

C20/04 **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**
(RO - Ross Goynes + Author - Melanie Emmett)

SUMMARY

On the 26th of November 2003 it was resolved by Council that:

"Council appoint a Water Resources Committee comprising membership from Council, Central Highlands Water, Catchment Management Authorities, industry and community, that has the following terms of reference:

- *Overseeing all major urban, commercial and recreational developments with the city to ensure appropriate water conservation options have been investigated.*
- *Investigate and provide options to Council for supplies of water for our recreational lakes.*
- *Prepare submissions to all levels of Government for water management initiatives.*
- *Ensure Council's stormwater and wastewater systems are being strategically managed to reduce Council's reliance on potable water supply"*

This report provides an outline of the proposed composition and terms of reference for the establishment of such a committee.

RESOLUTION:

- 1. That Council formally writes to the Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Central Highlands Water, Southern Rural Water and the Department of Sustainability and Environment requesting a representative to join the Water Resources Committee.**
- 2. Place advertisements for expressions of interest from both the community and industry for representation on the Water Resources Committee.**
- 3. That the first task for the Water Resources Committee be to organise a community forum with key stakeholders to inform the community and interested parties on the current state of play of water resources and its management within the City of Ballarat and Victoria.**
- 4. That the City of Ballarat actively participate in the development by Central Highlands Water of a Long Term Water Resource Management Plan.**
- 5. That the City of Ballarat provides the framework of support for the Water Resources Committee.**
- 6. That the Mayor, Cr. Rigg and the General Manager Customer & City Services be the Council and Staff representatives on the committee.**

Moved Cr. Rigg
Seconded Cr. Hudson

CARRIED

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BACKGROUND

In recent times various reports have been presented to Council highlighting issues regarding the sustainable water management within Victoria. Ballarat is in a precarious position as a result of the findings of the Moorabool River Water Resource Assessment Report in which the substantial over allocation of the water resource presents major issues with respect to managing both the future growth of Ballarat and water usage.

Council has resolved that it is committed to ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for the City. Therefore there exists an urgent need to ensure that appropriate actions are put in place to ensure a secure water supply so that Ballarat can prosper and grow at a sustainable rate. Ballarat also has significant cultural and heritage assets such as Lake Wendouree which add substantially to the lifestyle, character and well being of the community. The importance of the social aspects associated with water as well as the economic value of water needs to be addressed by the committee.

Consultation and discussions with Central Highlands Water, Southern Rural Water and the CMA's is already occurring, however, these ties need to be further strengthened. Preliminary discussions about the purpose and benefits of the Committee have been positive and executive officers of the organisations have in principle supported its formation.

ISSUES

- The ability to provide appropriate executive support to the Committee to ensure its effective functioning needs to be resolved. If the Committee is to operate effectively, staff support will be required from each of the participating organisations. As Council is auspicing the Committee, it is reasonable to expect that Council will provide the Committee with functional support. For this to occur using current staff and other material resources, work priorities will need to be altered significantly. This would be necessary to provide an appropriate level of support to ensure the issue of water resource management is given the functional support required.*

- Alternatively, additional human resources will be required to service the Committee or executive support provided by one of the Committee member organisations. These options have not been discussed with potential Committee members at this time but would need to be early in the life of the Committee (similarly with formalisation of and agreement on the Terms of Reference).
- In order for the Water Resources Committee to be able to deliver outcomes it will need to be supported by one or more expert working groups involving a range of personnel from the participating organisations. It is proposed the working group provide the framework and support to allow for the effective operation of the main Committee.
- Clarification of the roles and composition of both the Committee and working group(s) needs to be refined through the development of the draft Terms of Reference.

RELEVANT POLICIES

Municipal Strategic Statement

Securing Our Water Future – Green Paper (basis for future State Government Policy)

OPTIONS

1. Establish a Water Resource Committee with an Executive Committee with representation from the City of Ballarat (Councillor and Officer), Central Highlands Water, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Corangamite CMA, Southern Rural Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment, industry and community as well as a working committee with representation from the City of Ballarat, Central Highlands Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Southern Rural Water and Department of Sustainability and Environment.
2. Establish a Water Resource Committee with a different composition.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As discussed in previous reports to Council. The management of water resources is increasingly being seen as crucial to the cohesive and effective functioning of modern communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

As discussed in previous reports to Council. There is ample evidence existing to show that water resources must be managed in the most effective and strategic manner to maintain environmental sustainability in the broadest sense.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As discussed in previous reports to Council. Current information on the direction of water resources management clearly indicates that the price of water is going to rise. Whilst details of by how much, when and for what purposes this will be the case, the emphasis is clear. The impact on both Council and the wider community is likely to be significant. This is a further reason why Council needs to look at its use and the use by the community of the water resources that are available to the City.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MARKETING PLAN

The recommendations set out a process for establishing the Committee.

