



NOTICE OF MEETING

- Meeting:** General Meeting
- Date:** Wednesday, 18th December 2024
- Location:** **Council Chambers,
Georgetown**
- Commencing:** **9.00am**
- Councillors:** Cr Hughes
Cr Royes
Cr Tincknell
Cr Ryan
Cr Carroll

Agenda Attached

Mark Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Local Government Act Qld 2009

Section 4(2) of the *Local Government Act Qld 2009* state that the local government principles are:

- a) Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest
- b) Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services
- c) Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement
- d) Good governance of, and by, local government
- e) Ethical and legal behavior of councilors and local government employees

Local Government Regulation 2012

Section 254(J) Closed meetings:

- (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 one or more of the following matters –
 - a) The appointment, dismissal or discipline of a chief executive officer
 - b) Industrial matters affecting employees
 - c) The local government's budget
 - d) Rating concessions
 - e) Legal advice obtained by the Council or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government
 - f) Matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or group of individuals
 - 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
 - h) Negotiations relating to the taking of land by the local government under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*
 - i) A matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State
 - j) An investigation report given to the local government under chapter 5A, part 3, division 5 of the Act.
- (4) However, a local government or a committee of a local government must not resolve that a part of a local government meeting at which a decision mentioned in section 150ER(2), 150ES(3) or 150EU(2) of the Act will be considered, discussed, voted on or made to be closed.
- (5) A resolution that a local government meeting be closed must –
 - a) State the matter mentioned in subsection (3) that is to be discussed; and
 - b) Include an overview of what is to be discussed while the meeting is closed. meeting be closed must state the nature of the matters to be considered while the
 - c) meeting is closed.
- (6) A local government or a committee of a local government must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a local government meeting, or a part of a local government meeting, that is closed.

OPEN SESSION AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND SIGNING OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY
3. PRAYER
4. APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS
5. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
6. CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
7. CONSIDERATION OF CEO OPEN SESSION REPORTS
8. CONSIDERATION OF DCS OPEN SESSION REPORTS
9. CONSIDERATION OF DES OPEN SESSION REPORTS
10. CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS
11. CONSIDERATION OF ADDENDUM REPORTS
12. CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS
13. CONCLUSION

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UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2024**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor 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
Miss. Gemma Bethel, Executive Assistant

OPEN GALLERY

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:02am 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 declared a declarable conflict of interest in agenda item #14 – Gravel Crushing and Screening Options as she shares occupancy of Routh Station with Bolwarra Enterprises, a gravel provider to Council.

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Council wishes to extend their condolences to the family of Helen Pezzotti, Bryan Carroll, and Phil Thompson.

Congratulations:

Council wishes to congratulate Hayden Pedracini and Alex Turley on the birth of their son, Charlie.

Apologies:

Nil

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 16th October 2024

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 16th October be confirmed.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.01
5/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Royes -

#24.10.14 – Update/s to the road register to include the continuation of Eighth Street, Forsayth.

#24.02.16 – Georgetown Student Hostel.

#23.11.25 – Perimeter fence at the Lynd Medical Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for morning tea at 9:54am

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10:23am

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. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.02
5/0

2. Financial Performance as at 31st October 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 31st October 2024 pursuant, and in accordance with, the Local Government Regulation 2012 (s204).

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.03
5/0

3. First Quarter 2024-2025 Budget Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under s104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council must have an annual budget as part of its suite of financial planning documents. Council's budget was adopted on 28th July 2024 and compiled with the requirements of s169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

A review of Council's budget has been completed. It is proposed that Council amend its budget to address issues that have emerged since its adoption. Section 170(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* allows Council to amend its budget any time before the end of the financial year.

RESOLUTION

That Council, in accordance with s170(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, amend its 2024/2025 budget as per the report presented.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.04
5/0

4. 2023/2024 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council must, pursuant to s182 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, prepare and adopt an Annual Report for each financial year. The draft 2023/2024 Annual Report is presented for Council's adoption.

RESOLUTION

That Council, in accordance with s182 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, adopt the 2023/2024 Annual Report as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.05
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 11:32am and returned at 11:36am.

5. Final 2023-2024 General Purpose Financial Statements

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council prepares Annual General Purpose Financial Statements in accordance with applicable legislation and Australian Accounting Standards. The financial statements have been finalised, adopted by Councils Audit Committee and certified by QAO on 29th October 2024.

Where a Council has an audit committee, the draft General Purpose Financial Statements must be reviewed by the Audit Committee prior to certification.

RESOLUTION

That Council

- receive the 2023/2024 Financial Statements as presented, and;
- make publicly available through inclusion within the 2023/2024 Annual Report.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.06
5/0

6. Audit Committee Meeting Minutes – 28th October 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 211, Council's Audit Committee met on 28th October 2024 to receive the final 2023/2024 Financial Statements. A copy of the meeting minutes are provided as a written report about the matters reviewed at the meeting.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held 28th October 2024, and note the business resolved therein.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.07
5/0

7. Request to Waive Interest Grant Discount on Overdue Rates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a request to waive interest and grant discount on assessments 00496-00000-000 & 00498- 50000-000 due to IT issues experienced in receiving their rates notice.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to write off accrued interest and grant discount on:

- Assessment 00496-00000-000 to the value of \$1,936.40
- Assessment 00498-50000-000 to the value of \$1,413.06

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

LOST
1/4

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to:

1. Not grant discount on the below assessments
 - Assessment 00496-00000-000 to the value of \$1,936.40
 - Assessment 00498-50000-000 to the value of \$1,413.06
2. Write off accrued interest and furthermore, allow 30 days payment of outstanding amounts interest free.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.08
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Raju Ranjit entered the meeting at 12:17pm

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:18pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1:03pm

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

8. Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.09
5/0

9. Einasleigh and Mt Surprise Town Maintenance – Tender Document and Scope of Works

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RESOLUTION

That Council receives reports and accepts the tender documents and scope of works, as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.10
5/0

10. Project for TIDS Funding

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the TIDS funding 2025/2026 Project.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive and agree to apply for TIDS funding for Forsayth Road (state-controlled road) for \$1.5 million to reconstruct and seal the 1.84 km from Chainage 23.43 km to Chainage 25.27 km

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.11
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester left the meeting at 2:07pm and returned at 2:09pm.

11. Budget for New Projects

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the budget review for the two projects.

RESOLUTION

That Council review and allocate of \$76,302.00 to construct a section of the Oak Park Road at Bagstowe and \$101,444.00 for Patricia Road reconstruction & sealing project in Georgetown.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

LOST
0/5

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Receive the report presented to Council
2. Remove the listed projects from the LRC14 application and reallocate the funding to another project.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.12
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 2:22pm and returned at 2:24pm.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

12. Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.13
5/0

13. Policy Adoption & Fee Implementation – Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for council to consider adopting a Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas Policy to further inform decisions when applications are received.

Additionally, annual and renewal fees are required to be introduced in relation to applications that may be approved in alignment with the abovementioned policy.

The policy and associated fees have been drafted after consultation with all stakeholders to ensure that it meets Council’s intent and strategic direction. The policy remains equitable for all businesses within the region and to control impacts on public spaces.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas Policy
2. Amend the 2024-2025 Fees & Charges to include:
 - a. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$300 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas - Low Impact and Activity. For consideration by Council.
 - b. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$600 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas – High Impact and Activity. For consideration by Council.
 - c. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$150 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use – Outdoor Dining
 - d. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$147 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use – Mobile Vending

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.14
4/1

ATTENDANCE

Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 4:06pm and returned at 4:08pm.

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 4:10pm, pursuant to section 254J (g), to discuss the following items:

1. 2024 External Audit Final Closing Report
2. Hostel Management Contract Renewal
3. Application for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas
4. Forsyth – Einasleigh Road Construction
5. Variation for ESC2024-017 Box Culvert Constructions Project, Queenslander Creek
6. Gravel Crushing and Screening

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.15
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Royes left the meeting at 4:18pm and returned at 4:20pm
Mark Watt left the meeting at 4:29pm and returned at 4:31pm
Renee Bester left the meeting at 4:32pm and returned at 4:33pm

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Royes has a declared conflict of interest in agenda item #14 and left the meeting at 5:01pm.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to come out of closed session at 5:25pm.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.16
4/0

14. Gravel Crushing and Screening Options

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the gravel crushing and screening options.

RESOLUTION

That Council receives reports and resolves to establish Council's own crushing and screening plant system subject to an external business review and further budget consideration for the plant replacement fund.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.17
4/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 5:29pm.

15. 2024 External Audit Final Closing Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council's final closing report was prepared by BDO Partner, James Gaustad for work performed to 23rd October 2024. This included a site visit from 30th September to 4th October 2024. The final closing report includes the results of the 2023/2024 audit, the status of audit issues, identified audit misstatements, and other matters in accordance with the audit plan.

The presented 2024 Closing Report was received by the Audit Committee at its most recent meeting held 28th October 2024.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to receive the 2024 External Audit Final Closing Report and note the contents therein.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.18
5/0

16. *Hostel Management Contract Renewal*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council retained the current Hostel managers for the initial 9 months beginning in April 2023 and further renewed the 12-month contract through to December 2024. At the time of negotiating the original contract, it was intended that the contract would be renegotiated for a longer term, to allow stability for Council and the contractors.

The current Contractors have submitted their fee and term proposal during the negotiation phase which include a CPI increase and extended contract term.

RESOLUTION

That Council accept the contract proposal for the Contract Management of the Georgetown Student Hostel to include:

1. A CPI increase annually during the contract term
2. A 36-month term, with the option to extend for an additional 12 months upon the completion of the term.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.19
5/0

17. *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 (policy, licences, applications and fees) to accommodate such a proposal.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to:

1. Consider the application for “Charleston Cruises” against Council’s Commercial Use of Council Controlled Policy as “High Use / High Impact’ activity based on the guiding principle.
2. Approve the application for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas submitted for the proposal of “Charleston Cruises” subject to:
 - a. The execution of a licence agreement.
 - b. The payment of the applicable Licence Fees.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

LOST
2/3

18. *Forsyth – Einasleigh Road Construction*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the Forsyth Einasleigh Road Project status report and its associated construction cost.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive and note the project status report as presented and refer the shortfall amount of \$1,461,268 to the half yearly budget review for the period ending 31 December 2024.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.20
5/0

19. Variation for ESC2024-017 – Box Culvert Construction Project in Queenslander Creek

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the variation required to complete the construction of box culvert project in Cobbold Gorge Road across the Queenslander Creek, Forsayth.

