



CONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT THE SPORTS CENTRE, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE SPORTS CENTRE, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM**

ATTENDANCE

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

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Raju Ranjit, Director of Engineering Services
Mrs. Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services
Miss. Gemma Bethel, Executive Assistant

OPEN GALLERY

Glenda Daly

The following students and staff members from Georgetown State School.

- Liam Fox
- Montana Green
- Bailey Hughes
- Molly Mosch
- Zack Pedersen
- James Terry
- Savannah Mortimer
- Mason Sheahan
- Colton Kernan
- Arwen Riggs
- Mrs Timina LeBrocq
- Mrs Anna Thomas

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:12am and welcomed all in attendance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

“We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the history, cultural practice, and traditions, of their people.”

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

- Prescribed interest in agenda item #18 - Native Title Determination QUD777/2019 – Gugu Badhun #3
- Declared interest in agenda item #21 – Crushing and Screening of Gravel

Cr Ryan

- Prescribed interest in agenda item #20 - Tender for Sealing Work for Forsayth to Einasleigh Road – ESC 2024-021

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Council wishes to extend their condolences to the family of Dawn McPherson.
Council wishes to extend their condolences to the family of John Hosie.

Congratulations:

Council wishes to congratulate the following:

- Tye and Ashlyn Ryan of Rockdale Station on the birth of their son, Brantley.
- Wade Jenkins and Sophie Krockenberger on the birth of their daughter, Jordan.
- Sascha Young on receiving College Captain at Blackheath & Thornburgh College.
- Chase Tansey on receiving Boarding Vice Captain & Bacon Bacon (House) Captain at Blackheath & Thornburgh College.
- Sam Cowan on receiving School Captain at All Souls St Gabriels School.
- Jade Cowan on receiving Chad House Captain and Prefect at All Souls St Gabriels School.

Council wishes to congratulate all staff and personnel involved in achieving the Silver Earth Check status.

Apologies:

Nil

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

1. General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 18th September 2024

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 18th September be confirmed.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.01
5/0**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Royes

#24.09.21 – Commencement date of new CEO, Mark Watt.

STANDING ORDERS

Council resolves to suspend standing orders at 9:23am, to engage with Georgetown State School Students.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.02
5/0**

Council resolves to resume standing orders at 10:38am.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.03
5/0**

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

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. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.04
5/0

2. Financial Performance as at 30th September 2024

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 30th September 2024 pursuant, and in accordance with, the Local Government Regulation 2012 (s204).

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.05
5/0

3. Quarterly 2024/25 Operational Plan Review – First Quarter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with s174(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, tabled for Council's reception is the first quarter (1st July – 30th September 2024) progress report on implementing Council's 2024-2025 Operational Plan.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the first quarterly progress report on Council's progress toward implementing its 2024/2025 Operational Plan.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.06
5/0

4. Standing Orders and Meeting Procedures Policy – Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for council to formalise Post-Election Meeting resolution by considering to adopt the Standing Orders and Meeting Procedures Policy, reflecting the updated "Best practice example standing orders for local government and standing committee meetings" as published by the Queensland Government and updated as at July 2024, following legislative amendments to the *Local Government Act 2009*.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Standing Orders and Meeting Procedures Policy (C057), replacing all and any historical policies or procedures with the same or similar title or intent.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.07
5/0

5. Biosecurity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Adoption

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Biosecurity Advisory Committee held its most recent meeting on 27th September 2024. The minutes of this meeting are tabled for Council's review.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

- receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Biosecurity Advisory Committee meeting held 27th September 2024
- resolve to adopt the recommendations provided by the Biosecurity Advisory Committee at the meeting held 27th September 2024

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.08
5/0

6. Amendment to 2024/25 Fees & Charges

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council determined its 2024/2025 Fees & Charges at the Special Budget Meeting held 28th July 2024. Since then, Council have changed some of its practices which require an amendment to the 2024/2025 Fees and Charges

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to amend the 2024/2025 Fees & Charges to include:

- Removal of the internet usage charges at the TerrEstrial Centre
- Amend the printing fee at the TerrEstrial Centre to \$0.65/page (flat fee)

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.09
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to defer the below items to a future meeting:

- Annual fee and subsequent renewal fee for granted applications for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas.
- Annual fee and subsequent renewal fee for granted applications for Commercial Use including Roadside Vending.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.10
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

7. 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 #24.10.11
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:21pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1:02pm

8. Einasleigh and Mt Surprise Town Maintenance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the scope of works and hours required to maintain the Einasleigh and Mount Surprise towns.

RESOLUTION

Council accepts the report and request the Director of Engineering to provide a draft tender document to be presented at the November General Meeting.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.12
5/0

9. Daintree Road Einasleigh

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the consideration of the request to use the Daintree Road by local people only and install "No through road sign" at the entry of the Daintree Road (Unformed section) in Einasleigh .

