

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL  
HELD ON 6 August 2025**

**1. PUBLIC FORUM**

**MINUTE**

**Melissa Cannon** - Proposed Renewable Energy Projects - Thanked Councillors for recent round table held on renewables. Spoke to the proposed impacts from the renewable projects. Raised a series of issues including; the accommodation needs, impacts on infrastructure, water supply, waste other services such as medical. Seeks Council to make a stand against the proposed, and advise the State Government.

**Louisa Umlay** - Renewable Energy Projects - Spoke to the Sunny Corner Program. Noted Someva 'neighbour program" is a "Trojan Horse". Raised concerns with this program & the construction of various clauses such as noise levels, shadow flicker. Noting that these impacts are higher than the NSW guidelines. Noted that if the property is sold, the new buyer is also required to enter into the deed prior to sale. Urges Council not to accept Someva's community investment program. Invited Councillors to the Sunny Corner area to see the potential impacts.

**Lou Lucano** - Bathurst Base Hospital Car Parking - Spoke to the Parking at the Bathurst Hospital. Thanked Councillor Fry for letter to Health Minister. Thanked Councillor Gullifer for his actions. Noted that he has read the CSP & noted disappointment that Community Health is not mentioned more. Urged Council to be more proactive to secure a sustainable car park.

**Geoff Fry** - Transparency & Communications - Spoke to the review of the Code of Conduct. Raised concerns of Your Say platform. Noted that this is not the time to restrict the time for the community to contact Council. Noted the community only has 3.5 days to discuss the items in the agenda with Councillors prior to the meeting.

## **2. MEETING COMMENCES**

### **MINUTE**

Meeting commenced at 6:15pm.

**Present:** Cr N Cranston, Cr B Fry, Cr T Gullifer, Cr N Packham, Cr R Taylor, Cr J Underwood, Cr E West, Cr S Wright

### **3. RECORDING OF MEETING**

### **4. PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

### **5. APOLOGIES**

### **MINUTE**

**MOVED: Cr T Gullifer   SECONDED: Cr E West**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the apology of Cr W Aubin be accepted and leave of absence granted.

## **6. MINUTES**

### **6.1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**File No: 11.00041**

#### **MINUTE**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: POL2025-14**

**MOVED: Cr T Gullifer SECONDED: Cr N Cranston**

**RESOLVED:**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of Bathurst Regional Council held on 2 July 2025 be adopted.

## **7. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

### **Declaration of Interest**

**MINUTE**

**NIL**

## **8. RECEIVE AND DEAL WITH GENERAL MANAGER'S AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

### **8.1.1. COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW - POLICIES REVIEWED WITH NO OR MINIMAL CHANGES IDENTIFIED: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR COUNCILLORS**

**File No: 11.00006**

#### **MINUTE**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: POL2025-15**

**MOVED: Cr B Fry SECONDED: Cr J Underwood**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council:

- a) Place the draft Governance - Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors Policy on public exhibition for 28 days, and
- b) Receive a further report following the exhibition period to consider adoption of the Policy.
- c) Enact this resolution immediately without the need for adoption at the Ordinary Council meeting.

Cr W Aubin connected in by Audio Visual link.

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

### GENERAL BUSINESS

#### MINUTE

**Cr N Cranston** - Renewable Energy Matter. Noted interest to visit to Sunny Corner. Urged Councillors to attend meeting as per invite by Louisa Umlay.

**Cr S Wright** - Public Forum. Asked that Mr Lucarno be provided Health Alliance contact details.

Financial Statement - Asked when draft figures for the financial statement will be available to be reviewed, last year feels they were ready in August.

General Manager Appraisal - Thanked the Mayor for the General Managers appraisal. Spoke to revisers in the process and highlighted concerns across 31 data points, further provided 17 additional key observations. Asked about panel members for the General Managers performance review committee. Spoke to the General Manager submitting a self assessment a pre-appraisal. Asked about the ability of Council to place the review document on Council Website about the General Manager KPI matrix, without any ratings shown.

**The General Manager** - Provided Responses - Concerning Councillors on committee and review document access which would need discussions with Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Noted a pre-approval document completed.

Coffee with a Councillor - Thanked Council for the Coffee with Councillor event.

Rate Accounts - Spoke about a flyer added to the rates newsletter explaining the splitting of the rates.

**General Manager** - Response - Advised will review options that may be available.

**Cr W Aubin** - Private Hospital Land - Asked for update regarding land for the Private Hospital.

**DEPBS** - Provided Response - Advised that Council is in regular contact with current operator.

**Cr N Packham** - Hospital response by Minister - Could we write to Stephen Lawrence MLC to seek support.

- Public holiday leave substitution for 26 January - Could Council look at developing a policy regarding staff substitution of Public Holidays (26 January) such as other Councils have in place and receive a report before December 2025.

BRAC - Noted efforts of committee. Need to identify a pathway to community to speak with Council.

**Cr E West** - Councillor Representation - Referred to comment by Cr Wright about 'State retirees' on a video. Cr Wright raised a point of order as she was not aware of having said this, nor context of the claim. The Mayor requested the comment be 'retracted'. Cr West complied with the mayors request.

Misinformation & Disinformation - Spoke of need for new policy regarding leaking of misinformation & disinformation. Referred to the Compass (ABC) program and the findings of the program. Spoke to examples relevant to BRC financial situation, criticisms of the General Manager & staff. Noted recent member of public encouraging violence. Spoke of the disinformation generated from within and outside Council - drew attention to recent video by Cr N Cranston & Cr S Wright that called for fact checking. Noted only avenue to review misinformation or disinformation is via the Code of Conduct and request Council develop policy on this matter and hold a working party to discuss future direction.

Councillor Requests of staff - Spoke of need to have staff responses to Councillors be provided to all councillors to eliminate multiple requests & duplications.

**Cr T Gullifer** - Thanked Communications Team for recent ratepayer newsletter. Asked for an update regarding land sales for Barr Street, Windy 1100 and Hampden Park industrial park. Spoke to issue of land tax & capital Gains tax.

**IDCSF** - Barr Street - marketing occurring: not sold.

- Windy 1100 - 23 exchanged & 12 settled.

- Hampden Park - 2 sold - settlement in September 2025.

- Advise yes to land tax & capital gains tax.

- Ageing Debtors - Noted these have increased by 1.5% in recent years, now total around \$5 million. It would be good if Council could collect this. Request a review of Council's Collection policy.

- Advise aging debtors has increased, this may improve Councils position.

**Cr B Fry** - Thanked Cr West and Cr Wright for suggesting policies at a policy meeting.

- Noted the success of Coffee with Councillor session. Key issue was lack of volunteering.

## **10. MEETING CLOSE**

### **MINUTE**

The Meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

### **CHAIR:**