RESOLUTION

That Council

1. Receives reports and accept the variation of \$237,369.00 (Ex-Gst)
2. Approves the surplus funds arising from completed LRCIP4 projects and reallocating the \$237,369.00 to complete the construction of the Box culvert in Cobbold Gorge Road – Queenslander Creek.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.11.21
5/0

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Tincknell	Lease of old Mt Surprise Dump
Cr Ryan	Butcher Paddock Lease – to be followed up
Cr Ryan	After School Care Services – Georgetown
Cr Ryan	Water Allocation for Einasleigh
Cr Ryan	Einasleigh Community Telstra service tower and apparent removal
Cr Ryan	Gilbert River - Telstra tower and lack of reasonable communications access - request for increased service access
Cr Royes	Agate Creek Road Issue
Cr Royes	Councils' Road Closure Policy
Cr Royes	Potential QRA Pickup 2025 -seek alternative tenders for the pickup/management of future claims. (Increased Council Control of Flood Damage Projects)

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:10pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 18th December 2024.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR

Business Arising				
#	Resolution	Officer	Action Taken	Progress
20th November 2024 - General Meeting				
24.11.04	That Council, in accordance with s170(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, amend its 2024/2025 budget as per the report presented.	DCS	Updated in PCS by FM.	Complete
24.11.05	That Council, in accordance with s182 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, adopt the 2023/2024 Annual Report as amended.	DCS	Confirmed by BDO and posted on Councils website 4th December 2024	Complete
24.11.06	receive the 2023/2024 Financial Statements as presented, and - make publicly available through inclusion within the 2023/2024 Annual Report.	DCS	Financial Statements included within the 2023/2024 Financial Report	Complete
24.11.07	That Council receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held 28th October 2024, and note the business resolved therein.	DCS	Noted.	Complete
24.11.08	That Council resolve to: 1. Not grant discount on the below assessments - Assessment 00496-00000-000 to the value of \$1,936.40 - Assessment 00498-50000-000 to the value of \$1,413.06 2. Write off accrued interest and furthermore, allow 30 days payment of outstanding amounts interest free.	DCS	Rates Officer has written off interest and provided amended amounts payable to resident with 30 day payment terms.	Complete
24.11.10	That Council receives reports and accepts the tender documents and scope of works, as amended.	DES	Schedule will be emailed to all councilors and executive officers before advertising for the tender	Complete
24.11.11	That Council receive and agree to apply for TIDS funding for Forsyth Road (state-controlled road) for \$1.5 million to reconstruct and seal the 1.84 km from Chainage 23.43 km to Chainage 25.27 km	DES		In progress
24.11.12	That Council: 1.Receive the report presented to Council 2.Remove the listed projects from the LRCI4 application and reallocate the funding to another project.	DES	Removed the projects	Complete
24.11.14	That Council: 1. Adopt the Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas Policy 2. Amend the 2024-2025 Fees & Charges to include: a. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$300 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas - Low Impact and Activity. For consideration by Council. b. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$600 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas – High Impact and Activity. For consideration by Council. c. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$150 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use – Outdoor Dining d. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$147 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use – Mobil Vending	CEO	Noted	In progress
24.11.17	That Council receives reports and resolves to establish Council's own crushing and screening plant system subject to an external business review and further budget consideration for the plant replacement fund.	DES	Business case report in progress	In progress
24.11.18	That Council resolve to receive the 2024 External Audit Final Closing Report and note the contents therein.	DCS	Noted	Complete
24.11.19	That Council accept the contract proposal for the Contract Management of the Georgetown Student Hostel to include: 1. A CPI increase annually during the contract term 2. A 36-month term, with the option to extend for an additional 12 months upon the completion of the term.	DCS	Executed contract 4th December 2024.	Complete
24.11.20	That Council receive and note the project status report as presented and refer the shortfall amount of \$1,461,268 to the half yearly budget review for the period ending 31 December 2024.	DES	will be reviewed in 31 December 2024	In progress
24.11.21	That Council 1. Receives reports and accept the variation of \$237,369.00 (Ex-Gst) 2. Approves the surplus funds arising from completed LRCIP4 projects and reallocating the \$237,369.00 to complete the construction of the Box culvert in Cobbold Gorge Road – Queenslander Creek.	DES	Request for variation has been lodged	Complete
16th October 2024 - General Meeting				
24.10.18	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.	DCS	Draft plan was displayed for community consultation for 30 days. No comments received and final version is included within December Agenda for adoption.	Complete
18th September 2024 - General Meeting				
24.09.07	Council resolves to defer the matter until after further Community Consultation is undertaken.	DES	This will be confirmed at the Community Consult meeting in Forsyth scheduled for December.	In progress
Outstanding Business				

14th August 2024 - General Meeting				
24.08.07	That Council resolve to defer the matter of the Drug and Alcohol Policy (A012) to a future meeting/workshop.	WHSA	The matter will be revisited upon the WHS officer returning from leave in September	In progress
21st February 2024				
24.02.16	That Council receive the report on the Georgetown Student Hostel and instruct the CEO to present a report to strategically addressed issues to the next Council Meeting.	DCS	All matters have no been addressed with Hostel Managers. There being no issues outstanding, I have marked the GB as complete. Please advise if this is no the case.	Complete
15th November 2023				
23.11.25	That Council resolve to urgently seek costings for the erection of perimeter fence and remedial work at the Lynd Medical Centre.	CEO	Subject to ownership of the land. Once ownership of land has been settled (early 2025), quotes will be sought for perimetre fence and presented for budget or budget review consideration.	In progress
16th August 2023				
23.08.12	That Council receive Ms Taylor's Mt Surprise Land Use Survey Report, and adopt the following recommendations made therein, specifically: - 1.The recommendations for Category 1, Category 2, Category 3, Category 4, Category 5, Category 6 and Category 7, outlined in the report, where appropriate; and 2.Council make enquiries with the State government in relation to Lot 11 SP252513, area 3.58 hectares, Reserve for Township and Trucking with Council as Trustee, to determine if the Occupation Lease (352OL454) can be cancelled and the lot transferred to Council as freehold land, to facilitate future development opportunities afforded by the Industrial Precinct designation of the lot, which was supported by the State, when preparing the 2020 Planning Scheme for the Shire.	DCS	Referred to consulting Town Planner for action. Matter has been referred back to Council for further consideration of implementation.	In progress

GENERAL MEETING: December 2024

Mayor and Councillors
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12
Georgetown QLD 4871

Councillors,

I present my report for the period of: November 2024

Update

Welcome to the December 2024 CEO Briefing Report.

