



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Cr. 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
Mrs. Jillian Anderson, Acting Executive Assistant

OPEN GALLERY

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:02am 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”.

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences: Council wishes to extend their condolences to the family of staff members Karen Luck and Brayden Luck for the loss of their son and brother.

Congratulations: Gemma Bethel and Thomas Lawlor on the birth of Hollie-Mae born on the 18 of April 2025.

Apologies: Nil

DISCLOSURES AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Hughes declared a conflict of interest in the Addendum Item # 1.2 Request for Community Assistance Provided to Community Organisations as his wife is an office bearer on the Bush Races Committee.

Cr Ryan declared a prescribed conflict of interest in the Addendum Item # 1.2 Request for Community Assistance Provided to Community Organisations as she is the Secretary of the Georgetown State School P&C and the Secretary of the Georgetown Turf Club.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 16 April 2025

CORRECTIONS

Item # 9. Washdown Bay Project Status and Additional Works original resolution was Lost and should not have had a resolution number assigned to it. Subsequent resolutions have been renumbered to reflect the error.

That the original resolution for Item # 7 RADF Advisory Committee Minutes be 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.

RESOLUTION

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

1. That the original resolution for Item # 9. Washdown Bay Project Status and Additional Works was Lost and should not have had a resolution number assigned to it. Subsequent resolutions have been renumbered to reflect the error.
2. That the original resolution for Item # 7 RADF Advisory Committee Minutes be amended to:
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. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.01
5/0

Special Meeting Minutes – Monday 28 April 2025

RESOLUTION

That the minutes of the Special Meeting held at Georgetown on Monday 28 April 2025 be confirmed as tabled.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.02
4/1

Cr Ryan voted in the negative.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Royes requested that the new version of the business arising item be made public.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

1. Mayor's Report

1.1 Mayor's Briefing Report

Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Mayor sought consideration of a report for the period.

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.03
5/0

Meeting adjourned for a break at 10.09am and reconvened at 10.31am

2. Chief Executive Officer – Open Session Reports

2.1 Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.04
3/2

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes voted in the negative

3. Director of Corporate Services – Open Session Reports

3.1 Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.05
5/0

3.2 Financial Performance as at 30 April 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:

1. Receives the financial statements for the period ended 30 April 2025 pursuant to, and in accordance with, the section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*; and
2. Adopt the following changes to funding sources from LRCIP4 to:
 - Mt Surprise Remedial Street Drainage (R2R funding)
 - Electronic Noticeboards (Council funding)
 - Washdown Bay - Avdata System, Pump and Water Tank and Electrical Works) (R2R funding)

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.06
5/0

Cr Tincknell left the meeting at 12.06pm and returned at 12.08pm.

3.3 RADF Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 22 April 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Regional Art's Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting was held 22 April 2025, in Georgetown. The minutes of this meeting are tabled for Council's review.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Receive the unconfirmed minutes of the RADF Advisory Committee Meeting held 22 April 2025;
2. Adopt the RADF Advisory Committee recommendation of rolling the remaining funds of \$4,650.00 to the next financial years funding; and
3. Advertise the Community Funding Program Round 1, for the FY25/26 open on the 26th May 2025 and close on the 30th June 2025.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.07
5/0

3.4 Biosecurity Advisory Committee Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Biosecurity Advisory Committee Meeting met on 7 May 2025 and the unconfirmed meeting minutes are tabled for Councils receipt.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Receive the unconfirmed Biosecurity Advisory Committee minutes; and
2. Adopt the Biosecurity Advisory Committee's recommendation that the contaminated gravel stockpile, known as the second gravel stockpile near the old dump at Forsayth (-18.580450 S, 143.589355 E), be used only on the Forsayth-Georgetown Road and is required to be sealed. If the gravel is unusable, it is to be classified as contaminated.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.08
5/0

Mark Watt left the meeting at 12.50pm and returned at 12.51pm

Meeting adjourned for a break at 12.58pm and reconvened at 1.39pm

3. Director of Engineering Services – Open Session Reports

4.1 Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.09
5/0

4.2 Eveleigh Road Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to exploring options to improve the quality of road materials on Eveleigh Road.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges and receives the Eveleigh Road Update;
2. Prepare cost estimate for options for heavy formation grading of Eveleigh Road for further advice to Council;
3. Include in Council's proposed DRFA Scope of Works the future process of gravel extraction including gravel testing.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.10
5/0

4.3 Gravel Extraction from the Agate Creek Fossicking Area – Ortona Road

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the investigation of gravel extraction from the Agate Creek Fossicking Area for the flood restoration works on the Ortona Road.

RESOLUTION

That Council receives the Gravel Extraction from the Agate Creek Fossicking Area – Ortona Road report.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

LOST
0/5

5 Consideration of Open Session Addendum

5.1 Realignment and Replacement of a Section of Einasleigh Common Boundary Fence

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of a request from an adjoining landowner to the Einasleigh Common, requesting a realignment of the existing fence and requesting a contribution of the proposed fencing costs.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Resolve to allow the realignment of the boundary fence while not on the lot/plan boundary as per the landholders preferred fence route.
2. Despite the requirements of the *Stock Route Management Act 2002*, Council resolve to contribute to fencing materials to the value of \$3,468.19.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.11
5/0

5.2 Request for Community Assistance Provided to Community Organisations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council called applications under its three (3) Community Assistance Policies for events being held 1 July 2025 through to 30 June 2026.

Cr Ryan left the meeting at 3.02pm and returned at 3.11pm.

Cr Ryan declared a prescribed conflict of interest in the Addendum Item 1.2 Request for Community Assistance Provided to Community Organisations as she is the Secretary of the Georgetown State School P&C and the Secretary of the Georgetown Turf Club.

Cr Hughes declared a prescribed conflict of interest in the Addendum Item 1.2 Request for Community Assistance Provided to Community Organisations as his wife is an office bearer on the Bush Races Committee.

Cr Tincknell declared a prescribed conflict of interest in the Addendum Item 1.2 Request for Community Assistance Provided to Community Organisations as his wife is the president of the CWA.

MOTION

That Council suspend Standing Orders at 3.11pm.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.12
5/0

MOTION

That Council resume Standing Orders at 3.23pm.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.13
5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Pursuant to section 14a (Lack of Quorum) of the Etheridge Shire Council's Standing Orders; and
2. Pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council delegate its power to the CEO to award In Kind, Grant & Sponsorship as per the addendum report presented 2. Request for Community Assistance provided to Community Organisations.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.05.14
5/0

Meeting adjourned at 3.33pm and reconvened at 3.44pm

6. *General Business*

| Councillor | Description |
|-------------|--|
| Cr. Carroll | Does Council have a Use of Drone Policy for Council employees? |
| Cr. Carroll | Heavy vehicle wash down bay elevated platform |
| Cr. Carroll | Independent living viewing |
| Cr. Carroll | Forsayth transfer station use and feedback |
| Cr. Ryan | Einasleigh - Genex/ Kidston Hydro/ Windfarm community meeting. Council MUST stop dithering about Road User Agreements and get some real action with \$5-10M proposed to be spent on temporary upgrades by Genex between 26/27 to the Einasleigh-Lynd for the turbines Council should be using R2R / TIDS funding to make the passing and stopping bays, and call points permanent. |
| Cr. Ryan | Einasleigh Water Security - update on securing water licence and releases. |
| Cr. Ryan | Georgetown Dump - no remedial work has been undertaken after being raised at April meeting about the absolute disgrace and biosecurity risk under the current management regime. |

7. *Conclusion*

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5.02pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 18 June 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR