



CONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19th FEBRUARY 2025
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

(Amended to include corrections advised at the General Meeting held 19 March 2025)

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 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

Miss. Josie Prior
Mr. Trevor Arnett

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 prescribed conflict of interest in agenda item #14 – Tender for Gravel Screening for 2024-2026 DRFA Works ESC 2024-029 as she shares occupancy of Routh Station with Bolwarra Enterprises, a gravel provider to Council.

Cr Royes declared a prescribed conflict of interest in agenda item #15 – Planning of Council Owned Gravel Crushing & Screening Plant Set Up as she shares occupancy of Routh Station with Bolwarra Enterprises, a gravel provider to Council.

Cr Carroll advised Council that in relation to a perceived conflict of interest in agenda item #2 – Request Review of Decision – Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas, he had self-reported and it was found no conflict existed.

Amendments to minutes advised at the General Meeting held 19 March 2025

Cr Royes advised that she had not declared a conflict of interest when considering Item #6 – Tender ESC 2024-024 – Replacement of security fencing in Mt Surprise and Einasleigh Airstrips in her role as Secretary of the Einasleigh Race Club and self reported as part of adopting the minutes.

Cr Carroll advised that he had declared that he had no conflict of interest in Item #9 – Request Review of Decision – Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas which was self-reported in conjunction with the CEO.

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Council wishes to extend their condolences to the families of Colin Butler and John Hughes.

Congratulations:

Nil

Apologies:

Nil

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 22nd January 2025

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 be confirmed, as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION# 25.02.01
5/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Royes

#24.12.02 – Term Lease: Update status to in progress awaiting workshop

#25.01.10 – Matter laying on the table. No number resolution in December – Road Register review a priority before considering tenders for flood damage pick up.

Cr Ryan

#24.11.10 & #24.11.20 – Resolutions do not stand alone

Cr Tincknell

Requested update on General Business and Information Bulletin inclusion in Agenda

ATTENDANCE

Josie Prior left the gallery at 9.17am.

Trevor Arnett entered the gallery at 9.45am

Mark Watt left the meeting at 9.44am and returned at 9.46am.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for morning tea at 9.59am

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10.24am

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

1. Chief Executive Officer - Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.02
5/0

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

That Council consider the Operational Plan (2nd Quarterly Review) that was put on the table at the January General Meeting.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to bring the previously presented matter being Operational Plan (2nd Quarterly Review) off the table for review.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.03
5/0

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with s174(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, tabled for Council's reception is the second quarter (1st October – 31st December 2024) progress report on implementing Council's 2024-2025 Operational Plan.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the second quarterly progress report on Council's progress toward implementing its 2024/2025 Operational Plan, as amended

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.04
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Trevor Arnett left the gallery at 10.53am
Mark Watt left the meeting at 10.58am and returned 11.00am
Raju Ranjit joined the meeting at 11.04am
Barry Hughes left the meeting at 11.43am and returned 11.46am
Mark Watt left the meeting at 12.20pm and returned 12.23pm

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12.24pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1.22pm

Director of Engineering Services

2. *Director of Engineering Services - Briefing Report*

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.05
5/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes left the meeting at 3.17pm due to a conflict of interest in agenda items #14 and #15.

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 3:18pm, pursuant to section 254J(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss the following items:

1. Legal Opinion – Claim for Compensation
2. Tender for Gravel Screening for 2024-2026 DRFA Works ESC 2024-029
3. Planning of Council Owned Gravel Crushing & Screening Plant Set Up
4. Tender ESC 2024-2025 – Replacement of Security Fencing in Mt Surprise and Einasleigh Airstrips

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.02.06
4/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 3:45pm
Barry Hughes left the meeting at 3:50pm and returned at 3:53pm
Raju Ranjit left the meeting at 4:04pm

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to come out of closed session at 4:17pm.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.07
5/0

3. Legal Opinion – Claim for Compensation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the options to settle a claim against Council in relation to D & D Terry, Old Robin Hood Station for a road incident on the Cobbold Gorge Road.

RESOLUTION

That Council rely on the defense of voluntary assumption of risk under section 14 of the *Civil Liability Act 2003* and that Council accept the assessment of claim undertaken by Council's insurer, LGM Queensland.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

LOST
RESOLUTION
1/4

DIVISION

Cr Hughes voted for the motion. Crs Carroll, Royes, Ryan & Tincknell voted against the motion.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves not to accept the advice from LGM and additional legal opinion and offer D & D Terry an ex gratia payment of \$13,165.44 based on the information provided for the legal opinion did not match the known facts of the event on 28 April 2024.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.08
4/1

ATTENDANCE

Cr Royes left the meeting at 4:35pm due to a Conflict of Interest

4. Tender for Gravel Screening for 2024-2026 DRFA Works ESC 2024-029

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the consideration of tenders received for the gravel screening for 2024 -2026 DRFA works ESC 2024-029 for Zone 1, 2 and 3.

