



CONFIRMED MINUTES

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

Confirmed at General Meeting held 21 May 2025

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH 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 11th February 2025

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.04.01
5/0

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 19th 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 19th 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

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10:07am

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 – 3rd 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 31st 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 – 8th 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

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:31pm
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 10th March 2025. A flying minute was forwarded on 8th 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.

The following amendment to the resolution was made at the General Meeting held 21 May 2025 – resolution 25.05.01

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 16 April 2025 be confirmed, as amended to reflect:

That Council:

1. Resolve to receive the unconfirmed minutes of the RADF Advisory Committee Meeting held 10 March 2025; and
2. Adopt the recommendations circulated to Councillors in the flying minute of the 8 April 2025 that excluded Councillors Ryan and Royes who were unable to participate due to undetermined declarable conflicts of interest.

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 at 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
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 #25.04.16
5/0

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:37 pm.

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 #25.04.17
5/0

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.04.18
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 #25.04.19
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 31st 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 #25.04.20
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 #25.04.21
3/1

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

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	Forsayth walking track.
Cr Carroll	Gym equipment.

CONCLUSION

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