During the reporting period I have continued to familiarize myself with current projects and priorities. Most of the month involved activities around the Einasleigh & Forsayth fires, reporting and meetings.

I have spent considerable time with key staff to update and improve financial reporting for the monthly agenda, together with budget reviews and setting up reporting mechanisms to improve work in progress reports. Such changes will improve monitoring of costs and highlight budget and project risks.

Staff issues have been addressed as required and within Council's HRM strategy.

Operational Plan Matters

Operationally Council has commenced with the implementation of the strategies set by Council, a copy of such is part of today's agenda.

Corporate Plan 2025–2029

- Council will consider the adoption of the Corporate Plan at the December meeting. No further community consultation is deemed necessary and adoption is recommended.
- Once the Corporate Plan is adopted, myself and the Directors will prepare a revised Operational Plan 2024-2025, which needs to align with the new Corporate Plan. The revised Operational Plan will reflect priorities for the remainder of the financial year and will form the basis of next year's Plan.

Workplace Health & Safety

- Report provided in the agenda for the reporting period.
- Recruitment underway for a full-time employee.

Projects

I am currently working on the following projects and below is an update for the reporting period:

Etheridge Agg Precinct

- Funding provided under the Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF) by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, being the Etheridge Shire Council Irrigation Precinct Development – North West Queensland.
- Draft funding agreements were signed during the reporting period.
- Greg Mason, DAFF has returned from leave and will assist in managing the project.
- The CEO is currently preparing a position description for the project officer to meet the requirements of the project.

Tourism Master Plan – Griffith Uni

Funded Projects

Growing Regions Program – Developing Tourism Along the Savannah Way (Aust. Government)

- Awaiting executed funding agreements
- Various discussions with Griffith University
- Report to December meeting to appoint Project Manager

North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy – Tourism Signage

- No further updates

NWQROC - North Queensland Resilience Program

No further advice concerning the approved funding and Council is still waiting for confirmation of approved projects. An update on the status of the payment may be available when the Mayor & CEO attend the NWQROC in Richmond.

Calendar of Events

Attendance

Date	Event	Location
1 November	NWQROC	Teams
1 November	Advance Cairns	Teams
6 November	Brain reset – meet & greet	Georgetown
11 November	Visit student hostel	Georgetown
11 November	Budget review meeting	Meeting room
12 November	Safety BBQ	Depot
12 November	QRA meeting	Georgetown
13 November	Community connect	Einasleigh
20 November	General Meeting	Georgetown
21 November	Genex – Wind Farm	Teams
27 November	Audit Committee	Georgetown
29 November	Lessee meeting – Town Common	Georgetown

Other

During the period I completed a draft meeting schedule for 2025, including a list of community connect, Councillor workshops and Council meetings.

The schedule was an early draft for discussion and doesn't take account of FNQROC & NWQROC, which has now been received and needs to be considered so a final version completed. Councillors have reviewed the draft schedule, and made comments on topics and priorities, so this is yet to be completed reviewed.

Regards,
Mark Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

General Meeting 18th December 2024

Subject	Project Management - Growing Regions Funding
Classification	Open
Author	Mark Watt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the appointment of Griffith University as Project Manager for the Australian Government's Growing Regions Program, otherwise described as Uneath Etheridge – Tourism Development along the Savannah Way.

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 235(a) & (b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council appoint Griffith University as Project Manager for the Australian Government's Growing Regions Program on the following basis and circumstances:

1. Council is satisfied there is only 1 supplier reasonably available to deliver the project owing to their specialised knowledge of the application and acceptance by the Australian Government in applying for funding and delivering the project on behalf of Council;
2. Because of the specialised knowledge of the application, it would be impractical or disadvantageous to invite tenders;
3. Calling tenders would be a waste of time and resources given the intimate knowledge and expertise of Griffith University to commence delivery and project management in a timely manner;
4. The appointment of Griffith University is consistent with an existing contract with Council involving specialised services (not goods) that lead to the application being lodged and accepted for funding.

BACKGROUND

Funding provided by the Australian Government, through the Department of Industry, Science and Resources and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, in conjunction with the Queensland Government, through the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.

Project Summary:

- extension to the Terrestrial Centre in Georgetown to house the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection exhibition, as well as a new café and installation of an immersive interactive display of the collection;
- construction of a bird sanctuary viewing hub at Cumberland Dam, including a new boardwalk, viewing platforms, bird hides, improved access and consistent signage;
- Installation of walkways, visitor signage and the Einasleigh People's Museum at Copperfield Gorge; and
- Creation of 'Our Elders Trail' in the park beside the Terrestrial Centre to showcase First Nations leaders.