RESOLUTION

That Council accept the tender of Terry Family Developments Pty Ltd to screen the gravel on ground to the values of \$1,056,035.75 (Ex. GST)

Zone 1: 104,753 tons @ \$435,307.95
Zone 2: 82,625 tons @ \$343,350.70
Zone 3: 66,748 tons @ \$277,377.10

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

PROCEDURAL MOTION

That the matter of tender for gravel screening for 2024-2026 DRFA Works lie on the table as further information is required involving pit/gravel suitability, soil testing and carting requirements

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION#25.02.9
4/0

5. *Planning of Council Owned Gravel Crushing & Screening Plant Set Up*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the setting up a council owned gravel crushing and screening plant.

RESOLUTION

That Council receives report and that this matter be referred to the 2025/2026 Budget deliberations for further consideration.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.10
4/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 4:45pm

6. *Tender ESC 2024-024 – Replacement of Security Fencing in Mount Surprise and Einasleigh Air Strips*

Amendment to Minutes declared at the General Meeting held 19 March 2025

Cr Royes advised at the General Meeting held 19 March 2025 that she had not declared a conflict of interest when considering this matter in her role as Secretary of the Einasleigh Race Club and self reported as part of adopting the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the tender ESC 2024-024 – Replacement of security fencing in Mount Surprise and Einasleigh Air Strips.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Sunset Fencing for Contract 2024-024 Replacement of security fencing in Mount Surprise and Einasleigh Air Strips for \$755,884.50 ex GST in accordance with the contract provisions schedule of rates and local preference;
2. Signs and seals the contracts in the form proposed; and
3. Resolves that this report, its attachments and all discussions in relation to this matter remain confidential, but the resolution be made public immediately.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

LOST
RESOLUTION
0/5

RESOLUTION

1. That tenders for replacement of security fencing in Mt Surprise and Einasleigh airstrips be recalled; and
2. That on the extension of time be sought for RAUP funding.

MOVED: Cr Ryan

SECONDED: Cr Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.11

ATTENDANCE

Brent Moyle, Anna Kralj, Sebastian Smith and Yawei Jiang of Griffith University entered the meeting at 4:50pm

7. Expressions of Interest for Terrestrial Centre Upgrade Tender

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the release of a Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Tender for the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade. The Upgrade forms part of the Growing Regions project funded by the Australian Government and is necessary for the re-housing of the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection.

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 228(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council approve the release of a Request for Expressions of Interest for Tender for the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade on the following basis and circumstances:

1. It is in the public interest for Council to invite expressions of interest before inviting written tenders;
2. A Tender EOI process will allow for enhanced specification of the details of the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade prior to entering a contract with the successful bidder which will lead to greater capacity to complete the Upgrade to the Council's satisfaction within the required timeframe and budget limits;
3. Council is required to provide evidence in support of Milestone #1 (due February 7th 2025) of the Growing Regions funding agreement that it has prepared and issued tender processes for the design and construction phase of the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade;
4. A funding payment of \$3,000,000.00 from the funding provider to Etheridge Shire Council is conditional on the successful completion of the Milestone #1 requirements.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.12
5/0

8. Term Lease 0/222075

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the options available to Council for future leasing of land described as Lot 8 on SP189943, Reserve for Township Purposes.

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 57 of the *Land Act 1994*, Council offer the disposal by way of lease over land described as Lot 8 on SP189943, with a five (5) year term.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

LOST
RESOLUTION
0/5

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to receive the report term lease 0/222075 on land described on Lot 8 on SP189943, reserve for Township Purposes.

MOVED: Cr Ryan

SECONDED: Cr Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.02.13
5/0

9. Request Review of Decision – Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of a request to review Council's decision at the General Meeting on 20th November 2024 not to approve an application for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas, being boat cruises on Charleston Dam.

RESOLUTION

That Council decide not to review the decision and uphold its previous action, including providing a statement of reasons as follows pursuant to section 254H of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

1. Stage 1 of the Charleston Dam Recreation Area is incomplete;
2. Native Title negotiations remain incomplete;
3. The original intent of funding for Charleston Dam was primarily water security.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.14
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

10. Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.15
5/0

11. Financial Performance as at 31st January 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a monthly finance report is required to be presented to Council stating the progress 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 held

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council receive and adopt the financial statements for the period ended 31st January 2025.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.16
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Karen Luck left the boardroom at 7:05pm

12. Half Yearly (2nd Qtr) Budget Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council must have an annual budget as part of its suite of financial planning documents. Council's budget was adopted on 28th July 2024 and compiled with the requirements of section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

A review of Council's budget has been completed as of 31st December 2024. It is proposed that Council amend its budget to address any organisation change that has occurred since its adoption. Section 170(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* allows Council to amend its budget any time before the end of the financial year.