RESOLUTION

That Council

1. Accept the request and approves following:

(b) Installation of signs of "No through Road" and "Local traffic only" at intersection of Daintree Street and Einasleigh Forsayth Road.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.13
5/0

10. Naming the Unnamed Roads in Forsayth

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request Council authorise to name the existing unnamed road located to the north side of the lot /plan of 161 MPH41012 and west side of 160MPH4012.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to update the road register to the continuation of Eighth Street, Forsayth.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.14
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

11. Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.15
5/0

12. Closure of Shire Offices, Depot Administration, Workshop, Outside Work Crews, Town Crews, Terrestrial Centre and Little Gems Children Centre between Christmas and New Year

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year council has closed the Shire operations over the Christmas and New Year period to allow staff to enjoy the festive season with family and friends, in appreciation of the dedication to Council throughout the year.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Endorses the closure of:

1. the Shire and Depot Administration Offices, Terrestrial Centre, Little Gems Childcare Centre, Town Crews and Workshop from Saturday 21st December 2024 to 5th January 2025 with the return to work date being Monday 6th January 2025.

2. the Road and RMPC Crews from Thursday 19th December 2024 to 13th January 2025 with the return to work date being Tuesday 14th January 2025.

Subject to appropriate on call arrangements with senior staff being put into place for emergency matters.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.16
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM

Director Of Corporate Services

13. RADF Committee Flying Minute

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Regional Art's Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee opened Round 1 of the Community Funds to the amount of \$10000, on the 23rd of September and closed the round on the 7th October 2024. As the Committee could not meet in person prior to the October General Meeting, an e-Poll was conducted to collect member votes.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to adopt the recommendations made by the RADF Committee including the following:

- Award \$3000 to The Hat Bar NT for Round 1 of the Community Funding
- Endorse Katie Jones as a RADF Committee member

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.17
5/0

14. Draft 2025-2029 Corporate Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council engaged Mead Perry to conduct Council's 2024-2025 Corporate Plan. Mead Perry undertook consultation in the week beginning 7th October with Staff, Council and Communities to discuss the response from the survey results. Mead Perry have drafted a document based on the feedback received and the objectives of the Councillors for endorsement.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to:

- Endorse the draft 2024-2029 Etheridge Shire Council Corporate Plan subject to public comment for 30 days, with the final document to be presented to the December 2024 General Meeting.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.18
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM

Director Of Engineering Services

15. Torrlinger Road Extension

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the extension of the Torrlinger Road as per the request of the resident.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to maintain the Torrlinger road network to the homestead.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.19
5/0

16. Upgrade of Firth Street, Mt Surprise

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the upgrade the Firth Street and drainage works near in Mount Surprise.

RESOLUTION

That Council accepts the proposed Firth Street upgrade project and drainage works around the Firth Street in Mount Surprise.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.20
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 3:04pm to discuss (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government under section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012 which states that:

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss the sale of land.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.21
5/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes has a prescribed conflict of interest in agenda item #18 and left the room at 3:10pm and returned at 3:20pm

Renee Bester has a declarable conflict of interest in agenda item #19 and left the meeting at 3:21pm and returned at 3:52pm.

RESOLUTION

Council resolve to come out of closed session at 3:52pm.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.22
5/0

17. Write Off – Interest on Rates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council was advised of the following liquidations with regards to mining leases:

1. on 20th November 2023 by the liquidator of assessment 00452-00900-000 that the leases were disclaimed by the liquidator on the 30/06/2023.

2. Council resolved to write off \$156,669.21 at its meeting held 18th September 2024

Council has written off the predetermined amount however, due to system constraints there was a discrepancy between interest accrued and discount not applied which has caused the assessment to have an outstanding balance as at 18th October 2024 including accrued interest.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to write off the interest that has accrued on Assessment #00452-00900-000 for the amount of \$1154.67.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.23
5/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes has a prescribed conflict of interest in agenda item #18 and left the room at 3:53pm.

18. Native Title Determination QUD777/2019 – Gugu Badhun #3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ernest Hoolihan, Harry Gertz, Narda Kennedy, Hazel Ilin and Elsie Thompson on their own behalf and on behalf of the Gugu Badhun #3 filed a native title determination application on 17 December 2019 in the Federal Court (“Application”). The Application covers the local government areas of Etheridge Shire Council and Charters Towers Regional Council. The application is located south of Greenvale west to the Great Dividing Range and east to the Clark River. The Application within Council’s local government area covers the eastern part of Lyndhurst Station (part of Lot 14 on LH 18) and Welcome Downs Station (part of Lot 6 on CD 14). A copy of the register extract is attached at Schedule A.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves as follows:-

1. Council notes the contents of the Report.
2. Council resolves that it accepts the Applicants connection for the purposes of substantive negotiations in reliance of the State conditional acceptance of connection.
3. Council agrees with the tenure analysis provided by the State of Queensland.
4. Council is not aware of any Council infrastructure or other “public works” and agrees to the generic “other interests” clause as detailed in the Report.
5. That the Council delegates to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer (in consultation with Council) the power to negotiate and agree any further issues identified in the Gugu Badhun #3 Application relating to Council.
6. Subject to 5 above, Council authorises Moray & Agnew Lawyers to sign a s87/s87A agreement on behalf of Council and to consent to a determination of native title.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.24
4/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 3:55pm.

