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July 26, 2017

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

TO BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 2



JAMES RONCON
GENERAL MANAGER

FURTHER BUSINESS

1. MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 5/17 - DATED JULY 26, 2017 - ILLEGAL WATER EXTRACTION PRACTICES IN THE BARWON-DARLING RIVER SYSTEM UNDERMINING THE FUTURE OF THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN SCHEME (11/426)..... 3

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

July 26, 2017

ITEM 1MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 5/17

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL WATER EXTRACTION PRACTICES IN THE BARWON-DARLING RIVER SYSTEM UNDERMINING THE FUTURE OF THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN SCHEME 11/426

Summary

On Monday night the ABC Four Corners program 'Pumped' reported that NSW Government water extraction practices in the Barwon-Darling system are undermining the future of the \$13b Murray Darling Basin scheme. The report asserts that NSW Government water extraction rules, introduced in 2012, allow river water, including water bought by the Commonwealth, to be prevented from flowing down the system as intended; and states that billions of litres have been illegally pumped into private dams on properties in the Barwon-Darling region of northern NSW. This has had a devastating impact on the communities and industries downstream, including Broken Hill.

Recommendation

1. That Mayoral Minute No. 5/17 dated July 26, 2017, be received.
2. That the Broken Hill City Council expresses its disgust at the betrayal of the people of western NSW and the reckless disregard for the Murray Darling Basin Plan which have been revealed by the Four Corners program.
3. That this Council supports the establishment of a royal commission or high level judicial inquiry of equal status into the abuse of water sharing plans and the theft of water intended for environmental use as revealed by the Four Corners report.
4. That the Broken Hill City Council calls on the NSW government as a matter of urgency to reinstate the Compliance Unit which was investigating water extraction in NSW and to report publicly on its findings as a matter of urgency as soon as they become available.
5. That the Council calls on the NSW government to place an immediate moratorium on the construction of the Wentworth to Broken Hill water pipeline and, further, calls for the immediate release of the Business Plan that led to the decision to construct this pipeline.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

D TURLEY
MAYOR