



# UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF  
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025  
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

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**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

**ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Barry Hughes  
Cr. Ian Carroll  
Cr. Laurell Royes  
Cr. Seven Ryan  
Cr. Ian Tincknell

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr. Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. Raju Ranjit, Director of Engineering Services  
Mrs. Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services  
Ms Karen Luck, Executive Assistant

**OPEN GALLERY**

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:00am and welcomed all in attendance.

***PRAYER***

“We ask that today you give us wisdom to make good decisions to benefit our communities. Help us see what will benefit our shire and give us hearts to serve others. Amen”.

***DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST***

**Cr Royes** declared a declarable conflict of interest in Agenda item #7 – RADF Advisory Committee Minutes as her daughter, Josie Prior, has applied to be a member of this committee. I do not consider that this conflict will affect my ability to make decisions in the interest of the community.

**Cr Royes** declared a prescribed conflict of interest in Agenda item #8 – DES Briefing Report, Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 10 as she is the secretary of the Einasleigh Race Club which shares a boundary with the Einasleigh Airstrip. Also, my family operates a fencing business.

**Cr Royes** declared a prescribed conflict of interest in Open Session Agenda item #8 – DES Briefing Report, NWQROC North Queensland Resilience Program [ESC.0054 – Replace fence & fence gates (Mt Surprise & Einasleigh airstrips)] she is the secretary of the Einasleigh Race Club which shares a boundary with the Einasleigh Airstrip. Also, my family operates a fencing business.

**Cr Royes** declared a prescribed conflict of interest in Closed Session Agenda item #12 – ESC 2025-029 – Gravel Screening for Zones 1,2 & 3 – DRFA Works as Bolwarra Enterprises is a related party on my register of interest.

**Cr Ryan** declared a declarable conflict of interest in Open Session Agenda item #7 – RADF Advisory Committee Minutes as her daughter, Sascha Young, is a Youth Appointee of this committee.

***APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS***

**Condolences:**

Nil

**Congratulations:**

Nil

**Apologies:**

Nil

## ***CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES***

### **Special Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

#### **RESOLUTION**

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held at Georgetown on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be confirmed, as amended.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.01**  
**5/0**

### **General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

#### **CORRECTIONS**

#25.03.01 – Amend mover of motion to Cr Tincknell.

#25.03.05 – Include approval limit for CEO of \$15,000.00 to Ex-gratia Payment Policy.

#### **RESOLUTION**

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be confirmed, as amended.

**MOVED:** Cr. Carroll

**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.02**  
**5/0**

## ***BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES***

#25.03.09 – Cr Royes – Survey Feedback and Forsayth Transfer Station Operation Opening Days and Hours.

#24.12.19 – Cr Royes – Resolution, Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5

#24.11.10 – Cr Royes – Einasleigh and Mt Surprise Town Maintenance – Tender Document and Scope of Works.

Cr Carroll – Received flyer for transfer station opening

#25.03.07 – Cr Ryan – DES Briefing Report

#25.03.11 – Cr Ryan – Project for Country Roads Connect Program

Cr Tincknell – Update on Eveleigh Road

Cr Tincknell – Hold up on Transfer Station opening

## ***CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS***

### ***Mayor's Report***

#### ***1. Mayor's Briefing Report***

Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Mayor sought consideration of a report for the period, as circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

That Council acknowledges and receives the Mayor's Briefing Report, as tabled.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.03**  
**5/0**

**RESOLUTION**

That Council accept the transfer of funds \$65,000.00 from The Gulf Cattleman's Association Inc. to be placed into the Trust Account and to be utilized in partnership with Etheridge Shire Council to create a bronze statue commemorating and recognising the cattleman's contribution to the grazing industry across Queensland's Gulf Savannah Region.

**MOVED:** Cr. Hughes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.04**  
**5/0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10:07am

**RESUMPTION**

Council resumed the meeting at 10:34am

**CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**2. Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report**

**RESOLUTION**

That Council acknowledges and receives the Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report.

