

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS HELD AT WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL
VICTOR STREET, CHATSWOOD, ON THURSDAY,
16TH NOVEMBER 2006**

The meeting commenced at 8.55 pm

QUORUM

The Chairman referred to Article 13.i) of the Constitution that provides:

A quorum at a meeting of the Organisation shall consist of a number being half of the number of Councils plus one.

Member Councils of NSROC include:

Hornsby	Hunter's Hill	Ku-ring-gai	
Lane Cove	North Sydney	Ryde	Willoughby

Councils represented on the evening included:

Hornsby	Hunter's Hill	Ku-ring-gai
Lane Cove	North Sydney	Willoughby

Accordingly, a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Clr F Findlay	Hornsby Council
Mr Robert Ball	General Manager, Hornsby Council
Clr S Hoopmann	Hunter's Hill Council
Clr R Sheerin	Hunter's Hill Council
Mr B Smith	General Manager, Hunter's Hill Council
Clr N Ebbeck	Ku-ring-gai Council
Mr J McKee	General Manager, Ku-ring-gai Council
Clr I Longbottom	Lane Cove Council
Mr C Wrightson	Lane Cove Council
Clr G McCaffery	North Sydney Council
Clr N Ritten	North Sydney Council
Mr R Newsome	Ryde Council
Clr P Reilly	Willoughby Council (Chair)
Clr T Fogarty	Willoughby Council
Mr J Knight	Willoughby Council
Mr D Johnson	NSROC Executive Director
Ms L Ridley	NSROC Executive Assistant

1. APOLOGIES

Clr N Berman	Hornsby Council
Clr I Cross	Ku-ring-gai Council
Clr R Tudge	Lane Cove Council
Clr K Freedman	Lane Cove Council
Mr P Brown	General Manager, Lane Cove Council
Clr I Petch	Ryde Council
Clr E Wilde OAM	Ryde Council
Clr G O'Donnell	Ryde Council
Mr M Whittaker	General Manager, Ryde Council
Ms P Holloway	General Manager, North Sydney Council
Mr J Owen	General Manager, Willoughby Council

646/06 **RESOLVED** Moved: Clr T Fogarty Seconded: Clr N Ebbeck **CARRIED**
That the Apologies be received.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 16th November 2006.

CHAIR

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

647/06 **RESOLVED:** Moved: Clr G McCaffery Seconded: Clr S Hoopmann **CARRIED**

That the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 17th November 2005, held at Ryde Council, a copy of which were circulated to all parties and member Councils, were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings subject to the amendment that 'Councils represented on the evening included: Hornsby Council'

3. PRESIDENTS REPORT ON NSROC FOR 2005/2006

This is our final meeting for the year and it concludes another successful chapter in the history of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Once again I believe we have delivered on our key objective of working together for a better region, and this has been achieved through genuine cooperation, but also through sheer hard work and strategic thinking.

We recently had the Minister for Local Government recognise our achievements as a ROC at the Local Government Conference up in the Blue Mountains. A sign that our endeavours are being recognised and that our role as a region is growing.

We have also featured in a number of media articles and issued a number of press releases which has helped inform the community of our activities as well as establish our credentials as a regional player.

We have lobbied the state and federal government on important regional issues, to try and influence planning, funding and legislative outcomes.

Most importantly, we have achieved outcomes for our communities, in respect to planning, the environment, procurement, benchmarking, and a range of other matters which is what this organisation is all about.

Our General Managers and Council staff have regularly met under the NSROC umbrella, including new groups such as the NSROC Sportsfield Group and the NSROC Infrastructure, all with the aim of sharing ideas, improving efficiency and adopting a broader view in dealing with important issues.

Just last month we had the second NSROC Annual Conference which brought together a large number of Councillors from our seven councils to consider motions of regional significance and learn more about what NSROC is doing and achieving. At that conference we were able to attract both the State Minister for Local Government and the Shadow Minister for Local Government to learn what they have in store for local government in future months.

It is clear that the current state government is committed to a process of trying to reform local government – it is clear not only from the recent planning reforms passed by the Planning Minister which removes some planning powers from councils and dilutes the role of Councillors in creating planning instruments and in approving developments, but also from the release of a swag of new plans and policies which significantly impact on the way we operate.

These plans include the Metropolitan Strategy and the soon to be released sub-regional plans – which will identify housing and employment targets which our new LEPs will have to acknowledge and incorporate.

They include the new State Plan – just released – which commits both the state and local government to a range of targets across a number of issues – although I note the NSROC is strangely missing from the regions identified in the Plan.

They include the State Infrastructure Strategy which set out the major infrastructure commitments of the government over the next 10 years and the funding allocation over the next 4 years.

They include the two positions papers just released by the Minister for Local Government – 'A new direction for local government' and 'Planning a sustainable future' – which identify a range of mechanisms and requirements which are likely to be legislated upon in the near future to make local government even more accountable, even more transparent, even more strategic.

We need to respond to the gauntlet that has been laid down by the state government. To act as a region and prove that through co-operation, through working together, through resource sharing, we can maintain our communities trust and deliver local government services efficiently and affordably.

The state government has been quick to criticise local government but we have responded to that criticism and silenced much of it. We now have our own planning strategy for our region; completed 12 months before the state government indicated would deliver its own but has yet failed to do.

We have the robust research behind us through our own reports and the excellent Inquiry into local government sustainability, and we are now tackling new issues such as sportsfield allocations and infrastructure to ensure that we can not only continue to meet our community concerns but manage those issues that state government has neglected.

Tonight we have also considered our second regional State of Environmental Report – an ongoing process which will help ensure that our environmental heritage is better monitored and protected, and that regional environmental issues receive the consideration they deserve.

We have commenced a transport policy with SHOROC to identify key transport infrastructure requirements that the region needs to grow.

We have released the first edition of the NSROC News which highlights our endeavours to the community and we have sent a copy to every household in the region,

We have lobbied on issues as diverse as affordable housing, energy supply, environmental reform, cycle paths and air pollution.

Finally we should not overlook the money we have saved by using our collective buying power to get cheaper goods and more efficient services for all the NSROC councils through our NSROC supply group.

These include regional contracts for hardware, stationary, turf, traffic and street signs, tree services, line-marking, herbicides and asphalt. The savings councils enjoy through our collective contracts runs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

CONCLUSION

It has been a productive year for NSROC and we have achieved much we can be proud of.

The Minister for Local Government has stressed the importance of strategic alliances, and his new push is for local government business clusters. While he pushes these issues up until the state election in March and perhaps beyond, we will continue to

quietly work together as we have done for nearly 20 years, work together as a region, as an alliance, as a cluster – not for the minister, not for ourselves, but for the half a million residents of Northern Sydney whom we represent.

- 648/06 **RESOLVED** Moved: Clr N Ebbeck Seconded: Clr S Hoopmann **CARRIED**
1. That the Report be received and noted.
2. That a vote of thanks be given to Clr Reilly, Dominic Johnson and Lesley Ridley for the work they have undertaken on behalf NSROC.

4. ANNUAL REPORTS – 2005/2006

- 649/06 **RESOLVED**: Moved: Clr I Longbottom Seconded: Clr S Hoopmann **CARRIED**
That the 2005/2006 Annual Reports be received and noted.

Clr Reilly vacated the Chair and the Executive Director, NSROC, Dominic Johnson took the Chair

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2006/2007

The Chair called for nominations for the position of President for 2006/2007.

1. PRESIDENT

Clr Pat Reilly, Mayor of Willoughby Council, was nominated for the office of President.
Moved: Clr I Longbottom Seconded: Clr S Hoopmann **CARRIED**

That Clr Pat Reilly, Mayor of Willoughby City Council, as the only nomination, was declared elected as President of NSROC for 2006/2007.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Presidents for 2006/2007.

2. VICE PRESIDENTS

Clr Susan Hoopmann, Mayor of Hunter's Hill Council, and Clr Ian Longbottom Council, were nominated for the office of Vice Presidents.
Moved: Clr Terry Fogarty Seconded: Clr Nick Ebbeck **CARRIED**

That Clr Ian Longbottom, Lane Cove Council and Clr Susan Hoopman, Hunter's Hill Council, as the only nominees, were then declared elected as Vice Presidents for 2006/2007.

6. SECRETARY/TREASURER

- 650/06 **RESOLVED**: Moved: Clr G McCaffery Seconded: Clr S Hoopmann **CARRIED**
1. That the Chair of the General Managers Advisory Committee is appointed Secretary/Treasurer.
2. That the General Manager, of Lane Cove Council, is appointed Assistant Treasurer.

Dominic Johnson vacated the Chair and Clr Pat Reilly resumed the Chair

7. NSROC 2005/2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 651/06 **RESOLVED**: Moved: Clr G McCaffery Seconded: Clr N Ebbeck **CARRIED**
That the 2005/2006 Financial Statements be received and noted.

8. NSROC MEETING DATES AND VENUES FOR 2007

- 652/06 **RESOLVED**: Moved: Clr S Hoopmann Seconded: Clr G McCaffery **CARRIED**
That the Meeting Dates and Venues for 2007 be received and noted.
Ordinary Meeting No. 118 8th February 2007 Hunter's Hill Council
Ordinary Meeting No. 119 10th May 2007 Hornsby Council

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 16th November 2006.

CHAIR

NSROC Annual Conference	2 nd August 2007	T.B.A.
Ordinary Meeting No. 120	16 th August 2007	Ryde Council
Ordinary Meeting No. 121 & Annual General Meeting	8 th November 2007	North Sydney Council

The Meeting concluded at 9.25 p.m.