



CONFIRMED MINUTES

**GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2025
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM**

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 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
Ms. Karen Luck, Executive Assistant
Mrs. Kim Williams, Acting Executive Assistant

OPEN GALLERY

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:03am 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 friends and colleagues of Heather Johnstone who passed recently.

Congratulations: Nil

Apologies: Nil

DISCLOSURES AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 21 May 2025

CORRECTIONS

Cr Ryan:

Correction to Resolution #25.05.14 – That Council:

- 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*.
- Remove 2.1 & 2.2 of the resolution

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 21st May 2025 be confirmed, as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.01
3/2**

Cr Royes and Cr Ryan recorded their vote against the motion due to a dispute of the resolution #25.05.10.

Council adjourned the meeting for morning tea at 10.03am.
Council resumed the meeting at 10.21am.

Special Meeting Minutes – Monday 29 May 2025

CORRECTION

#SP25.05.07 – Add to Procedural motion “Additional information for Council to reconsider the report and make a decision”

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held at Georgetown on Thursday 29th May 2025 be confirmed, as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.02
5/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Ryan – Corrections will be amended in Business Arising as noted above

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. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.03
5/0

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. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.04
4/1

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

2.2 Etheridge Shire Planning Scheme Amendment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Update to Council on the progress and public notification requirements of the amendment to Council's Planning Scheme.

RESOLUTION

That Council note the contents of the report on the Planning Scheme Amendment and the required public notification.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.05
4/1

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

Council adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:45pm.

Council resumed the meeting at 1:15pm.

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. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.06
5/0

3.2 Financial Performance as at 31 May 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 31 May 2025 pursuant to section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.07
5/0

4. 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 #25.06.08
5/0

MOTION

The Einasleigh Dust Pad proceeds on current recommendation of Council Officers being on the Northern side of Gregory Development Road subject to risk assessment report.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.09
3/2

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

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 3.35pm, pursuant to section 254J(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss ESC2025-007 – Drainage Structures – CN-22813 Gulf Development Road Widening and Drainage Project, Sale of Land for Rate Arrears (3years or more) and Write of Interest and EML.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.10
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to re-open the meeting at 4:15pm.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.04.11
5/0

5.1 ESC2025-007 – Drainage Structures – CN-22813 Gulf Development Road Widening and Drainage Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An amended report relating to the purchase of pipes and culverts for TMR Contract CN-22813 92C Gulf Development Road reconstruction and widening project.

RESOLUTION

1. That Council resolve to bring the previously presented matter, being ESC2025-007 - Drainage Structures - CN-22813 Gulf Development Road Widening and Drainage Project, off the table from the May General meeting for consideration;
2. That Council receive and note the contents of an amended report, dated 10 June 2025, for ESC2025-007 - Drainage Structures - CN-22813 Gulf Development Road Widening and Drainage Project;
3. That pursuant to section 234(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council enter into a contract under an LGA arrangement with Civilmart Rocla for the purchase of Culverts and Pipes to the value of \$482,308.48 (Incl-GST).

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.12
4/1

Cr Ryan requested her vote be recorded against the motion.

5.2 Sale of Land for Rate Arrears (3 years or more)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council has two properties with unpaid rates exceeding three years. Under the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may resolve to sell such properties to recover outstanding debts. This report seeks Council's resolution to commence the sale process in accordance with legislative requirements.

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 140(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolve to commence proceedings to sell assessment #00265-17000-000 for rate arrears.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.13
5/0

5.3 Write of interest and EML

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council has been advised that the mining leases were cancelled effective 14th February 2025 which include:

00424-02000-000 MLG30155 \$1,911.38
00451-55000-000 MLG30077 \$1,911.38
00451-56000-000 MLG30078 \$1,911.38

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 140(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolve to write off interest and EML on the below assessments due to lease's being cancelled:

- 00424-02000-000
- 00451-55000-000
- 00451-56000-000

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.14
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM

6.1 Independent Living (Affordable Housing) Policies & Tender Application applicable to Units 2B & 2C, Lot 5 Forsayth Road, Georgetown

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council has partnered with the State of Queensland under the Affordable Housing Program to construct two residential dwellings (Units 2B & 2C of Lot 5 Forsayth Road, Georgetown) aimed at supporting eligible residents with access to housing. The construction of these homes is nearing completion, and Council must now take the necessary steps to operationalise the allocation process.

This includes developing and adopting appropriate housing policies (e.g., eligibility, tenancy management, and rental rates) and initiating a formal tender or application process to allocate the homes in a fair, transparent, and compliant manner. Opening applications will ensure the project objectives are met and will enable Council to assess interest and demand from within the community.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Endorse the development of C059 – Independent Living (Affordable Housing) Eligibility Policy, C060 – Independent Living (Affordable Housing) Allocations Policy and C061 – Independent Living (Affordable Housing) Rent Policy to guide the allocation and management of the two dwellings being Units 2B & 2C of Lot 5 Forsayth Road, Georgetown;
2. Approve the initiation of an open public tender application process for tenancy of the two affordable housing dwellings; and
3. That pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council delegate to the Chief Executive Officer its power to implement policy documents and manage the application process including the issue of rental leases for Units 2B & 2C of Lot 5 Forsayth Road, Georgetown in accordance with relevant legislation including *Housing Act 2003* and *Housing Regulation 2015*, and funding requirements of the Delivery Deed and Operations Deed held with the Department of Housing.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.06.15
5/0

7. General Business

Councillor	Description
Cr. Royes	Requesting inclusion into July General Meeting Open Session Agenda -Etheridge Shire Council's Gulf Water Plan Submission (Regional Submission) Go onto website and front counter
Cr. Royes	Requesting inclusion into July General Meeting Open Session Agenda - Rural Economic Development - Collaborative Agreement (NW33 Etheridge Shire Council Irrigation Precinct Development – North West Queensland) Project website
Cr. Royes	Strategic Discussion (workforce logistics) - concerns raised by business owners witnessing "logistical chaos" and huge cost implications.
Cr. Royes	GSD (Neil O'Brien) - Request Council (including 5 elected representatives) Meeting (preferably workshop) to discuss strategic direction of ESC and collaboration.
Cr. Royes	Strategic Discussion (possible mentioned land purchases) - unknown details/plans
Cr. Royes	Update roadworks on the Cobbold Gorge Road (QRA/Capital Project/Maintenance) (LRRS status)
Cr. Royes	Update "Old Robin Hood" Gravel Pit matter - request urgent finalisation of the matter
Cr. Ryan	Forsayth Dump
Cr. Ryan	Agate Creek Mine status
Cr. Carroll	Emergency health staffing and delayed evacuation concerns.
Cr. Carroll	Clarification of items 3.2 and 3.3 of Pacifica ESC Audit report (Council Owned Building St George Street)
Cr. Carroll	Council's heavy vehicle fatigue management (Basic Fatigue Management -vs- Advanced Fatigue Management)

8. Conclusion

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5.21pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR