



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

LATE ITEMS

1 AUGUST 2023

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4 NOTICES OF MOTION/NOTICES OF RESCISSION

4.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - MINING AND ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS - RESOURCES ENERGY INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION FORUM COUNCILLOR REPORT

RECORD NUMBER: 2023/1222

I, **CR KEVIN DUFFY** wish to move the following Notice of Motion at the Council Meeting of 1 August 2023:

MOTION

That the report by Councillor Kevin Duffy on the Resources Energy Industry and Innovation Forum held in Dubbo on 6-9 June 2023 be noted.

BACKGROUND

This report provides a brief account of a very successful forum conducted by Regional Development Australia events team in partnership with Association Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW (MERC) of which I am the Chair.

Signed Cr Kevin Duffy

Our MERC Executive is:

President: Cr Kevin Duffy, Orange City Council

Vice President: Phyllis Miller, Mayor Forbes Shire Council

Vice-President: Cr Dennis Brady, Lachlan Shire Council

Mayor Scott Ferguson Blayney Shire Council, Cr Liz McGlynn Bland Shire Council, Cr Denis Todd Warrumbungle Shire Council.



MERC partnered with RDA Orana to conduct the Resources Energy Industry & Innovation Forum in Dubbo on 6-9 June 2023.

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(REIIF) ran the event at a fee of \$20,000, tagged onto their Industry and Innovation event, with a 50:50 share of profits, which were \$12,697, i.e. \$6,348.50 was MERC's share.

This share can be either serve as a reduction for a future forum or MERC can request full payment now, this will be considered by MERC on 3rd August 2023.

This was a tremendous result for MERC considering the issues encountered with the late change to the dates, short time frame to market the forum and difficulties with program scheduling. A similar Forum conducted in the future, with a longer lead- time and a more considered marketing strategy, the Forum can help raise funds that MERC can put back into member services and more importantly help increase knowledge of members around current and emerging issues in the mining and energy sector.

Discussions with RDA Orana at the debrief post-Forum recommended that the program for the Forum in future years be reduced to three days with the schedule reversed. MERC meeting in the morning on the first day with industry, politicians and project updates in the afternoon (topics sourced from Councils); Day 2 will be the conference day with concurrent sessions conducted by experts and relevant politicians around relevant issues pertaining to business, local government, communities and industry; and finally tours on Day 3. With some fine tuning this program should be more effective.

REIIF Programme & Key Speakers**Day 1**

Industry Innovation Forum looking at Funding Innovation, Opportunities for Clean Energy Adoption, Monitoring and Measuring Energy Efficiencies to Curb Emissions:

- Keynote speaker - Lisa Emerson, CEO Modern Manufacturing Commissioner – trying to reduce the level of duplication between State & Federal agencies which is holding back growth of manufacturing in NSW regions. Challenges are the current disconnection, lack of procurement/supply in grants coordination – lots of issues with these. Modern Manufacturing Strategy focus is on Programs, People, Processes & Prosperity. How do we ensure a secure future?
- Other speakers of interest to Council – Justin Koek, NSW Office Energy & Climate Change; Edward Jansson, Office Chief Scientist & Engineer; Tony Westmore, NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub; Professor John Fletcher, EESN Network, UNSW; Cathy Waters, DPI; James Hay, EnergyCo; Michael Sharpe, LAVO Microgrids; Robert Parker, Small Modular Nuclear Reactors; John O'Connor DPI Diesel Fuel options.
- Robert Parker, Nuclear Energy Expert dispelled a lot of the myths about nuclear energy and pointed out that Uranium generates three times the power and is a cheaper cost of energy. Nuclear power plants can be large scale, medium and small and countries like the UK and USA are building more of the large facilities. He said: -
 - o Electricity is the life blood of our economy, but industry and the broader economy will be destroyed if it becomes too expensive and load shedding is required.
 - o We need to look at the best international precedent as we move to an ultra-low carbon future – Ontario is a standout example.

4.2 Notice of Motion - Mining and Energy Related Councils - Resources Energy Industry and Innovation Forum Councillor Report

- o Look at all options for energy generation and that needs to include nuclear energy in the mix. Current policies focused only on wind and solar have poor outcomes in locations such as California, Germany and locally in South Australia.
- o Finally, Australia needs to repeal the anti-nuclear fuel cycle legislation.

Slides were distributed to all MERC delegates and members. Robert Parker will be addressing delegates at the next meeting on 3rd August in NSW Parliament House.

- Anthony Grogan, ESG Partners, spoke on the Future of Natural Gas in NSW and Implications for State & Local Government Net Zero Strategies. He said: -
 - o Gas shortages and unreasonably high gas prices in NSW from 2024 onwards due to Qld LNG gas demand - caused by the gas industry. o Domestic NSW) gas production is not low emissions.
 - o NSW has always imported gas – additional imports ensure supply and cost competition.
 - o Proposed gas developments in NSW (Narrabri) are high cost, high emissions, and cannot provide gas quickly or with the required send out capacity flexibility.
 - o The quickest, lowest-emissions, most flexible and lowest gas price solution to the imminent critical NSW gas shortage is a tolling-based LNG import terminal accessing lower priced LNG from the US Gulf Coast, PNG and Western Australia.
 - o There will be a transition away from gas usage in NSW, and increased carbon removal projects, and State and Local Government can help achieve these aims. His slides have been distributed to all members of the Association.

Day 2 - Morning

Energy & Resource Site Tours by bus in the morning to the ASM Tomingley Gold & Toongi Rare Earths Development, Parkes Special Activation Precinct and Bodangora Wind Farm at Wellington.

- Speakers – Azaria Dobson, Exec Director, Dept Regional Development; Alex Cherry – Geologist, Alkane Resources; Wayne Dicoski, Manager ASM and Michael Bullock – Site Manager, Bodangora Wind Farm.

Day 2 - Afternoon

Panels on Skills of the Future and Housing Solutions.

- Panellists - Skills

Warwick Dawson, Pro Vice Chancellor, University Newcastle; Mark Apthorpe, Jobs Advocate Electricity Infrastructure, John Allison, Economic Development Head, Squadron Energy and Jacqui Masters, Project Officer, Regional Education Partnerships, NSW Department Education.

- Panellists - Housing Solutions

Brad Cam, Chair Housing Plus; Laura Shooter, SJ Shooter Real Estate Dubbo and Chair NSW Real Estate Association; Steve Loane, GM, Forbes Shire Council; Steve Jennings, Strategic Planner, Dubbo Regional Council and Cameron Crowley, Director Northwest Precinct Housing Community.

Day 3

Opportunities for Communities with sessions on an Industry Outlook, Leveraging Opportunities and Managing the Transition

- Politicians who addressed delegates – Hon Penny Sharpe, NSW Minister Climate Change, Energy, Environment & Heritage.

Roy Butler, MP Barwon

Dugald Saunders, MP Dubbo

- Keynote Speaker – Kate Minter, MD, Rewiring Australia on Electrification of Communities who are currently using solar, battery, water heaters, space heaters cars x 2 are responsible for households creating 40% of our emissions. Steps needed to get to Zero Emissions by 2050, need to undertake the following steps: -

- o Set up pathway on how we get communities to reduce emissions,
- o Get households to spend less on the domestic emitters.
- o When you purchase an appliance, you purchase the lifetime cost.
- o Become part of Australian Electrification Association.
- o Communities developing electrification of households in groups/streets.
- o Build community assets eg put solar on shared assets.
- o Hold Electric Vehicle Open Days, Community Solar Roll outs etc.
- o Join Abundance Agenda for Australia

- Speakers - Industry Outlook

Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council; Robert Parker, Nuclear for Climate Australia; Andrew Grogan, ESG Partners & Yvette Lloyd, Director, Mining, Exploration & Geoscience, Department Regional NSW.

- Speakers – Leveraging Opportunities

Professor Alan Broadfoot, Newcastle Institute for Resources & Energy.

Michael Sharpe, LAVO.

Clare Larkin-Sykes, Hunter Hydrogen Technology Cluster.

Professor Veena Sahajwalla, UNSW – Sustainable Materials Research & Technology (SMaRT) Centre – waste management specialist.

Dr Simon Wright, Institute for Sustainable Futures and Raja Ratnam, Schneider Electric Sustainability Business.

- Speakers – Managing Transition

Leanne Piggot, UNSW, Director of Experience; Martine Holberton, TiLT Renewables.

Jason Hambling, Mayor, Orange City Council; Steve Loane, GM, Forbes Shire Council, Cr Dennis Brady, Lachlan Shire Council

Brad Cam, GM, Mid-Western Regional Council.

4.2 Notice of Motion - Mining and Energy Related Councils - Resources Energy Industry and Innovation Forum Councillor Report

Summary

The Resources Energy Industry & Innovation Forum - (REIIF) as an inaugural forum for MERC was a success with the myriad of speakers a lot of ground was covered, too much to take notes on. No doubt continuation of the forum will be supported by those Council representatives that attended at various times. Accordingly, June 5-7th 2024 has been earmarked to work with RDA Orana to do this again in 2024 where we can iron out the issues.

I have highlighted some of the key speakers that I saw relevance for Councils and happy to speak to this report. The fact that a profit was made with limited marketing is a credit to the CEO, RDA Orana staff and the event planner Kate Wade plus MERC's involvement along the way.

I take this opportunity to thank our Entity CEO Greg Lamont and his staff for a tireless effort to produce such an informative and successful Conference. I also take this opportunity to thank the Orana RDA, their CEO Megan Dixon and The Event Manager Kate Wade.



5 GENERAL REPORTS

5.3 LORDS PLACE UPGRADE - PROJECT COSTINGS

RECORD NUMBER: 2023/1226

AUTHOR: David Waddell, Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents the costings on the Lords Place upgrade project.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “10.3. Develop a vibrant, comfortable and clean civic and commercial precinct as a centre for the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The excess funds were taken from the Future City fund.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executive Officer’s report on the Lords Place Upgrade – Project Costings be acknowledged.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council will recall a budget of \$1,400,000 was applied to the Lord’s Place South Upgrade.

The current project costings for the upgrade stand at \$1,579,393.60.

The \$179,393.60 variation can be attributed to the following:

1. Unforeseen cost for procurement and installation space of dining deck furniture and additional handrailing on in-situ dining decks.
2. Contaminated materials (Hydrocarbon contaminated soil) causing increased consultant fees, downtime expense and staff PPE and WHS requirements.
3. Break in the project schedule over the Christmas period, causing rework for trenching and excavations, additional non-destructive digging with hydrovac-extended time in areas where stabilised sand used as reinstatement material to ensure tree pits could be constructed out of sequence in accordance with funding timing.

5.3 Lords Place Upgrade - Project Costings

4. Significant conflict with existing services causing additional non-destructive digging with hydrovac.
5. Contractor and skilled labour availability, premiums paid to engage contractors.
6. Sequencing of available work areas and requirement for nightworks to reduce impact to business, increasing hourly rates of staff and contractors.
7. Rain delays causing rework to pavement rehabilitation areas and extending the project schedule.
8. Original costs were devised against Landscape Architect Plan only.
9. Additional consultancy required for car parking review.
10. Rent of building not envisaged. This was required to accommodate a shop front and minimise parking impacts rather than having worksite amenities in the street.