**MOVED:** Cr. Carroll

**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.05**  
**4/1**

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

**3. FY 24/25 Operational Plan – 3<sup>d</sup> Quarter Review**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Consideration of the third quarter Operational Plan for the three-month period ended 31 March 2025, being a written assessment of Council's progress towards implementing the annual operational plan, pursuant to section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**RESOLUTION**

That pursuant to section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council receive the third quarterly progress report on Council's progress towards implementing its Operational Plan 2024/25.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.06**  
**5/0**

**Director of Corporate Services**

**4. Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report**

**RESOLUTION**

That Council acknowledges and receives the Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.07**  
**5/0**

## **5. Financial Performance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a monthly finance report is required to be presented to the Council stating the process made in relation to the budget for the period of the financial year as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting is held.

### RESOLUTION

The Council receives the financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025 pursuant to section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**MOVED:** Cr. Carroll

**SECONDED:** Cr. Hughes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.08**  
**5/0**

## **6. Audit Committee Meeting Minutes – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 211, Council's Audit Committee met on 8th April 2025. A copy of the meeting minutes are provided as a written report about the matters reviewed at the meeting.

### RESOLUTION

That Council receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held 8th April 2025, and note the business resolved therein.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Hughes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.09**  
**5/0**

### ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:31pm

### RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1:11pm

## **7. RADF Advisory Committee Minutes**

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes has a declarable conflict of interest with the following agenda item being that her daughter, Josie Prior, has applied to be a member of this committee. I do not consider that this conflict will affect my ability to make decisions in the interest of the community.

### RESOLUTION

Pursuant to section 150ER of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Cr Royes may participate in the decision despite the conflict of interest.

**MOVED:** Cr. Hughes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.10**  
**3/0**

Cr Ryan has a declarable conflict of interest with the following agenda as her daughter, Sascha Young, is a Youth Appointee of this committee.

### RESOLUTION

Pursuant to section 150ER of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Cr Ryan may participate in the decision despite the conflict of interest.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Hughes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.11**  
**4/0**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council's Regional Art's Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting was held 10th March 2025, in Georgetown. A quorum was unable to be formed at this time, and the Chair convened business after the meeting via telephone on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025. A flying minute was forwarded on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Cr Ryan & Cr Royes declared a conflict of interest and took no further part in the flying minute decision. Three responses were received in favour of the flying minute for the confirmation of RADF Minutes. These were tabled for Council's review.

**RESOLUTION**

That Council resolve to receive the unconfirmed minutes of the RADF Advisory Committee Meeting held 10th March 2025, and adopt the recommendations contained therein.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.12**  
**3/2**

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes requested their votes be recorded against the motion.

***CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS***

***Director of Engineering Services***

***8. Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report***

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Cr Royes declared a prescribed conflict of interest in agenda items #6 and #7 of DES Briefing Report, she is the Secretary of the Einasleigh Race Club which shares a boundary with the Einasleigh Airstrip. Her family also operates a fencing business.

Cr Royes left the meeting at 2:47pm and returned 2:50pm.

**RESOLUTION**

That Council acknowledges and receives the Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.13**  
**5/0**

Cr Royes left the meeting at 3:07pm.

**RESOLUTION**

That Council note that the tender for Mt Surprise and Einasleigh fencing to be considered at a subsequent meeting.

**MOVED:** Cr. Ryan

**SECONDED:** Cr. Hughes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.14**  
**4/0**

Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 3:09pm.

**RESOLUTION**

That Council approve that the North West Minerals Province Tourism Infrastructure Project - Georgetown Riverwalk location be confirmed for commencement at the Forsayth Road towards the Rodeo Grounds.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.15**  
**4/1**

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

## **9. Washdown Bay Project Status and Additional Works**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the washdown bay project status and additional works.

### RESOLUTION

1. That Council receive the report on the washdown bay project status.
2. That Council approve an additional works for power connection and Advaita Control System at the Washdown Bay – Airport Strip Road (Bypass Road) in Georgetown, and
3. That additional works, amounting to \$90,000.00 (electrical works and Avdata system) be referred to the next quarterly budget review.

**MOVED:** Cr. Ryan

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**LOST**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.16**  
**0/5**

### RESOLUTION

1. That Council seeks an extension from the Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) and Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program (HVSPP).
2. That the Director of Engineering Services present a report including budgetary variations for LRCIP.
3. The report to include additional works and components required to complete the Washdown Bay.

