



MINUTES

Finance Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 12 October 2022

at 4:00 PM

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1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land we are on here today, and paid respect to their elders both past, present and emerging.

2. Present

Present: Councillor E Mahony, Councillor D Goodsell, Councillor A Bryce

Officers: Ross Gurney – Acting General Manager/CFIO, Trinity Newton - Minutes

3. Apologies

Apology: Councillor S McGhie, Mayor M Statham

Officers: Craig Butler - General Manager

4. Declaration of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

There were Nil declarations of interest.

5. Staff Reports

5.1. Investment Report September 2022

The Committee discussed the investment report for September 2022.

The CFIO explained that the \$4.4M decrease in cash and investments was mainly due to high value Accounts Payable invoices for natural disaster works and capital projects.

The CFIO stated that \$34.8M cash at bank and investments at 30/6/22 will be sufficient to fund Council's internal and external restrictions at the end of the financial year.

The term deposit interest on the working capital loan facility partly offsets the interest charged on the borrowings.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Investments of \$30,219,672 and cash of \$428,554 for the period ending 30 September 2022 be noted.
2. The enclosed certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.
3. The commentary on funding requirements for restricted reserves be noted.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodsell

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED: Unanimously

5.2. 2021/22 Interim Audit Management Letter

The committee discussed the Interim Audit Management Letter.

The Rural Fire Fighting Assets not recognised in the financial statements were discussed. OLG have today informed Councils that they will take into account in performance indicators, the impact of depreciation costs of the RFS assets. A partial stocktake is required to undertaken on the RFS assets to verify that the assets exist.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2021/22 interim audit management letter be noted by the Committee.

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodsell

CARRIED: Unanimously

5.3. 2021/22 Financial Statements

The CFIO presented the report on the signing of the 2021/22 Financial Statements which will be considered by Council at the 31 October 2022 meeting.

An extension to the financial statements lodgment deadline will be requested from OLG by next Monday 17 October.

The financial Auditors will be presenting at the November meeting at this point.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Finance Committee endorse the following recommendations to the 31 October 2022 meeting:

1. Note that that the audit of the 2021/22 financial statements has been completed.
2. Authorise the signing of the statement on the 2021/22 General Purpose Financial Reports.
3. Authorise the signing of the statement on the 2021/22 Special Purpose Financial Reports.
4. Invite a representative of the Audit Office of NSW, Council's Auditors, to present a report to Council on the 2021/22 Financial Statements at the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 28 November 2022 via virtual attendance.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodsell

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED: Unanimously

5.4. Options for a Sustainable Future - Progress Update

The CFIO provided an update on the Options for a Sustainable Future.

The committee discussed the commercial-in-confidence matter resolved at the 26 September 2022 Council meeting.

The CFIO presented information about the rate peg which has been set by IPART at 3.7% which is well below the increase in CPI. The growing cost of business expenses are far higher than rates increase for Councils.

Key notes from the IPART SRV Information Paper - willingness to pay, evidence to back up productivity improvements.

Additional Councillor Information sessions on Options for a Sustainable Future have been scheduled for November 2022.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Finance Committee note the update on the program for "Options for a Sustainable Lithgow".

MOVED: Councillor E Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodsell

CARRIED: Unanimously

6. General Business

There were general business items.

7. Meeting Close

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:00 pm.