
Goolawah Board Meeting 4 March 2025

Commenced: 4.35pm

Attendance: Denise (chair), Lee, Mark D, Anna, Julica (minutes), Nick (Sec)

Apologies: Kevin

Administrative Matters

Minutes of Jan / Feb DMs were approved unanimously

Annual Budget 2025-2026 planning, no updates since Feb GM

Secretary's actions:

- NSW Fair Trading Change of Office Holders Form 8:
Nick engaged with Dep of Fair Trading, they have tech issues with their website, should be resolved soon, DFT and Nick will talk again on Friday, March 7
- Sharing Co-op OneDrive link with directors
Action Anna will show Nick the OneDrive, Nick to share link with all relevant docs with board members
- **Secretary Handbook** update is a work in progress,
Action: everyone have a look and suggest possible improvements
- Mohini Browngede's membership: to be entered in register, Nick will inform Mohini about entry, will send/give her the share certificate

Some members are yet to collect and sign for IS Certificates – available at GMs, or contact secretary.

Policy Updates

By-laws Ordinary Resolution for April GM – it has come to the board's attention that 'Rule 9 - By-laws' does not allow exceptions, so it needs to be removed from the Co-op By-laws introduction to comply with the rule.

Action: Finalise wording and post on the website by 21 March.

Bush Fire Management, Road and Machinery Maintenance Team

Further discussion around introducing a separate Work Claim process for a team of members proficient with machinery choosing to make a regular commitment to bush fire management, road and machinery maintenance. This would replace the current Internal Contractor (IC) process – concerns raised regarding personal injury risk and insurance. and the responsibility imposed on the IC. An accident could put the co-op at risk. Main actors of the team (Sam/Clint) are away for several months.

New people are required interim to step up and join the group.

Actions:

- look into insurance costs
- speak with/find possible members interested in more work
- publish draft WC process on the web for discussion at next GM

Finance Policy review

FP has been updated to include new Work Levy due date (31 May) approved at Feb GM. Discussed Wayne's email comments. Reference to work claims removed from 10. Levies and Subscriptions and moved to 11. Work Claims.

Machinery Policy

- Mark to read and check with Craig and others what in the existing policy is still relevant,

practical and/or useful, streamline with Denise

- Nick will look where tractor agreement forms reside (if alive)
- suggest tractor manual and safe tractor guide as drop down tab on website

Membership & Policy

some documents are being reviewed by Elizabeth who is doing a stellar job

- lots of women are enquiring after Rose advertised Share 50 on Ecorealestate.com
- a new first contact questionnaire is being trialled with interested people

Resident Matters

Aerated Water Treatment System (AWTS) grievance

Crow & Aliya sent an email to the board on 15 Feb about Jenny and Wayne's AWTS before going ahead with their AWTS. Secretary acknowledged receipt. Directors followed up with Wayne and found that conversations had happened in the process of the application (AWTS was signed off by KSC).

By-law 14 states that 'Neighbours must be consulted if there is a possibility of impact on surrounding sites.' The DA/On-site Wastewater Management Assessment may be viewed on Council's DA Public Register.

Action: A letter is being prepared to be sent to Crow and Aliya, offering assistance in-line with the Grievance Policy and Procedure.

Training & Development

Lee attended the Co-op Federation Governance Training online over 3 days, got a general overview about Co-op law, how different types Co-ops are run and function. Zoom format allowed for communication with others, and break-out groups to discuss specific matters. Lee found the course useful and interesting, made contact with members of Shamballa Co-op (<https://www.shamballa.com.au/>) near Bellingen who were interested in getting to know Goolawah. Their main problem is succession planning, there are 25 members, many are older. Lee remains in touch and might facilitate a gathering at G.

Other Co-op possibilities

Mark spoke to Greg Ryan who is in touch with a farmer near Grafton who is interested in starting a Sepp15. They are happy to work out pathways for a new Coop up there, members who are interested are invited to get in touch with Mark and/or Greg.

North Gate Sign

went missing, required is a new sign with: Welcome to Goolawah, No cats No dogs symbol, Private Property and Speed regulations.

Maybe one/several member could be interested in making/designing the sign which will be positioned at the North Gate Cattle Grid.

Action: Nick to ask community via PT if someone would be interested in making the sign

Working Bee:

Next Goolawah Working Bee is on the first Saturday in April, 5.4. 9am. Please get in touch with Julica if you have job priorities/ideas or would like to organise on of the next WB.

Board-Vacancy

Goolawah still has a vacancy on the board. Nominations for the missing director remain open. Please get in touch if you're interested in having a taste of the task until August.

Meeting closed: 6.15pm