RESOLUTION

That Council, in accordance with section 170(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, amend its 2024/2025 budget as recommended to include:

1. The Operational adjustments as presented
2. The Capital adjustments as amended including
 - a. Retain Charleston Dam fencing
 - b. Remove further signage
 - c. Remove Depot seal
 - d. Remove culvert replacement
 - e. Carry forward Charleston Dam Rec area
 - f. Carry forward Etheridge River Main Replacement
3. Investigate funding opportunities for the following
 - a. Electronic notice boards

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.17
5/0

13. Amended 2024 External Audit Final Management Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council's final management report was prepared by Queensland Audit Office (QAO). QAO issued an unmodified audit opinion on the 2023/2024 financial statements. The Final management Report includes identified (or previously identified) issues which have been reported to management and an update on management's actions taken to resolve these.

The presented 2024 Final Management Report was received by the Audit Committee at its most recent meeting held 27th November 2024 and further adopted by Council at its General Meeting held 18th December 2024.

Council was advised of an amendment to the first page of the reported findings in January, and the amended report is tabled for receipt.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to receive the 2024 External Audit Final Management Report and note the contents therein including amendments.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.18
5/0

14. Policy Review – University Tertiary Scholarship Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for council to consider the review of the University Tertiary Scholarship Policy. The initiative was introduced by Etheridge Shire Council in FY13/14, and the policy was last reviewed and adopted by Council in 2018, however Scholarships were continued to be awarded through to 2021. The policy and associated forms have been reviewed in consultation with other Councils and internal departments (including HR) to ensure that it meets Council's intent and strategic direction.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to:

1. Adopt the reviewed C004 – University Tertiary Scholarship Policy including amendments.
2. Commence advertising for the scholarship through to 31st March 2025, and report of recommendations of recipients to be tabled at the April General Meeting.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.19
5/0

15. Councillor Remuneration 2025 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal review the rate of pay applicable to Councilors in each category of Council. Having decided on a maximum amount of remuneration for each category before 1 December each year, the Tribunal must prepare a remuneration schedule and a report within 14 days. A copy of the schedule and report must be provided to the Minister, and the schedule must be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Councils must pay the maximum amount of remuneration to Councilors unless, by resolution within 90 days of the gazettal of a new schedule, they decide on another amount which cannot exceed the maximum decided by the Tribunal

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to accept the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal Schedule of Rates for Councilor's remuneration effective from 1st July 2025 in accordance with Section 247 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and furthermore that Council resolve to identify, that the Ordinary General Meetings and Budget (workshop) Meetings are those "identified" meetings where the presence of all councilors is expected to attend to receive the meeting fee component of the remuneration level set out in the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal's remuneration schedule below.

	Salary 1 July 24 to June 25	Salary July 25 to June 26	Difference
Mayor	\$119,393	\$122,975	\$3,582
Deputy Mayor	\$68,880	\$70,946	\$2,066
Councillors	(see Note 1) \$59,695	(see Note 1) \$61,486	\$1,791

*Note 1: For councilors in category A1, A2 and A3 councils, a base payment (two thirds of the annual remuneration) and a monthly payment based upon attendance at council meetings (one third of the annual remuneration) is payable for the 12 months commencing 1 July 2025. Participation in, scheduled meetings of council is subject to certification by the mayor and/or chief executive of the council. Mayors and deputy mayors in category A1, A2 and A3 are currently entitled to receive their full annual remuneration level shown.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.20
4/1

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

16. Naming of Georgetown Streets – Independent Living Facility

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the naming of streets in Georgetown, as a result of the new development being the Independent Living Facility.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report; and
2. Approve the naming of the following roads , pursuant to section 60(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Road 1 - Bloodwood Lane, Road 2 - Coolabah Court and Road 3 - Kurrajong Court.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.02.21
5/0

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Royes	First Street, Forsayth
Cr Royes	Butchers Paddock – letter to lessee
Cr Royes	Old Robinhood Road – CEO to respond
Cr Royes	Gravel Pit – update Agate Creek
Cr Royes	Flat Creek – stabilized floodway and fencing
Cr Royes	Eveleigh Road – report to come to Council
Cr Royes	CEO Review Process
Cr Royes	Disaster Declaration – OK
Cr Royes	Recovery Assistance – town residence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did a welfare check - GIVIT options
Cr Royes	Etheridge Ag Precinct – request update
Cr Royes	NWQROC – Regional Road priorities, Cobbold Gorge Road
Cr Carroll	Riverine Permits in Etheridge River, remove debris in river
Cr Carroll	Robinson River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sand over causeway - Concern raised by residents
Cr Ryan	CEO Review Process

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.22pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 19th March 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR