used during Cr Flaherty's radio interviews and also on her social media blog.

Cr Flaherty subsequently advised that all the financial information was drawn from Council figures and furthermore enquired if the figures had changed from the time that she saw these numbers to the time that she reiterated them?

Response: General Manager advised that the correct interpretation of the Council figures would be forwarded to all Councillors.

Cr Williamson advised that the question can be taken on notice.

CORP.04.3

RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Wayne Phelps - Acting Director Corporate & Community Services

AUTHOR: Karen Boland - Governance & Executive Support Officer

23/086

RESOLVED

For notation only.

Moved: Cr E Flaherty

Seconded: Cr B McKenzie

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CLOSED COMMITTEE

23/087

RESOLVED That Committee move into Closed Committee with the press and public excluded in accordance with Section 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr B McKenzie

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

CORP.04.1

PROPERTY UPDATE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Karen Lee - Senior Administration Officer - Business Services

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

23/088

RESOLVED

That the Committee note the updates on the Property Strategy.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr E Flaherty

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

23/089

RESOLVED That the meeting move back into Open Council.

Moved: Cr E Flaherty

Seconded: Cr B McKenzie

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Upon resuming Open Committee, and in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice, the General Manager stated that the committee noted the confidential property report.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40am.