



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026**

ATTENDANCE

Cr. Barry Hughes
Cr. Ian Carroll
Cr. Laurell Royes
Cr. Seven Ryan
Cr. Ian Tincknell

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mrs. Louise Knol, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Alan Clark, Director of Engineering Services
Mrs Renee Bester, Director Corporate Services digital link (Teams) from 10:41am to 11:08am.
Miss. Gemma Bethel, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

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”.

ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Attendance:

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Council wish to send their condolences to the family of the Late Mr Owen Schmidt.

Congratulations:

Council wishes to congratulate the 2026 Debutantes and the Debutante Ball Committee and volunteers on the outstanding success of the 2026 Debutante Ball. Council acknowledges and appreciates the dedication, hard work and commitment of all involved in planning and delivering this memorable community event and extends its best wishes to the debutantes and their families.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Royes

Cr Royes informed the meeting of a possible Material Personal Interest (MPI) in agenda item 11.4 RADF Advisory Meeting Confirmation of Minutes due to Cr Royes' daughter (Ms Josie Prior) being a RADF committee member. In accordance with S150ED(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the MPI does not apply in relation to a councillor's interest in a matter if the interest of the councillor, or an associate or related party of the councillor, is no greater than the personal interests in the matter of a significant proportion of persons in the local government area. Therefore an MPI does not exist. .

Cr Ryan

Cr Ryan informed the meeting of a possible Material Personal Interest (MPI) in agenda item 11.4 RADF Advisory Meeting Confirmation of Minutes due to Cr Ryan's daughter (Ms Sascha Young) being a RADF committee member. In accordance with S150ED(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the MPI does not apply in relation to a councillor's interest in a matter if the interest of the councillor, or an associate or related party of the councillor, is no greater than the personal interests in the matter of a significant proportion of persons in the local government area. Therefore an MPI does not exist.

6. Confirmation Of Minutes

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 12th August 2026

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 15th July 2026 be confirmed including the following amendments:

- Mayor Hughes leave of absence to be amended from NWQROC to FNQROC.
- Aerodrome Fencing – Georgetown and Forsayth, confirm map attachment due to a reference in the resolution

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.01
5/0

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr. Ryan:

26.06.05 – Letter to Minister McBain re DRFA changes
26.08.08 – BESS CBA
26.08.13 – Independent Housing
26.05.16 – Wet & Dry Hire/Fuel Levy

Cr. Royes:

SP5.04.06 – DRFA Management Structure within Council

Cr Tincknell:

Flying Fox Management

8. MAYORAL UPDATE

RESOLUTION

That Council receives the Mayoral Update as presented.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.02
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10:14am

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10:31am

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

10.1 Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officers Briefing Report for the period August 2026.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.03
5/0

10.2 Guideline for Councillor and Chief Executive Officer Attendance at Meetings, Events and Functions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is asked to consider adopting the Guidelines for Councillor and Chief Executive Officer Attendance at Meetings, Events and Functions. These guidelines provide a framework to assist Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in determining attendance at meetings, events, functions, community activities and stakeholder engagements on behalf of Council.

RESOLUTION

That Council adopt the Guidelines for Councillor and Chief Executive Officer Attendance at Meetings, Events and Functions as presented with this Officer Report as amended, Item 7.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.04
5/0

10.2 Country University Centre (in Principle Support)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has the opportunity to participate in the development of a North West Queensland Regional University Study Hub/Country University Centre model being coordinated through NWQROC Regional University Study Hub Project. The project is investigating a regionally appropriate hub-and-spoke approach aligned with the Australian Government's Regional University Study Hub (RUSH) Program and the Country Universities Centre (CUC) model.

The proposal presents an opportunity to improve access to tertiary education, workforce development, upskilling, career progression and lifelong learning opportunities across the Etheridge Shire while supporting broader regional collaboration across North West Queensland.

At this stage, the project remains in a planning and funding-readiness phase. No commitment is sought regarding funding, property, governance arrangements or ongoing operational costs. Rather, the report seeks Council's in-principle support for continued participation and development of the concept through NWQROC.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Provides in-principle support for the continued development of the North West Queensland Regional University Study Hub / Country Universities Centre opportunity through NWQROC;
2. Supports further investigation of an Etheridge Shire hub-and-spoke model comprising Georgetown as the principal hub, with Forsayth, Einasleigh and Mount Surprise considered as potential spoke locations;

3. Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will continue discussions and collaboration with NWQROC, Country Universities Centre representatives, government agencies, education providers, industry stakeholders and community representatives regarding the development of the proposal;
4. Notes that Council's in-principle support does not constitute approval of any financial, property, governance or ongoing operational commitment; and
5. Requests that a further report be presented to Council following completion of the NWQROC development process, including governance options, funding pathways, facility requirements, risks and indicative costs for Council consideration.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.05
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester joined the meeting via Teams at 10:41am

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

11.1 Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report August 2026

RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report for the month of August 2026.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.06
5/0

11.2 Financial Performance as at 31 August 2026

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 August 2026 pursuant to, and in accordance with section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.07
5/0

11.3 Independent Audit Committee Chairperson EOI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with information on the proposed Expression of Interest process to identify suitably qualified candidates for appointment as an independent Chairperson of Council's Audit Committee, strengthening governance, independence and alignment with legislative and sector guidance.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Notes the proposed commencement of an Expression of Interest process to seek suitably qualified candidates for appointment as an independent Chairperson of Council's Audit Committee;
2. Notes that the Expression of Interest process will include public advertising across appropriate public platforms, assessment against a skills matrix, shortlisting and interviews;
3. Notes that \$10,000 has been budgeted as a stipend for meeting attendance by the independent Chairperson; and
4. Notes that the recommended candidate for appointment as Independent Chairperson will be presented to a future Council meeting for consideration and determination following completion of the assessment process.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.08
5/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes

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11.4 RADF Advisory Meeting Confirmation of Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Round 1 of the FY2026/2027 RADF funding closed earlier this year and a RADF Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for 6 August 2026 to consider the applications received. As there was no quorum at the meeting, votes were subsequently taken by email poll and recommendations are made to Council for endorsement.

