



BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 27 February 2019
4pm

at

Guyra Council Chambers

Members

Councillor Simon Murray (Mayor)
Councillor Dorothy Robinson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Peter Bailey
Councillor Jon Galletly
Councillor Diane Gray
Councillor Libby Martin
Councillor Andrew Murat
Councillor Debra O'Brien
Councillor Margaret O'Connor
Councillor Ian Tiley
Councillor Bradley Widders

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

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5 Have Your Say

Ms Elizabeth O’Hara speaking for item 8.6 FOR DECISION: Improved public consultation processes

Ms Elizabeth O’Hara speaking for item 11.3 FOR DECISION: Local Approvals Policy - Solid Fuel Heating Appliances

L Mayoral Minute

L.1 FOR DECISION: Tingha Plateau Fire3

Item:	L.1	Ref: AINT/2019/04120
Title:	FOR DECISION: Tingha Plateau Fire	Container: ARC16/0025
Author:	Simon Murray, Mayor	
Attachments:	Nil	

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor write to the head of all agencies involved in managing the Tingha Plateau Fire and pass on Armidale Regional Council's gratitude.

Background:

As at last week more than 23,000ha had been impacted by the Tingha Plateau bushfire. Fourteen homes were destroyed, along with 44 outbuildings and 179 people were registered as evacuees at the Guyra Showground.

Working alongside the emergency services, Armidale Regional Council played a key part in the fire fighting operation.

Council water carts were deployed throughout, supporting the Rural Fire Service directly.

Our grader crews cut access tracks and removed trees which had fallen on to the surrounding roads, ensuring access for emergency services.

As our Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) Mr Mark Burgess, supported by Ms Belinda Ackling and Mr Paul Little, helped co-ordinate these efforts. A number of our staff were directly involved in managing the situation and I thank them for their efforts.

Further to this, special thanks should go to:

NSW Police

- Chief Inspector Rowan O'Brien – Inverell Police
- Inspector Roger Best – Armidale Police
- and all police officers who were on duty and assisted the general public during the fire.

Inverell Shire Council

- Justin Pay – LEMO; and
 - Scott Hamilton – Deputy LEMO
- for their assistance in allowing our two Councils to work together for the good of the Tingha community as a whole.

Rural Fire Service

The RFS did an amazing job, and while there are too many to list, our sincere thanks and appreciation goes to:

- Liz Ferris
- Michael Brett
- Steve Mepham.

Local Land Services

- Paul Hutchings - General Manager

for the work he and his team did in supporting the affected farmers and property owners.

NSW Department of Families & Communities

- Colin Lynch - Family and Community Services / Disaster Welfare Services
for whom nothing was too much trouble. They staffed the evacuation centres and directly addressed many of the individual needs of those who had lost everything.

Fire and Rescue NSW

Superintendent Tom Cooper- Fire & Rescue NSW Zone Commander Regional North 3, Tamworth

Forestry Corporation of NSW

I would also like to recognise the efforts of:

- James Cross - Edwards Coaches
- Joe George – Georges Bus Service

At a moments notice, Joe and James made buses and drivers available to evacuate Tingha.

And finally a big thank you to the Guyra residents who helped with the initially setting up of the Guyra evacuation centre and came in at a moments notice to help provide food and a smile.