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PRESENT Clr P Batten (in the Chair), Clrs K Beatty, A Rawson, M Nash.

Also present were the General Manager, Deputy General Manager – Cabonne Services, Department Leader Environmental Services, Department Leader – Innovation & Technology, Executive Support Officer

ITEM - 1 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION (Rawson/Nash)

THAT it be noted there were nil applications for leave of absence.

EIE 24/09 Carried

ITEM - 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RECOMMENDATION (Nash/Rawson)

THAT it be noted there were nil declarations of interest.

EIE 24/10 Carried

ITEM - 3 DECLARATIONS OF POLITICAL DONATION

RECOMMENDATION (Rawson/Nash)

THAT it be noted there were nil declarations of political donations.

EIE 24/11 Carried

It was noted, the time being 12:07 the General Manager and Mayor joined the meeting.

ITEM - 4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

Proceedings in Brief

Cemeteries

Discussions were held surrounding the implementation of the Cemeteries & Crematoria Levy. It was noted that the levy is retrospective and is payable from July 1 2023 meaning that council will incur a cost of approximately \$10,000 for the current financial year. A decision will need to be made for the next round of IP&R as to whether a fee and charge is added to pick up the levy.

As a result of Clr Batten objecting strongly to the retrospective nature of the levy, Deputy General Manager Cabonne Services advised that the matter has been escalated to the Joint Organisation and a submission is being prepared.

Discussions were held surrounding how council implement this levy going forward, especially in relation to pre-paid plots/internments.

The General Manager suggested that a letter be written to funeral homes raising awareness of this issue.

Clr Batten queried the motives of the levy. The General Manager clarified that the State Government is essentially using council as a collector for the costs incurred in regulating cemetery business. There is a concern for the public perception of the implementation of the levy at a local government level.

Biosecurity

Acting Department Leader Environmental Services advised the committee of a change to council's weeds funding. A competitive grant will need to be applied for each year, this grant is only against other council's in the Central Tablelands region.

Clr Rawson queried whether it was highlighted within the grant application of council's inability to undertake a lot of weed control over the last few years due to wet weather. Department Leader Environmental Services advised that this state funding doesn't include weed control, it funds initial property inspections, looking for weeds under the Central Tablelands Strategic Weed Management Plan and extension work.

As a result of a question from Clr Rawson, discussions were held surrounding the use of drones for weed control in difficult areas.

As a result of a query from Clr Batten, Department Leader Environmental Services advised that he will investigate training for staff in relation to red fire ant infestation. Clr Batten commented on the seriousness of this matter and suggested that the Joint Organsiation should look into the training of staff.

Landfill and transfer station sites

As a result of a question from Clr Batten, Department Leader Environmental Services confirmed that the spike in recycling over the Christmas period is normal for that period, although they did experience some problems at Cargo transfer station last Christmas.

RECOMMENDATION (Nash/Rawson)

THAT:

1. The matter of the Cemeteries & Crematoria levy be raised at the next council workshop;
2. The information contained in the report be noted.

EIE 24/12 Carried

ITEM - 5 INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Proceedings in Brief

Emissions Reduction Plan Update

Department Leader Innovation & Technology advised the committee that as a result of the review of the draft Electrify Cabonne program at the previous committee meeting, the figures relating to the emissions generated from landfill have been revised and reflecting a more accurate calculation.

Clr Batten advised that the emphasis does need to be placed on waste reduction in order to achieve results. Discussions were held surrounding potential methods that could be implemented to assist this process.

Clr Rawson commented on the need to target Food Organics and Garden Organics as this is a major contributor to emissions. Deputy General Manager Cabonne Services advised that these are separated at all council's landfill sites and council is looking to incorporate the three (3) bin system in the next kerbside collection contract.

Clr Rawson advised of an error on page 26 of the Emissions Reduction Plan, where it states 'increasing FOGO' it should state 'increasing FOGO capture'. He also stated that the Modelling based on 1% rise in population is a little conservative. It was advised that this is based on ABS forecast.

Community Energy Upgrades Fund

Department Leader Innovation & Technology advised the committee that the report should state that the projects submitted under the Federal Government's Community Energy Upgrade Fund would enable the elimination and/or abate 33% of council 2018/19 emissions.

As a result of a question from Clr Rawson, it was advised that Mullion Creek Hall was not included in the 6 community halls that the projects would cover as council is not the trustees of that Hall, the same for Nashdale and the funding is based on council owned emissions.

Department Leader Innovation & Technology advised the committee that council's Electric Vehicle trial has commenced. Will be an interest in re-sale value.

Discussions were held surrounding the plan for the placement of solar panels on the halls, potential heritage implications and structural integrity of the buildings.

Department Leader Innovation & Technology provided the committee with an outline of the implementation for the Greenlight Online Permit Manager. This will create a more streamlined and integrated process for staff.

It was noted the Emissions Reduction Plan contains updated waste figures and recommendations.

Discussions were held surrounding the opportunity and potential implications for reporting council success stories. Clr Batten and Clr Nash agree that good

news stories should be circulated to communities highlighting potential benefits to the community coming from council projects.

The Mayor commented on the push from Local Government Ministry for council's to be financially sustainable through their own revenue sources.

RECOMMENDATION (Beatty/Nash)

THAT the Committee note the information in this report.

EIE 24/13 Carried

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

LANDFILL EMISSIONS REDUCTION

Councillor Andrew Rawson

As a result of a question from Cllr Rawson, Deputy General Manager advised that the Joint Organisations are currently working on the issue of landfill emissions reduction.

Department Leader Innovation & Technology advised that there is a NetZero Joint Organisation group and workshops are being held next week in relation to this matter.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1:16pm.