Project Timeline

Start: 29 January 2025
Completion: 1 December 2026
Project Cost: \$9,250,000

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence. Corporate Outcome No. 5.1: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Contract to be entered into with preferred supplier, Griffith University [Institute of Tourism] for project management, including designs for development, compliance, approvals and regulatory requirements, project management, grant management and acquittal. Expenditure included in available funding and budgeted pursuant to project plan. Project budget and cashflow forecast provided to demonstrate funding expenditure and cash obligations.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 235 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, permits Council to enter into a medium-sized or large-sized contractual arrangement without first inviting quotes or tenders based on certain circumstances as outlined in this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Compliance with ESC – S006 Procurement Policy

Project also sits within Council's Tourism strategy for this project being *Unearthing Etheridge: The Master Plan*, by Griffith University (June, 2022).

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Actively seek community input into decision-making processes to foster collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders.	Consultation with residents through community connect to help shape project outcomes.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

An assessment of this matter through Council's Enterprise Risk Framework determines a Low Risk decision.

Risks

- Non-compliance with legislation
- Community perception/political implications

Opportunities

- Collaboration and value add by preferred supplier
- External resources fully funded not otherwise available within Council
- Exceptional tourism outcome for Shire and Region
- Briefing and project reporting to be provided to Council on a regular basis

Report Prepared By:

Mark Watt

Date: 2/12/24

Report Authorised By:

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date:2/12/24

ATTACHMENTS

Funding Application GRIG000277 - Growing Regions Project

Application GRIG000277

Application Summary

Application ID
GRIG000277

Application Title
GRIG - ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

Program Name
Growing Regions Program - Round 1

Applicant
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

Submitted Date
15/01/2024

Program selection

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

Are you a trustee on behalf of a trust?
No

Do you have an ABN?
Yes

Entity details

ABN
57665238857

Legal name
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

Business name
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

Date of registration
1/11/1999

GST Registered
Yes

Are you a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)?
No

Are you a not-for-profit?
No

Program Selection

Program
Growing Regions Program - Round 1

Program Element
Growing Regions Program - Round 1 Grant

Eligibility

Your EOI indicated that you:

- Will deliver your project in an eligible location
- Will commence your project no later than 15 May 2024
- Own the land/infrastructure being upgraded or built upon, or have the landowner's permission to use the land/infrastructure
- Can provide relevant evidence as required under section 4.2 of the guidelines, and
- Can provide recent quotes for major expenditure.

Has anything changed since submitting your EOI that impacts the above declarations?

No

Applicant address

Applicant street address

Is the address located in Australia?

Yes

Address Details

Lot 905, 41 Saint George St
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871
Australia

Applicant postal address

Is the address located in Australia?

Yes

Address Details

PO Box 12
Georgetown QLD 4871
Australia

About your organisation

We collect the following data from all applicants. We use this data to better understand your organisation and to help us develop better policies and programs.

Latest financial year figures

Has your organisation existed for a complete financial year?

Yes

What was the latest complete financial year?

2022/23

Provide the following figures for the financial year you have entered above.

Values must be that of the entity applying (the 'applicant'), regardless of whether the entity belongs to a consolidated group for tax purposes.

These fields are mandatory and entering \$0 is acceptable if applicable for your organisation.

Sales revenue (turnover)

Total revenue from the sale of goods and services, as reported in your organisation's Business Activity Statement (BAS).

\$ 56,487,006

Export revenue

Total revenue from export sales, as reported in your organisation's Business Activity Statement (BAS).

\$ 0

R&D expenditure

Expenditure on research and development, i.e. creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humankind, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.

\$ 0

Taxable income

Taxable income or loss as per your organisation's income tax return form.

\$ 0

Number of employees (headcount)

Number of individuals who are entitled to paid leave (sick and holiday), or generate income from managing your organisation. This should include working proprietors and salaried directors.

65

Number of independent contractors (headcount)

Number of individuals engaged by your organisation under a commercial contract (rather than an employment contract) to provide employee-like services on site.

40

ANZSIC code

Provide the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) details for your organisation.

ANZSIC Division

O - Public Administration and Safety

ANZSIC Class

7530 - Local Government Administration

Indigenous organisations

Is your organisation Indigenous owned?

An organisation is considered Indigenous owned where at least 51% of the organisation's members or proprietors are Indigenous.

No

Is your organisation Indigenous controlled?

An organisation is considered Indigenous controlled where at least 51% of the organisation's board or management committee is Indigenous.

No

Project information

Project title and description

If your application is successful, we will publish some grant details on GrantConnect and other government publications. Published details include:

- name of the grant recipient
- a project title
- a brief project description and its intended outcome
- amount of grant funding awarded.

Provide a project title.

Unearth Etheridge: Tourism Developments along the Savannah Way

Provide a brief project description for publication.

Ensure your project description focuses on your project's key activities and outcomes. Outline what it is you are going to do and how it will benefit your community.

This project will deliver four major transformative tourism infrastructure developments along the Savannah Way, providing peak visitor experiences which are critical for the economic growth of northern Australia. They are based on the Etheridge Shire's Tourism Masterplan which sets a 10-year vision for the sustainable development of tourism, in accordance with key regional, state and national priorities. The four projects include an extension to the Terrestrial Centre in Georgetown to house the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection; a bird sanctuary viewing hub at Cumberland Dam; improved walkways, visitor signage and the Einasleigh People's Museum at Copperfield Gorge; and the creation of 'Our Elders Trail' to showcase First Nations leaders.

Detailed project description and key activities

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Provide a detailed description of your project including the project scope and key activities.

You must also provide a business case which you should attach later in your application. Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for the requirements of the business case.

