



CONFIRMED MINUTES

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

Confirmed with amendments at General Meeting held 16 April 2025

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH MARCH 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Barry Hughes
Cr. Ian Carroll
Cr. Laurell Royes (via Teams)
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 9:01am 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

Nil

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Nil

Congratulations:

Council wishes to congratulate Caitlin Tansey and Tristan Gillett on the birth of their daughter Jaycee Cherie Gillett born on 2nd March 2025.

Apologies:

Nil

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 19th February 2025

AMENDMENTS

Item #6 – Tender ESC 2024-024 – Replacement of security fencing in Mt Surprise and Einasleigh Airstrips. Cr Royes advised of an oversight in declaring a conflict of interest when considering this matter in her role as Secretary of the Einasleigh Race Club and is self-reporting as part of adopting the minutes.

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

General Business – Cr Royes enquired of First Street Forsayth requesting that exact wording be included when presented in the minutes.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 19th February 2025 be confirmed, as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.01
5/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Ryan

#25.02.09 - Tender for Gravel Screening.

#25.02.08 - Claim for Compensation – status.

Cr Royes

#25.02.14 - Statement of reasons, what's the status of this matter, is it closed?

#25.02.03 - Request a copy of minute changes of Operational Plan adjustments.

#25.02.04 - Request a copy of Budget Review adjustments.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

1. Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report

At the General Meeting held 16 April 2025, a correction to the recording of this resolution was made during the Consideration of Minutes. The mover to the resolution to Cr Tincknell was made.

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.02
4/1

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

2. Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.03
5/0

3. Financial Performance as at 28th February 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 Council receives the financial statements for the period ended 28 February 2025 pursuant to, and in accordance with section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.04
4/1

Cr Royes requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10:50am

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 11:15am

4. Final Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council published the draft Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025-2030 on 4th February after being adopted at the January 2025 General Meeting. There was no feedback received from the community during the 30 day public notice period. The final copy is therefore unchanged.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to adopt the final Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025 – 2030 as presented.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.05
5/0

5. Policy Adoption – Ex-Gratia (Special) Payments Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the adoption of the Ex-gratia (Special) Payments Policy. The initiative was raised as a solution to a significant deficiency found during the FY23/24 External Audit.

At the General Meeting held 16 April 2025, a correction to the recording of this resolution was made during the Consideration of Minutes. The inclusion of 'to include an approval limit of \$15,000 for the CEO' was made.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to adopt the Ex-gratia (Special) Payments Policy, to include an approval limit of \$15,000 for the CEO.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.06
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

6. Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.07
5/0

7. *Eveleigh Road Condition*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates a request from Council to provide a detailed report on the condition of the Eveleigh Road.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the report on the condition of the Eveleigh Road, as presented with the following actions to be taken:

1. Communications with QRA including
 - a. Advice regarding gravel selection and testing
 - b. In the instance of unsuitable material who is responsible for enforcement for quality assurance purposes
2. Communications with the project manager including
 - a. Failure to report incidents in workplace to Council
 - b. Outline role in compliance and quality assurance
3. A further report including findings with consideration of degradation to Council assets to be reported back to Council

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.08
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:24pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 12:55pm

8. *Survey Feedback and Forsyth Transfer Station Operation Opening Days and Hours*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Ryan and Cr Carrol declared Conflict of Interest with Cash for Cans as they are both non-executive members of the Forsyth All Sports Cub and decided to remain in the meeting and vote in on the matter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the Forsyth Transfer Station Operation survey feedback.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Note and accepts the outcomes of the survey for the Forsyth Transfer Station Operation.
2. Accept the proposal, as amended, for the Forsyth Transfer Operation to open on an unsupervised trial basis on Monday and Wednesday 7am to 2pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.09
5/0

9. *Stormwater Drainage – Atkinson Street, Mount Surprise*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the storm water drainage in Atkinson Street, Mount Surprise

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Note and accepts the report on Storm water drainage in Atkinson Street, Mount Surprise.
2. Accept the option 2 in the report being drainage H – alignment 1264 at the cost of \$31,600.00.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.10
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER REPORTS

10. Projects for Country Roads Connect Program

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to Standing Orders, Council consider other business including report “Projects for Country Roads Connect Program” tabled for Council’s consideration.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.11
5/0

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the nomination of projects for the Country Roads Connect (CRC) Program

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Receive and authorise to apply for funding for Country Roads Connect Program following projects
 - a. Reconstruction and sealing of the Forsayth Road (Road Id 6704) of 7.57 km in length, 8 m seal width with 9 m formation with few major structures for \$ 22 million.
 - b. Reconstruction of Reinforced Cement Concrete of 20 m long on the Georgetown Airstrip Road for \$ 1.6 million.
 - c. Reconstruction and sealing of the Georgetown Airstrip Road (Sandy Creek) including 25 m long box culvert for \$ 2.5 million.
 - d. Re sealing work on Forsayth Einasleigh Road of 32 km for \$ 1.8 million.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

LOST
RESOLUTION
0/5

RESOLUTION

That Council nominate for funding under the Country Roads Connect (CRC) Program for reconstruction and sealing of the Forsayth Road (Road Id 6704) applying for \$1.5 million.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.12
5/0

11. QRA – Crucial Access Links

RESOLUTION

That Council consider other business including funding nominations for the “Crucial Access Links Program” tabled for Council’s consideration.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.03.13
5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council nominate for funding under the “Crucial Access Links Program” for reconstruction and sealing of the Georgetown Airstrip Road (Sandy Creek) for \$ 2.5 million.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.14
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 2:32pm, pursuant to section 254J (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss Tender, ESC 2024-048 – Mill and Fill Roadworks Project – Roads 92B, 92C, 98C, 99A and 99B.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.15
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to re-open the meeting at 2:40pm.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.16
5/0

12. Tender, ESC 2024-048 – Mill and Fill Roadworks Project – Roads 92B, 92C, 98C, 99A and 99B

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the tender ESC 2024-048 – Mill and Fill Roadworks Project – Roads 92B, 92C, 98C, 99A and 99B (Etheridge Shire).

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Pioneer North Queensland Pty Ltd for Contract ESC 2024-048, Mill and Fill Roadworks Project – Roads 92B, 92C, 98C, 99A, and 99B (Etheridge Shire) for \$466,603.50 including GST in accordance with the contract provisions, schedule of rates and local preference; and
2. 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. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.03.17
5/0

DEPUTATION – STATE RECOVERY COORDINATOR

The Mayor suspended standing orders for a deputation with Andrew Cripps, State Recovery Co-ordinator, North Queensland flood event.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew Cripps, Drew Alexion and Siobhan Hensing entered the meeting @ 3:05pm and departed the meeting @ 3:59pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Royes	Request for an update on MOU Hinterland Health Service, Qld Health.
Cr Royes	Payment to local subcontractors, invoices outstanding.
Cr Royes	Costing on First Street Forsayth.
Cr Royes	Update on Old Robinhood Road.
Cr Royes	Update on Flat Creek Road.
Cr Royes	Grant Register status
Cr Royes	Notice of motions, suggestions on process for Agenda for Councillors.
Cr Carroll	Boundary fence from Bald Knob and Einasleigh.
Cr Carroll	Forsayth All Sports access road.
Cr Ryan	Forsayth Georgetown Road, Grader grass on side of road.
Cr Ryan	Cemetery exclusion fencing may be an option given the feral animal infestation. Need a temporary solution.

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 4:42pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR