



Minutes

RURAL LANDS STUDY PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

9 May 2016
11.30 am

Name of Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Welcome/present/apologies/declarations of interest
2	Business Arising from previous meeting 12 April 2016
3	Rural and Rural Residential Strategy Review – Draft for Discussion
4	General Business
5	Next meeting

MINUTES – RURAL LANDS STUDY PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE-

9 May 2016



ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Mayor Clr Maree Statham; Deputy Mayor Clr Ray Thompson; Clr Wayne McAndrew; Clr Peter Pilbeam; Group Manager Environment and Development- Andrew Muir; Strategic Land Use Planner- Sherilyn Hanrahan; Mr Ian Sinclair (Edge Land Planning)

APOLOGIES: Mr Ashley Albury

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Clr Statham declared a potential conflict of interest due to her ownership of a rural property on Sunny Corner Road which is her principal place of residence.

Clr McAndrew raised a potential conflict of interest arising from relatives (sister and niece) owning land in between Portland and Sunny Corner as their principal place of residence.

ITEM: 2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF 12 APRIL 2016

SUMMARY

Arising from discussions at the previous meeting in relation to how this Committee and Council may be affected by the November 2015 amendments to both the Local Government Act and the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW; the Group Manager Environment and Development provided each member with a copy of the Office of Local Government Circular 15-41/17 December 2015/ A446439.

The Group Manager Environment and Development highlighted the relevant sections of the Circular for the information of the Councillor membership of the Committee as follows:

“Councillors will no longer be permitted to participate in the consideration of the making, amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument(EPI) applying to the whole or a significant part of their local government area they have pecuniary interests in unless:

- the only interests affected by the changes are the interests they or their relatives have in their principal places of residence; and*
- they have made a special disclosure of the affected interests”.*

Group Manager Environment and Development advised each Councillor to be mindful of the changes and to seek their own advice if unsure. In the meantime Council will be seeking further clarification from the Office of Local Government.

As the legislation relates specifically to the making, amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental plan it is currently considered that the matters for this Committee; being strategy development are unaffected.

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT The Committee notes the changes to the Local Government Act and Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW as outlined in Office of Local Government Circular 15-41/17 December 2015/A 446439 relating to EPI's.

MOVED: Clr McAndrew

SECONDED: Clr Thompson

ITEM: 3 RURAL AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL STRATEGY REVIEW – DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

SUMMARY

The Committee gave consideration to an incomplete draft strategy circulated to members for discussion.

The Group Manager Environment and Development identified that both Council officers and the Consultant felt that there were still some gaps in the document to link the facts and findings through to recommendations and address all matters in the project brief and acknowledged that such work will require more time to complete.

The document submitted does however pull together most of the facts and findings necessary to move forward into more detailed analysis for development and justification of recommendations in the next version.

Ian Sinclair took the Committee through the draft document, providing where required further clarification of content, and identified where gaps still existed. These gaps primarily were as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Further analysis and independent critique of the existing rural and rural residential planning framework
- Direct links between facts/ findings/ majority community opinion and recommendations
- Justification in planning terms for recommended changes that would enable:
 - the document to be endorsed by NSW Planning and Environment as an addendum to the Lithgow Land Use Strategy 2010-2030; and
 - provide basis for future planning proposals if required to implement its recommendations including a staged release strategy for new areas of rural residential supply
 - Explanation to the community in simple terms

The Committee also discussed the need to review the project program to take account of time overruns due to various unforeseen circumstances.

The Committee unanimously agreed that the critical path of the project should not be determined by the schedule of the local government elections as it was more

important that this planning work be detailed and thorough to guide Council decision making over the longer term.

At present the project will overrun previously agreed timeframes by approximately 6 - 8 weeks.

It was agreed that Mr Sinclair provide a further realistic revised project program providing for full consideration of the draft document by the Committee, Council and the community.

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT

1. The Committee notes the update of the development of the draft strategy and identification of further work required as presented by Mr Ian Sinclair
2. A revised project program be prepared by Mr Sinclair and circulated to all members of the Committee for their approval.

MOVED: Clr Thompson

SECONDED: Clr McAndrew

ITEM: 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

SUMMARY

There were no items of General Business

ITEM 6: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Project Steering Committee will be 16 June 2016 at 2pm Hartley Meeting Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.15pm