This Growing Regions project proposal intends to position Etheridge Shire as a major tourism stopover destination along the Savannah Way, through the implementation of 4 transformative tourism developments identified in Etheridge Shire Council's Tourism Masterplan (see attachment and Criteria #3). The design objectives underpinning Etheridge Shire's drive for economic growth and diversification through tourism include: Consolidation: enhancing the existing tourism services and facilities with consistent visible branding; Place Activation: Creating a network of 'hotspots' to connect the vastness of the shire; Heritage Conservation: Collating local histories through community consultation to offer more complete heritage-based tourism offerings and increase community pride; and Co-Creation: developing new attractions that empower communities while bringing innovation.

The 4 transformative developments will strengthen Georgetown's position as a central hub along the Savannah Way and disperse visitors through the communities of Forsayth and Einasleigh through place activation of a peripheral node at Copperfield Gorge. The developments will complement existing iconic attractions in the Shire such as Cobbold Gorge, Talaroo Hot Springs, and Undara Lava Tubes, which are already under pressure from over-tourism in peak season. The 4 developments will diversify visitor experiences in the region, extend visitor length of stay and expenditure, and generate meaningful employment for locals, with an emphasis on indigenous employment.

1) Extension to the Terrestrial Centre to upgrade the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection exhibition.

The Ted Elliott Mineral Collection is the largest collection of minerals in the Southern Hemisphere, valued around \$1million. The need to re-house the collection is critical: currently located in a leaky shed attached to the Terrestrial Centre (the Shire's Visitor Information Centre). The exhibition is not secure and only offers static interpretation of the collection. This development is urgently required to enhance the preservation of geological, environmental and cultural heritage for the local community and visitors. The Tourism Masterplan outlines concept designs for the Terrestrial Centre extension, including a café and an immersive interactive display of the collection for visitors to enjoy.

2) Construction of a bird sanctuary viewing hub at Cumberland Dam

Cumberland Dam is a key stopover destination on the Savannah Way, 15km from Georgetown, well known to birdwatchers and used as a free camping facility by caravanners. Many bird species visit the lagoon in their migratory breeding cycles. The existing infrastructure (comprising a heritage chimney, and faded signage about birds and place history) is insufficient to meet peak visitor numbers, causing negative impacts. This development offers a non-invasive and environmentally friendly approach to guiding human interaction with the area, through improved accessibility, consistent signage and revitalised interpretation for visitors. It will include a new boardwalk, viewing platforms and bird hides.

3) Installation of walkways, visitor signage and the Einasleigh People's Museum at Copperfield Gorge

The Copperfield Gorge at Einasleigh is an impressive geological feature created by lava flows that shaped the region. The Savannahlander train is one of the great rail journeys from Cairns crossing over the Gorge and stopping at Einasleigh. Einasleigh has limited infrastructure to support the influx of visitors from the train. The Tourism Masterplan outlines the urgent need to manage access to the Gorge and provide experiences which connect visitors to the rich and charismatic heritage of the town. This development will enhance the accessibility of the Gorge and provide enhanced interpretation of local geology and history. The addition of the Einasleigh People's Museum will form a critical part of a heritage trail from the Savannah Way, accessible by self-drive and train markets, and connecting visitors to the stories of local people that shaped the historical tapestry of the area.

4) Creation of 'Our Elders Trail' in the park beside the Terrestrial Centre to showcase First Nations leaders.

The trail will feature key stories of First Nations elders and will complement emergent indigenous tourism experiences in Etheridge Shire. Alongside the Terrestrial Centre is Heritage Park, which currently includes the Georgetown Peace Monument (comprised of plaques recognising international peace leaders), two playgrounds, public toilets, BBQs and tables. To complement these facilities and the exhibits within the Terrestrial Centre, the trail will span approximately 300 metres. The trail will extend visitor engagement from the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection via a small outdoor amphitheatre beside the newly added Terrestrial Centre café, and invite visitors into Heritage Park, where they can learn more about local indigenous heritage.

Project outcomes

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Provide a summary of the expected project outcomes.

This Growing Regions project will enhance Etheridge Shire's capacity to further develop and cultivate a healthy, vibrant and resilient outback community, strengthening its position as a central stopover destination on the Savannah Way, and supporting economic diversification via sustainable tourism development. This project will position Etheridge Shire as a major stopover hub on the Savannah Way, supporting visitor dispersal to remote communities in Northern Australia, strengthening assets and providing new nationally significant tourism attractions. Economic modelling indicates this project will provide meaningful jobs for 49 locals, \$15m+ in direct economic output, and \$5m in flow-on effects to intermediate industries, over the construction and operational phases. This project will stimulate the local economy and also provide new places of community socialisation and gathering, enhancing community pride and combating a long trend of outmigration.

Investment in this project will establish nationally significant tourism experiences in Georgetown on the Savannah Way and activate the key peripheral node of Einasleigh along a heritage trail accessible by car and the Savannahlander train. The 4 tourism developments in this project will cater for diverse visitor market segments, such as grey nomads, birdwatching visitors, mineral fanatics, conservationists, families, nature-based visitors and cultural and heritage enthusiasts.

The revitalisation of the Terrestrial Centre will bolster the preservation and exhibition of the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection, securing a significant piece of local geological and cultural heritage for new generations to enjoy and experience. The adjoining "Our Elder's Trail" will further enhance the curation and cultivation of local sources of community pride and will enrich the amenity of Georgetown as a priority destination for visitors seeking to experience the Savannah Way. The Cumberland Dam development will contribute to the conservation of native and migratory birdlife whilst providing visitors a reason to extend their stay and spend in Etheridge Shire. The Einasleigh People's Museum and adjoining improved accessibility of the Copperfield Gorge will not only enhance visitor numbers travelling to this remote location, directly contributing to the local economy of this remote township, but also provide an opportunity for active community participation in the co-creation of the content for the Museum, becoming a source of pride for local residents.

The Etheridge Shire Council considers tourism, in combination with other economic sectors, as critical to stimulate economic growth. Etheridge Shire Council must leverage and build on preliminary actions it has taken to elevate the Shire as a major gateway and stopover location critical for the broader development of the Savannah Way. Etheridge Shire Council's Tourism Masterplan (prepared across a multi-year process of consultation with the Griffith Institute for Tourism at Griffith University; see attachments) demonstrates the Council's commitment to a sustainable pathway of tourism development that includes consultation with the local community and tourism stakeholder groups, identifying opportunities that are interesting, accessible, and unique, and integrating such opportunities into a coherent and successful tourism product. The Tourism Masterplan has already attracted initial investment from the Queensland Government, with a series of pavilions and location

sculptures as 'place activation tools' funded through the Tourism Experience Development Fund (see p. 20 of the Tourism Masterplan attachment). Etheridge Shire Council has also committed to achieving silver level destination level eco-certification by June 2024, in partnership with EarthCheck and supported by the Queensland Government's Destination Eco-Certification Fund. Further investment is required to consolidate and sustain the emerging economic gains and community benefits from the smaller-scale tourism development projects that Etheridge Shire has implemented. This project proposes a strategic combination of charismatic attractions (see pp. 26-33 & 39-46 of the Tourism Masterplan attachment) that will generate scale economies amongst stakeholders required to stimulate long-term sustainable development.

The broader Northern Australian and the Outback regions will benefit by:

- Increasing exports through inbound tourism
- Stimulating further regional investment opportunities
- Creating direct, permanent and meaningful employment opportunities for locals
- Supporting indirect employment in local businesses and accommodation entities
- Adding value and economies of scale to existing local attractions
- Providing co-creation opportunities that engage the local community
- Growing local economies and contributing to local and regional priorities
- Improving equity and supporting social inclusion
- Enhancing regional amenity and liveability

Project duration

We expect you to start your project no earlier than 1 February 2024 and no later than 15 May 2024. Your project must be completed by 31 December 2025.

The start and end dates you enter here will drive the visible financial years in the project budget on the next page.

Estimated project start date

08/04/2024

Estimated project end date

31/12/2025

Estimated project duration (in months)

21

Project milestones

Provide details on the project milestones including the key activities occurring at each milestone.

The milestone start and end dates must be within the project start and end dates. You can add up to 6 milestones.

Milestone title

Supplier Contracting

Description

Finalise project scope and plan, tender documentation and contract appointments, site establishment and preliminaries

Estimated start date

8/04/2024

Estimated end date

28/06/2024

Milestone title

Cumberland Dam

Description

Design and construction of boardwalk and bird hides; design, production and installation of visitor signage.

Estimated start date

1/07/2024

Estimated end date

31/03/2025

Milestone title

Einaleigh Copperfield Gorge

Description

Design, construction/production and installation of walkways, signage and People's Musuem at Copperfield Gorge in Einaleigh.

Estimated start date

1/07/2024

Estimated end date

31/03/2025

Milestone title

Terrestrial Centre

Description

Design and construction of extension to Terrestrial Centre; design, production and installation of Ted Elliott Mineral Collection exhibition.

Estimated start date

1/07/2024

Estimated end date

29/08/2025

Milestone title

Our Elders Trail

Description

Consultation, design and construction of "Our Elders' Trail" adjacent to Terrestrial Centre in Georgetown.

Estimated start date

1/07/2024

Estimated end date

28/11/2025

Project location

Project Site 1

Lot 5, 20 Low St
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871
Australia

Estimated % of project value expected to be undertaken at site

50

Project Site 2

North St
Georgetown QLD 4871
Australia

Estimated % of project value expected to be undertaken at site

30

Project Site 3

Second St
Einasleigh QLD 4871
Australia

Estimated % of project value expected to be undertaken at site

12

Project Site 4

26/01/2024, 11:12

portal.business.gov.au

Lot 48, 13-27 High St
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871
Australia

Estimated % of project value expected to be undertaken at site
8

General Meeting	18th December 2024
Subject	Public Notice of Meetings for 2025
Classification	Open
Author	Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At least once in each year, Council must publish a notice of the days and times when its ordinary meetings will be held and furthermore Council must publish this notice on the local government’s website, and in other ways the local government considers appropriate in accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Adopts the following meeting dates as presented for 2025, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and furthermore Council will publish the notice of meeting dates on Council’s website, in the inform newsletter and on display in the Council office.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
January	Wednesday, 22 nd January 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
February	Wednesday, 19 th February 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
March	Wednesday, 19 th March 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
April	Wednesday, 16 th April 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
May	Wednesday, 21 st May 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
June	Wednesday, 18 th June 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
July	Wednesday, 16 th July 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
August	Wednesday, 20 th August 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
September	Wednesday, 17 th September 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
October	Wednesday, 15 th October 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
November	Wednesday, 19 th November 2025	Georgetown	9:00am
December	Wednesday, 17 th December 2025	Georgetown	9:00am

BACKGROUND

Section 254B Public notice of meetings of the Local Government Regulation states that:

- (1) A local government must, at least once in each year, publish a notice of the days and times when—
 - (a) its ordinary meetings will be held; and
 - (b) the ordinary meetings of its standing committees will be held.
- (2) The notice mentioned in subsection (1) must be published on the local government’s website, and in other ways the local government considers appropriate.
- (3) A local government must display in a conspicuous place in its public office a notice of the days and times when—
 - (a) its meetings will be held; and
 - (b) meetings of its committees will be held.
- (4) A local government must, as soon as practicable, notify any change to the days and times mentioned in subsection(1) or (3) in the same way as the days and times were previously notified.

