

5.1 Cudgegong Water Security Committee

MAYORAL MINUTE TO 1 MAY 2013 COUNCIL MEETING

Water010513

A0100055, A0100029

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. **Council establish a Section 355 Committee called the Cudgegong Water Security Committee;**
2. **The Terms of Reference of the Committee be as provided in the attached document; and**
3. **The Committee comprise:**
 - **2 Councillors (The Mayor and Councillor White) with one to be the Chairperson**
 - **Community members to be nominated and appointed.**
 - **General Manager (or nominee).**

In recent weeks, I have had several meetings with officers of the Office of Water regarding the expressed intention of a bulk water transfer of some 29 gigalitres from Windamere Dam on 14 January 2014. This is a critical situation that will adversely impact on all persons who live in this region.

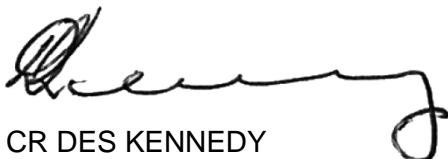
While recognising that water is a national resource, I believe that Council must take immediate action to secure control of the water in the Windamere Dam and the Cudgegong catchment. At present the State Government views both the Cudgegong and Macquarie Rivers as one catchment. I believe that we would all agree that from our perspective the Cudgegong and Macquarie Rivers should be dealt with as two separate catchments.

With this in mind I am proposing that Council establish a Section 355 Committee to pursue the State Government on this vital issue and to gain some local control to ensure a guaranteed water supply in the Cudgegong Valley.

I believe that this Committee should contain 2 Councillors and community representatives as well as the General Manager (or his nominee).

I know that Councillor White has a particular interest so I consider that she should be one of the Councillors. Given that I have already been engaged in these meetings with the State Government I would be happy to also be involved.

Because of the criticality of this Committee and the need for it to be established, up and running at the earliest opportunity I do not believe that we have the luxury of calling for expressions of interest and am therefore proposing that the Community members be nominated and appointed by Council.



CR DES KENNEDY
MAYOR

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL
CUDGEGONG WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PREAMBLE

Mid Western Regional Council appreciates the advice, voluntary time, commitment, interest and dedication demonstrated by members of its Advisory Committees. Council will give serious consideration to recommendations stated in the minutes of Advisory Committees. Such recommendations are considered in the context of Council's Management Plan and budgetary considerations at an operational and strategic level.

COUNCIL CONTACT

The General Manager is the Council contact officer for the Committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cudgegong Water Resources Committee will be charged with the responsibility to lobby the State Government (including State water and the Office of Water) to ensure that the Cudgegong and Macquarie Rivers are recognised as two separate catchments and to pursue more local control so as to guarantee water supply in the Cudgegong Valley.

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

The Committee shall comprise the following:

Mid-Western Regional Council	2 Councillors
Community	4 delegates
General Manager	(or nominee)

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The committee shall meet as and when required.

QUORUM

The quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be four (4) delegates.

DELEGATIONS

Nil.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Nil.