

**Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce – Ordinary General Meeting
5th August 2015 – Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club**

Meeting Opened 7.26pm

Present: Marjolyn Thomas, Stacey Thibault, Jodi Dolbel, George Hoddle, Treena Daniells, Peter Jones, Wendy Marsh, Welington Sardinha, Lyn Gurney, Ann Luke, Jim Farquhar, Jenny Farquhar, Andrew Baker, Mike Broekman, Sarah Ranclaud, John Sandell and Amy Perfrement(minutes)

Apologies: Tim Duffy, Christine Nash (TAFE), Kevin Anderson, Jayne Barker, Joe Townsend, Brenda Smith (NICU), Laurie Carrigan, Susan Sims, Jamie Chaffey, Frank and Cath Van Dorst.

Motion: that the apologies be accepted (Jones/Ranclaud) CARRIED

Minutes of last OGM held 18 May 2015 circulated

Moved: that the minutes from the OGM held on the 18th May 2015 are a true and accurate record (Luke/Daniells) CARRIED

Business arising

There was no business arising

Correspondence

- 1 20/07/2015 Gunnedah Shire Council – Re: Extension of exhibition period for Urban Land Use Strategy approved until 28/08/2015
- 2 20/07/2015 Gunnedah Shire Council – Re: Pre Lodgment Meetings for Business Development

Treasurer's monthly report and accounts payable

There was no treasurer's report however a summary of bills to be paid was given:

K & K Creative, Australia Post and Donna Leys

Motion: that the accounts payable be accepted (Ranclaud/Luke) CARRIED

Other reports

China Visit

A report that was prepared by Jamie Chaffey with the input of chamber delegates who travelled to China. It was summarised by Ann Luke

Motion: that the report be accepted (Luke/Marsh) CARRIED

Further discussion then followed in relation to the intellectual property of the report and how it should be distributed to chamber members. Some concern about protecting the information contained in the report was expressed.

Motion: that the report be sent via email to chamber members but not be published on the chamber website (Baker/Jones) CARRIED

Motion: that a separate general report be compiled by delegates who went to China that will then go to the committee for approval before being published on the chamber website (Daniells/Thibault) CARRIED

Dong Hong Visit early September

The Dong Hong Pipe Company will be visiting Gunnedah in the first week in September. There is the potential for this company to open a manufacturing business in Australia so this is a fantastic opportunity for Gunnedah to show what we can offer. Plans are already underway for the visit and a small working group has been set up with representatives from chamber and council putting together an itinerary that will include several functions for the delegates from China.

Media Report from outgoing president - Ann Luke

Ann Luke gave a summary of recent media appearances in relation to the Shenhua coal mine. She outlined the various media outlets that she has provided interviews to since the approval announcement in mid-July. An invitation has been extended to Ann to appear on the SBS program Insight in mid-August. Ann noted she had received some letters addressed personally to her, noting disappointment in her support of the project.

Motion: that the Chamber no longer authorise representatives to communicate to media outside the local area in relation to coal mining (Luke/Daniells) MOTION DEFEATED (unanimously)

Further general discussion was had in relation to the issue where some members expressed concerns that the issue surrounding coal mining in Gunnedah and in particular the Shenhua project were being clouded by emotion rather than facts.

Motion: that the Chamber facilitates a discussion with its members and the wider business community in a forum setting to present facts in relation to coal mining (Jones/Luke) CARRIED

Events

- Networking 1st September @ Gunnedah Community College
- Early sept Industrial Relations
- Service awards – to be held 25th September 2015
- Invitational meeting for coal issues with Caroon Coal Action Group – attempt to hold this on Tuesday or Thursday of the last week in August

New members

Betbar Steelfixing Specialists and Backhoe (Marjolyn Thomas)

Donoghue Property Valuations and Consultancy

Hennessy Real Estate

Wixim Consulting

Motion: that the members be accepted (Daniells/Marsh) CARRIED

Next meeting of new committee - Wednesday 26th August 5.30pm at Mackellar Motel

Meeting Closed at 8.21pm