RESOLUTION

That Council endorse the following recommendations of the RADF Advisory Committee, as determined by email poll of the Committee as there was not a quorum at the Committee Meeting scheduled for 6 August 2026:

1. The minutes of the previous meeting held 27th April 2026 be confirmed;
2. Award RADF funding to the applicant Nerida van Emmerick for the amount of \$4,889.00 for Wire Gem Tree Workshops;
3. Accept the resignation of Kelly Bethel, thank her for her service and further readvertise for the Committee position; and
4. Readvertise to continue to accept applications for the remaining available RADF Community Grant Funding.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.09
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester left the meeting at 11:08am

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

12.1 Director Engineering Services - Briefing Report August 2026

RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report for the month of August 2026.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION#26.09.10
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 11:27am, pursuant to section 254J (3) (f) and (g), of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss the following items:

- Etheridge Local Disaster Management Plan Adoption
- ESC2026-027 - Strathmore Road Stabilisation

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION#26.09.11
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to come out of closed session at 12:30pm

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION#26.09.12
5/0

13.1 Etheridge Local Disaster Management Plan Adoption

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Etheridge Shire Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) has been reviewed and updated in accordance with the requirements of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and the Queensland Disaster Management arrangements. The revised Plan has been considered and endorsed by the Etheridge Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and is now presented to Council for formal adoption.

The LDMP provides the framework for disaster preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and resilience activities within the Etheridge Shire. The Plan outlines local arrangements, responsibilities, governance structures, communication protocols and operational processes to support effective disaster management before, during and after disaster events.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Notes that the Etheridge Shire Local Disaster Management Group has reviewed and endorsed the revised Etheridge Local Disaster Management Plan;
2. Adopts the Etheridge Shire Local Disaster Management Plan as amended;

3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor administrative amendments to the Plan where required, provided such amendments do not materially alter the intent of the document; and
4. Notes that the Plan will be submitted to the District Disaster Management Group and made publicly (with sensitive information excluded) available in accordance with legislative requirements.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.13
5/0

12.2 ESC2026-027 Strathmore Road Stabilisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sealed section of Strathmore Road was significantly damaged during the severe weather events in early 2026. Northlane picked up the damage and has had the rectification works approved by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA). Tenders were called for the works with the requirement that all works need to be completed prior to the end of November 2026 as per tender number ESC2027-027 – Strathmore Road Stabilisation. The majority of the road will be cement stabilised to provide superior flood resistance.

RESOLUTION

1. That Council pursuant to section 234(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council enter a contract under an LGA arrangement with Stabilised Pavements Australia for the value of \$3,319,879.40 excl GST under tender ESC2026-027.
2. That Council delegate authority to the CEO in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to enter into contracts, finalise and negotiate any and all matters relating to this contract subject to normal procurement practices and policies.
3. Note that the procurement process was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and Council's Procurement Policy, and that the recommendation has been assessed having regard to the sound contracting principles of values for money, open and effective competition, the development of competitive local business and industry, environmental protection, and ethical behaviour and fair dealing

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.14
5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council received a verbal update regarding the Gulf Development Road project current financial status and ongoing discussions with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #26.09.15
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:37pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1:15pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr.	Item
Cr. Carroll	Flat Creek road closure (Peter Henry)
Cr. Carroll	Northlane site visits lack of courtesy
Cr. Carroll	Northlane site visits lack of courtesy

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Cr. Carroll	Shire wide signage issues/budge
Cr. Tincknell	Suggestion forklift access to hall.
Cr. Tincknell	Debrief Gilbert river community connect/Community connects in general.
Cr. Tincknell	Old GB items e.g. Mt Surprise dump.
Cr. Tincknell	Low water pressure at washdown bay
Cr. Tincknell	Wet & Dry Hire contractor vehicle bogging
Cr. Royes	Email (Peter Henry) Road Register matters
Cr. Royes	Email (Elisa Fox) Townley Station matters
Cr. Royes	Email (Tony Gallagher) Town Planning matters
Cr. Royes	Accessibility of Community Buildings (outside Georgetown)
Cr. Royes	LDMG Committee (Most significant Shire emergency supply/resupply stakeholder omitted from recent meeting) (Only business in Shire responsible for emergency aviation fuel supply & logistics)
Cr. Royes	<u>Urgent</u> Georgetown Town Fence (no action -as per previous " <u>urgent</u> " General Business)
Cr. Royes	DRFA Project Management Lack of communication (entry to properties/homestead complexes)
Cr. Royes	DRFA Schedule Delays

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 2:28pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2026.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR