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Diamantina Shire Council

Media Release – Diamantina Councillors lead the way

Diamantina Shire Council's first paperless meeting was conducted on March 15, 2010. Continuing the tradition of working as effectively as possible, Councillors took possession of I-pads at their Ordinary Meeting held in Birdsville on November 21, 2011. Councillors were given a short training session by Information Technology Officer, Mr Matt Young and 'hit the ground running' so to speak. The remainder of the meeting was conducted via I-pads. The I-pad allows for more regular access to email and a user friendly way to peruse the agenda including manager reports.

The agenda for November was particularly large, being 676 pages. The thought of printing that amount of pages is not only costly, but such a waste of paper. Electronic meetings allow for additional information and reports to be included that may not have been if manual production of the agenda was still occurring.

Chief Executive Officer, Scott Mason said he was not surprised at the ease with which the elected members accepted the new technology. "Our Councillors are quite tech-savvy and immediately recognised the benefit of the smarter and more efficient device", said Mr Mason. He added that he was not surprised at the ease with which they mastered the new technology. "They shocked me in 2010 when they willingly accepted the use of lap tops and immediate transition to a paperless meeting so I knew the I-pad would be a winner".

Council's Mayor Cr Robbie Dare said: "While I'm sure many other Councils use technology to its full extent, I am proud of the unanimous acceptance and willingness to embrace change by the Diamantina Shire Councillors.

End.

23 November, 2011

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