Renee Bester has a declarable conflict of interest in agenda item #19 and left the room at 3:55pm.

19. Application for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received an application for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas for a proposal of cruises on Charleston Dam. Council has investigated this option and implemented appropriate measures (licences, applications and fees) to accommodate such a proposal.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to consider the matter once advice is received and a comprehensive policy is developed on the Commercial use of Council Controlled land.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.25
5/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Renee Bester returned to the meeting at 3:57pm.

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 3:58pm to discuss (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government under section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012 which states that:

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss the sale of land.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.26
5/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes has a prescribed conflict of interest in agenda item #21 and left the room at 3:59pm and returned at 4:20pm.

ATTENDANCE

Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 4:01pm and returned at 4:05pm.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Ryan has a prescribed conflict of interest in agenda item #20 and left the room at 4:20pm.

RESOLUTION

Council resolve to come out of closed session at 4:55pm

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.27
4/0

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Ryan had a prescribed conflict of interest with agenda item #20.

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION ADDENDUM

Director Of Engineering Services

20. Tender for Sealing Work for Forsayth to Einasleigh Road – ESC 2024-021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the consideration of tenders received for sealing for Forsayth Einasleigh Road from chainage 32.267 km to 37.10 km.

RESOLUTION

Subject to exhausting all other procurement options to seal this road, Council resolves to accept the tender of Stabilised Pavement Australia (SPA) for traffic management, design, supply, seal the two coats of seal on the Forsayth – Einasleigh Road from chainage 32.267 km to 37.10 km to the value of \$ 539,520 (ex GST) .

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.28
2/2**

VOTE

Cr Hughes used his casting vote **FOR** the above motion (Final vote 3/2)
Cr Royes and Cr Tincknell requested that their vote be recorded against the above motion.

ATTENDANCE

Cr Carroll left the meeting at 4:58pm and returned at 5pm.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Ryan returned to the meeting at 5.03pm.
Cr Royes has a prescribed conflict of interest in agenda item #21 and left the room 5:05pm.

21. Crushing and Screening of Gravel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the gravel crushing and screening options.

RESOLUTION

Council acknowledges the work that was put into the tender however are going to explore other options to deliver this service. Council also requests the Director of Engineering to source product comparisons.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.10.29
4/0**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 5:11pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business raised at the October Meeting:

Please note that due to time constraints the below General Business was raised but not discussed.

Cr Royes	Community Resilience Workshop (JCU) a. Council awareness and use of the Community Resilience Profile - Gulf region (produced over 15 years by Prof Allan Dale)
Cr Royes	NWROC Meeting attendance a. NWROC Enabling Infrastructure Plan - presented document (attached) i. https://www.nwqroc.com.au/nwq-enabling-infrastructure-masterplan-2024 b. NWROC Regional Profile - present document (attached) i. https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:01d15458-d21b-4bd2-8f4a-61f516ece74b c. WQAC Priority Roads Network Report - presented document (attached) i. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K1gLM68x8UDnh-dE94-EQO7rbXtqFhI8/view ii. WQAC-Priority-Roads-Network-Report-2024.pdf
Cr Royes	FNQROC Meeting attendance a. Kennedy Development Road (Hann Highway) status/lobbying b. Advance Cairns Membership
Cr Royes	LDMG Meeting attendance a. Ensure all Essential services locally are notified of events/activities that may effect their service delivery (Georgetown Clinic - Airport Closure/ Roadhouse Fuel & Food - Road Closures) b. TMR Electronic Road Sign at Forty Mile - update of progress c. Strategy to increase volunteer numbers particularly in Fire/SES

CONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 16TH OCTOBER 2024

Cr Royes	Request Councillor Inspection of Georgetown Town Fence/Walk - to develop strategy/budget to improve both
Cr Royes	Request all Suggestion Box Items to be included in Council Agenda
Cr Royes	Council Housing Report - What we have/ Full capacity/ Current Use/ Future Need
Cr Royes	Develop "Etheridge Shire Regional Profile" Document - to be presented at all Regional/State/Federal Meetings (Similar to NWROC Regional Profile Document)
Cr Royes	Gulf Water Plan Review - Council input
Cr Royes	Process to ensure outcomes of General Business Items are publicly available. (ie: Subsequent Meeting Agenda)
Cr Royes	Further Consultation of the Draft Corporate Plan - Disseminated via the inform and feedback via email.
Cr Royes	Budget: a. Projector/Screen/Teams or Zoom capability for Einasleigh/Mt Surprise/ Forsayth/Georgetown Sports Centre/Community Halls as part of "Learning Centre" development
Cr Carroll	Extending our current Corporate Plan community consultation time frame and opportunities to broaden survey delivery to constituents.

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:14pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2024.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR