

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 22 April 2013
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM

Item: 18.1

Originating Officer: Marc Salver, Director Strategy & Development

Subject: Appointment of a Grazing/Broadacre Representative to the Rural Land Management Advisory Group (RLMAG)

Appointment of a Grazing/Broadacre Representative to the Rural Land Management Advisory Group - Exclusion of the Public

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Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except:

- CEO, Andrew Aitken
- Director Strategy & Development, Marc Salver
- Director Corporate Services, Tim Piper
- Director Community & Customer Service, David Waters
- Manager Governance & Risk, Lachlan Miller
- Minute Secretary, Pam Williams

be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 17.1: Appointment of a Grazing/Broadacre Representative to the Rural Land Management Advisory Group (RLMAG).

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to section 90(3)(a) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to the Agenda Item is information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead), because it would disclose the personal details of candidates who have expressed an interest to be on the Advisory Group.

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because consideration of the item in a public forum would unreasonably disclose the personal details of candidates who have expressed an interest to be on the Advisory Group.

Appointment of a Grazing/Broad acre Representative to the Rural Land Management Advisory Group – Confidential

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the process for interview and selection of a grazing/broad acre representative for the Rural Land Management Advisory Group (RLMAG). Staff and the selection panel have now undertaken the recruitment process in accordance with Council's resolution from 26 November 2013 (Item 12.1). The selection panel has interviewed two candidates who came forward for this position and is recommending to Council that John Mundy be appointed as the grazing/broad acre representative on the RLMAG.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints John Mundy as the grazing/broad acre representative on the Council's Rural Land Management Advisory Group for a term expiring on 10 December 2015.

1. GOVERNANCE

➤ **Strategic Management Plan / Council Policy**

Goal 3 – A Prosperous Economy
Key Issue - 3.2 Sustainable Agriculture

Council has adopted Procedures for Advisory Groups which, in conjunction with the Group's Terms of Reference sets out the roles and obligations of members.

➤ **Legal Implications**

The Advisory Group is not a Section 41 Committee and therefore the legal obligations of Committee Members do not apply.

➤ **Risk Management Implications**

This is for the appointment of an independent expert to assist the RLMAG in providing advice to the Council in relation to the matters as defined in the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group. It is considered that there are minimal risks to the Council as a result of this appointment.

➤ **Financial and Resource Implications**

Advertising costs for the expressions of interest process were covered in the Directorate's advertising budget.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

It is considered that having access to independent expertise on the RLMAG will enhance the Group's ability to provide sound advice to Council regarding rural land management issues and the primary production sector generally. This will lead to enhanced capability of Council's policy delivery and decision making in such matters.

➤ **Environmental Implications**

Enhanced rural land management will result in improved environmental outcomes in this instance.

➤ **Community Engagement/Consultation**

No consultation is required in this instance.

2. BACKGROUND

Council adopted the revised Terms of Reference for the Rural Land Management Advisory Group at its meeting held on 10 December 2013 (Item 13.3).

The role of the Advisory Group is to provide advice to Council staff on how:

- it can support achievement of objectives for the primary production component of the Strategic Management Plan;
- to help the Council staff develop policies and strategies for the retention of and optimum utilisation of rural land;
- to ensure protection of the rural landscape qualities of the district;
- to act as a conduit for information between rural land users and Council staff; and
- to be pro-active in initiating work and providing expertise to Council staff on matters that the Advisory Group considers warrants attention and consideration by the Council staff where Council has jurisdiction in the matter

Appointments of independent members of the Group are at the sole discretion of Council and are based upon the skills, knowledge and experience of appointees relevant to the Advisory Group. Recommendations for membership shall be reported to and made by resolution of Council. In accord with the Terms of Reference, members of the Group shall comprise representatives from the following areas of expertise or organisations:

- Viticulture
- Horticulture
- Horse Keeping
- Grazing/Broad acre
- Primary Production Industry representative
- Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Representative (NRAMLRL) (Operative representative)
- NRAMLRL Representative (Board/Group member)
- PIRSA
- Adelaide Hills Council (Elected Members/Staff)

3. ANALYSIS

Due to a resignation, a vacancy exists for a representative from the grazing/broad acre industry and a selection panel will need to be formed in order to consider the candidates and make a recommendation to Council as to who should be appointed.

At the Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee meeting held on 26 November 2013 (Item 12.1) a report was considered in this regard and the Committee resolved as follows:

1. *“That the Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee appoints Councillors Malcolm Herrmann, John Kemp, Ron Nelson to a Selection Panel to assist the Director Strategy & Development to recommend to Council a grazing/broad acre representative to be appointed to the Rural Land Management Advisory Group.*
2. *That the matter be reported back to Council within 3 months with a recommendation of the preferred grazing/broad acre representative on the Advisory Group”.*

In the intervening period, staff placed advertisements in the Courier and Weekender Herald newspapers and on Council’s website in December seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified members of the public, to be submitted by no later than 20 December 2013.

In response, two expressions of interest were received from John Mundy and Dr Bernard Doube:

- a) Mr Mundy has been farming since 1969 and is currently farming meat and wool sheep on the family property (70 ha) in the Council area. He has served on numerous industry and community boards and is currently Chair of the Kersbrook Cooperative Society.
- b) Dr Doube has extensive hands-on experience in, and knowledge of, the grazing/broad acre industry in Australia, having worked in relevant fields for CSIRO for 29 years as a Principal Research Scientist and the past 12 years as Director of Dung Beetle Solutions Australia. For the past 23 years he has lived on a small acreage at Bridgewater, growing grapes and producing wine, as well as running sheep.

Mr Mundy was subsequently interviewed by the Selection Panel on 5 February 2014, and Dr Bernard Doube on 5 March 2014.

Arising from the interviews, the Section Panel considers that Mr Mundy is well qualified, and better meets the requirements for the role, and considers that he would make a valuable contribution to the work of the Group. The Panel therefore recommends that John Mundy be appointed as the grazing/broad acre representative to the RLMAG for a term expiring on 10 December 2015 when the term of office of other independent members expires.

4. OPTIONS

Council has the option of appointing an alternative candidate to that recommended by the Selection Panel. However, in consideration of the open and transparent process followed by the Selection Panel, it is recommended that the Council resolve to appoint John Mundy as the grazing/broad acre representative to the RLMAG

5. APPENDICES

Nil

3. Appointment of a Grazing/Broad acre Representative to the Rural Land Management Advisory Group – Period of Confidentiality

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S/- Cr

That having considered Agenda Item 17.1 in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the documents and reports pertaining to this matter, including discussions and considerations, be retained in confidence until the appointment has been confirmed, but not longer than 1 month.