

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 86 MARKET STREET, MUDGEE ON WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2011, COMMENCING AT 5.11pm AND CONCLUDING AT 5.58pm.

Present: Cr D Kennedy (Mayor), Cr R Holden, Cr E Lang, Cr EE Martens  
Cr PA Shelley, Cr JP Thompson, Cr MB Walker, Cr JK Weatherley,  
Cr JR Webb.

In Attendance: General Manager (W Bennett), Group Manager Mid-Western Operations (B Cam), Acting Group Manager Regulatory and Community Services (E Densely), Group Manager Finance and Administration (C Phelan), Media Officer (E DeLong), Senior Environment Officer (L Shreeve).

Media Representatives: Mudgee Guardian / The Weekly (Robyn Murray), Radio 2MG (Mal Rock).

ITEM 1: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

ITEM 2: MAYORAL MINUTE

There was no Mayoral Minute.

ITEM 3: GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 PRESENTATION ON COAL MINING IN THE MID-WESTERN REGION BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

A0100052

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

4.2 COAL MINING IN THE BYLONG VALLEY AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REQUIREMENTS – MT PENNY COAL

A0100052, A0420223

01/11 **MOTION:** Holden / Webb

**That the report by the General Manager on the Director General's Requirements for Mt Penny Coal be received.**

*The motion was put and carried.*

02/11 **MOTION:** Shelley / Holden

**That Council endorse the submission to the Department of Planning Director General's Requirements, including the covering letter, as amended by discussions during the meeting.**

*The motion was put and carried.*

03/11 **MOTION:** Shelley / Holden

That Council seeks from the NSW Government a moratorium on mining exploration licences and mining licence approvals in the Bylong Valley area including the Coggan Valley until detailed studies on the cumulative effect of mining can be established in the Mid-Western Regional Council area.

**AMENDMENT:** Thompson / Walker

That Council seeks from the NSW Government a review on mining exploration licences and mining licence approvals until detailed studies on the cumulative effect of mining can be established in the Mid Western Regional Council area.

*A division was called.*

*The amendment was put and lost. The motion was put and carried with Councillors voting as follows:*

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nayes</b>
<i>Cr Kennedy</i>	√	
<i>Cr Holden</i>	√	
<i>Cr Lang</i>	√	
<i>Cr Martens</i>	√	
<i>Cr Shelley</i>	√	
<i>Cr Thompson</i>		√
<i>Cr Walker</i>		√
<i>Cr Weatherley</i>	√	
<i>Cr Webb</i>	√	

04/11

**MOTION:** Webb / Shelley

That the letter from the Mayor calling for the moratorium on mining in the Bylong Valley area, including the Coggan Valley, be distributed to the following recipients:

- The Premier – New South Wales Government
- Minister of Planning - New South Wales Government
- Minister of Industry and Investment – New South Wales Government
- Leader of the Opposition – Mr Barry O’Farrell
- Leader of the National Party – Mr Andrew Stoner
- Opposition Spokespersons for Planning and Industry and Investment
- Leader of the Upper House for the Nationals – Jenny Gardiner
- Director General – Department of Planning
- Director General – Industry and Investment
- All candidates for the upcoming NSW elections for the seats of Bathurst, Orange and Upper Hunter
- Mayor - Muswellbrook Shire Council

- Any other party as identified during the process

*The motion was put and carried.*

05/11                    **MOTION:**                    Shelley / Holden

**That the Mayor and General Manager organise any meetings required to convey Council's message on the moratorium on mining in the Bylong Valley area, including the Coggan Valley.**

*The motion was put and carried.*

06/11                    **MOTION:**                    Lang / Holden

**That Council, in association with the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance, call a public meeting before the 26 March 2011 on mining issues in the Mid-Western Region and invite the Premier, Leader of the Opposition, and all candidate for the electorates of Orange, Bathurst, and Upper Hunter, to address their views on mining in the Mid-Western Region.**

*The motion was put and carried.*

07/11                    **MOTION:**                    Thompson / Lang

**That Council ask the newly elected State Government to legislate:**

1.     **for the protect highly productive farmland from mining;**
2.     **to inform all land affected owners and the community before an Exploration Licence is approved on land;**
2.     **to conduct a proper independent assessment of dust, noise and water pollution, including the protection of underground water supplies, before an exploration licence is granted;**
4.     **to extend the Upper Hunter Air Quality Network group to the Mid-Western Regional Council area.**

*The motion was put and carried.*

**CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5.58pm.