**MOVED:** Cr. Ryan

**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.17**  
**5/0**

### ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:37 pm.

### RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 3:44 pm.

## **CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

### RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 3:44pm, pursuant to section 254J (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss a Request to Waive Interest Grant Discount on Overdue Rates, Etheridge Shire Council - University Scholarship Program and ESC 2025-029 – Gravel Screening for Zones 1, 2 & 3 – DRFA Works, and a contract matter.

**MOVED:** Cr. Ryan

**SECONDED:** Cr. Hughes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.18**  
**5/0**

### RESOLUTION

Council resolves to re-open the meeting at 5:08pm.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.19**  
**5/0**

## **10. Request to Waive Interest Grant Discount on Overdue Rates**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a request to waive interest and grant discount on assessment 00441-00000-000.

### RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to not write off accrued interest and grant discount on assessment 00441-00000-000 to the value of \$10,845.35 due to the following reasons:

- It is the rate payer's responsibility to update addresses on file.
- The ratepayer confirmed receiving the rates notice on 23rd September 2024 (prior to discount expiry date).
- Discount is only granted where it can be established that the non-payment of rates by the due date was due to circumstance beyond the ratepayer's control.

**MOVED:** Cr. Hughes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.20**  
**5/0**

## **11. Etheridge Shire Council – University Scholarship Program 2025**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council introduced a University Tertiary Scholarship program for Etheridge Shire. Council recently reviewed the policy to continue supporting the Scholarship Program with Council providing a \$5,000.00 scholarship towards the successful applicant's full-time studies. Applicants must meet eligibility guidelines set out in the policy and nominations closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to award the 2025 Etheridge Shire Council University Tertiary Scholarship to Celine Dixon.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Ryan

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.21**  
**5/0**

## **12. ESC 2025-029 – Gravel Screening for Zones 1,2 & 3 – DRFA Works**

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes declared a prescribed conflict of interest in Closed Session Agenda item #11– ESC 2025-029 – Gravel Screening for Zones 1,2 & 3 – DRFA Works as Bolwarra Enterprises is a related party on my register of interest.

Cr Royes left the meeting at 3:50pm

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the consideration of tenders received for the gravel screening for 2024 -2026 DRFA works ESC 2024\_029 for Zones 1, 2 and 3.

### RESOLUTION

1. That Council resolve to bring the previously presented matter, being the Tender for Gravel Screening for 2024-2026 DRFA Works 2024-029, off the table from the February General meeting for consideration and
2. That Council accept the tender of Terry Family Developments Pty Ltd to screen the gravel on ground to the value of \$1,056,035.75 (Ex.GST), consisting of Zone 1: 104,753 tons @ \$435,307.95, Zone 2: 82,625 tons @ \$34,350.70 and Zone 3: 66,748 tons @ \$277,377.10.



**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell**SECONDED:** Cr. Hughes**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.04.22**  
**3/1**

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.  
Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 4:15pm

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| <b><i>GENERAL BUSINESS</i></b> |
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|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Cr Royes   | Drainage safety Daintree Street Einasleigh.   |
| Cr Carroll | Terrestrial Centre toilet.  |
| Cr Carroll | Little Gems cot space.  |
| Cr Carroll | Einasleigh Common draft management plan.  |
| Cr Carroll | Goldsmith and Dells Hole Roads.   |
| Cr Ryan    | Contaminated Gravel – Invasive weed incursions – Zone 3 – Bought for \$6M   |
| Cr Ryan    | Shepherds Services – Building Approvals and Council minutes agreeing to establishment of building on St George Street (as per request in April 2024, May, June, July, August – conveniently removed from Sept. GB onwards). |
| Cr Ryan    | Re-establishment plans – Georgetown Cemetery. Assistance for families to re-establish graves.   |
| Cr Ryan    | Georgetown Refuse Tip – General Maintenance, upkeep, continuity plan.   |
| Cr Ryan    | Committee Reports – Audit Committee – requesting reports be attached to the agenda.   |
| Cr Carroll | Forsyth walking track.  |
| Cr Carroll | Gym equipment.  |

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| <b><i>CONCLUSION</i></b> |
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There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6:53pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes  
MAYOR