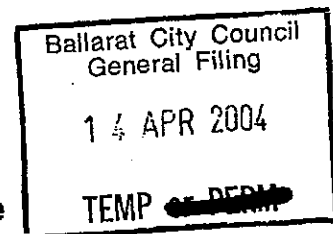
ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council formally writes to the Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Central Highlands Water, Southern Rural Water and the Department of Sustainability and Environment requesting a representative to join the Water Resources Committee.
2. Place advertisements for expressions of interest from both the community and industry for representation on the Water Resources Committee.
3. That the first task for the Water Resources Committee be to organise a community forum with key stakeholders to inform the community and interested parties on the current state of play of water resources and its management within the City of Ballarat and Victoria.
4. That the City of Ballarat actively participate in the development by Central Highlands Water of a Long Term Water Resource Management Plan.
5. That the City of Ballarat provides the framework of support for the Water Resources Committee.
6. That the Mayor, additional Councillor and the General Manager Customer & City Services be the Council and Staff representatives on the committee.

Draft Terms of Reference
Water Resources Committee



Preamble

Victoria is facing the challenge of securing sustainable water supplies beyond the current drought situation and it is becoming increasingly clear that our current water use is not sustainable. The environmental quality of water resources across the State is under serious pressure, water supply is limited and our demands are increasing.

In response the Government has released the Green Paper for comment. This paper sets out options and proposals for achieving sustainable water management within Victoria. It has significant implications for the City of Ballarat and its community.

The Moorabool River system from which Ballarat derives its treated water supply, is recognised as being one of the most heavily committed and therefore flow stressed rivers in Victoria due to the high competition between utilitarian, farms and environmental needs for water. It is widely recognised that the water resource available is significantly over allocated. Although Central Highlands has a Bulk Water entitlement which will cater to service the future growth of Ballarat, the water resource is not available

Charter

The aim of the Water Resource Committee is to provide direction to the City of Ballarat and its community in relation to sustainable water resource management.

- Overseeing all major urban, commercial and recreational developments with the city to ensure appropriate water conservation options have been investigated.
- Investigate and provide options to Council for supplies of water for our recreational lakes.
- Prepare submissions to all levels of Government for water management initiatives.
- Ensure Council's stormwater and wastewater systems are being strategically managed to reduce Council's reliance on potable water supply.
- Act as an advisory committee to both Council and other organisation on water resources
- Aid in the provision of advice and the implementation of Government initiatives and policy in respect to water.
- Aid in the development of policy for sustainable water management
- Promote initiatives in the area of sustainable water management.

Membership

- The Executive Committee's structure will aim to reflect the diversity of involvement within the water industry.
- Mayor or Councillor representative
- Representative from Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Central Highlands Water, Southern Rural Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Council Officer representative, industry and a community representative
- Each member will be appointed for a period of 1 year.
- A Council Officer will be the Executive Officer to the Committee
- The committee may call upon expert advice and co-opt people in order to supplement the Committee's expertise.
- A working committee is to be established with officer representative from various sections within Council and other organisations. The responsibility of the work committee is to implement policies, directions and decisions of the Executive Committee.

Meeting Procedures

- Chairperson (or nominee) must preside at all meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson will reside. If there is no Chairperson or Vice Chairperson members must appoint a chairperson for that meeting.
- The executive committee must meet not less than six times a year and at least once every two months.
- In all other respects the Executive Committee may set its own meeting procedures.

Statutory Responsibilities of Members

- Committee members are bound by the Pecuniary Interest Provisions of the Local Government Act section 78 & 79.
- Committee members must not make improper use of the information acquired as a Committee member and are bound by section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989,

Reporting

- The Committee will make available minutes of meetings that will be maintained and circulated to Councillors and Council officers.
- The Committee will prepare an annual report for the 12 month period from 1st February to the 31st of January.
- For each financial year the Committee will prepare a forward program incorporating detailed projects and initiatives. Yearly action plans will be timed to coincide with Council's budget planning processes and presented to the Council for their consideration.
- The committee will make presentation of its activities to the Council when required by Council.
- The Working Committee is to provide a written progress report to the Executive Committee, one week prior to meeting

Support

- The City of Ballarat's Parks and Environment Business Unit will support the Water Resources Committee in its endeavours. Specifically the section will provide an executive officer an administration support.
- It is envisaged that other agencies and partners will continue to provide staff and financial assistance when appropriate to achieve effective implementation of policy and initiatives

Review

- A review of the Terms of Reference will occur on an annual basis.



CITY OF
BALLARAT

Date 29th January 2004

Our Ref RG:BTM

Phone 5320 5586

Fax 5320 5829

Interoffice Memorandum

To: Hedley Thomson, Manager Parks & Environment
Melanie Emmett, Environment Policy Officer

From: Ross Goyne, General Manager Customer & City Services

Re: **Water Resources Committee**

The above report was considered at the Council Meeting on 28th January 2004 and Council resolved as follows –

1. **That Council formally writes to the Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Central Highlands Water, Southern Rural Water and the Department of Sustainability and Environment requesting a representative to join the Water Resources Committee.**
2. **Place advertisements for expressions of interest from both the community and industry for representation on the Water Resources Committee.**
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6. **That the Mayor, Cr Rigg and the General Manager Customer & City Services be the Council and Staff representatives on the committee.**

Could you please follow through as soon as possible with items 1 and 2 producing the draft letters and advertisement for me to have a look at by Wednesday 3rd February 2004.

We also need to get in contact with Tony Wright, Central Highlands Water to work a few other items out before we rush in too much further, but would like to discuss this. Please contact me.

Thanks.

Ross Goyne,
General Manager Customer & City Services