Over the past 12 months Council has conducted its Ordinary Meetings of Council on the third Wednesday of each month commencing at 9.00am.

Management is recommending for the 2025 calendar year that all Ordinary Meetings of Council are to be conducted within its designated public office being Georgetown.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

This matter links for Corporate Aim No.5 – Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 254B Public notice of meetings of the Local Government Regulation states that:(4) A local government must, at least once in each year, publish a notice of the days and times when—

(c) its ordinary meetings will be held; and

(d) the ordinary meetings of its standing committees will be held.

(5) The notice mentioned in subsection (1) must be published on the local government’s website, and in other ways the local government considers appropriate.

(6) A local government must display in a conspicuous place in its public office a notice of the days and times when—

(c) its meetings will be held; and

(d) meetings of its committees will be held. (4) A local government must, as soon as practicable, notify any change to the days and times mentioned in subsection (1) or (3) in the same way as the days and times were previously notified

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council’s Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Please provide below a summary of risks and opportunities including review of likelihood and consequences and how mitigated if high risk.

Summary of risks:

- Non-compliance with section 254B Public notice of meetings of the Local Government Regulation.

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 27-11-2024

Date: 27-11-2024

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

GENERAL MEETING: December 2024

Mayor and Councillors
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12
Georgetown, QLD 4871

Councillors,

I present my report for the period of: November 2024

Audit Update

Internal Audit - Council's Executive Management Team provided Management responses to the Final Report (Tender Evaluation & Contract Management) on 10th December 2024.

External Audit – Council's Final Management Report was presented at Council's November General Meeting, and Audit Committee Meeting held 27th November 2024. Council will liaise with BDO for the FY25 Audit Plan.

Audit Committee – The Audit Committee met on 27th November 2024 (Unconfirmed Minutes for adoption at December General Meeting). Council will work with the Committee over coming months on Audit Plans, Annual Work Plans, Policy Development and processing Audit Register Action Items. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2025.

Council Projects

1. Access to Easement-Road Openings - Ewamian People

The road easement survey has been completed and required documents filed with Moray & Agnew to further progress this matter. No further update since October.

2. Council Facility Keyless Entry System

Council has appointed Natashka to be the team project lead. Natashka is in the process of developing the website and will oversee training and general running of the Key system. She is starting this process so that when the technical side of Space to Co is finalised that the website will be ready to go live at the same time. Estimated project completion is March 2025.

3. Independent Living Facility – Housing Infrastructure Grant

Preston Law is currently in the process of drafting tenancy guidelines, agreements and policies. It is a funding requirement that we advertise for the two Affordable Houses before build completion, to ensure they are filled within 3 months. Council will advertise as per Department guidelines through our website, Facebook and inform.

4. Snap Send Solve

Council have issued a purchase order for the full version. Council will undergo onboarding asap and IT & Records will lead this project. Council is aiming for a January 2025 roll out after our programs are updated to be compatible. Marketing to the public regarding the app to come.

5. Electronic Noticeboards

Council is still awaiting further quotations on noticeboard options. Noticeboard locations in each community will be required by March 2025. Council is still undergoing investigations into best option for SMS messaging.

6. Commercial Lease Negotiations

Council have begun negotiations with the current tenant and will provide further updates as this situation progresses.

7. Purchase of Lot 4 on CD35 (Lynd Medical Centre)

Council have addressed all obligations including final payment by 2nd October 2024 and are awaiting confirmation from Department of Resources of finalisation.

8. Sustainable Destinations Project

Council has received further documentation regarding an ongoing membership to maintain status with EarthCheck. Management will progress with Council regarding any budgetary considerations required.

9. Governance Review

Council engaged the Governance Advisory Service offered through a partnership between LGMA and the Department to assist LGA's through auditory means to ensure they are meeting their legislative requirements while operating within best practice guidelines. Council has undergone two site visits in 2024 with Policy Review progress well underway.

10. Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025-2030

Draft document is included for Council's receipt. To progress this matter, we require community comment on the document for a period of at least 30 days. Following this a final document can be developed and adopted by Council.

11. Community Learning Hubs – Mt Surprise & Einasleigh

Council have begun preliminary discussions; however further site investigations are required and will be completed through December 2024 & January 2025.

12. Biosecurity Local Law Amendment

There are specific legislative requirements that Council must comply with (Chapter 3, part 1 of the Local Government Act 2009), including compliance with Council's law making process to make or amend a local law. Council's CEO & DCS are in the process of investigating the best way forward and this will be outlined in more detail at a Councillor briefing session.

Events & Commitments

DATE	ORGANISATION	TOPIC
20/11/2024	ESC	November General Meeting
27/11/2024	ESC	Audit Committee Meeting
28/11/2024	Dept. of LG	Client Service Visit
29/11/2024	LGMA	Senior Exec Connect
29/11/2024	L Buckley	Progress: Arts & Cultural Strategic Plan
3/12/2024	ESC	RADF Committee Meeting
3/12/2024	ESC	Final Report: Internal Audit
3/12/2024	Dept. of LG	Financial Position & Forecasting Opportunities
9/12/2024	LDMG	LDMG Meeting

Thankyou kindly,
Renee Bester
Director of Corporate Services



General Meeting 18th December 2024

Subject	Financial Performance as at 5-12-2024
Classification	Open
Author	Laurie Hawker Finance Manager

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the financial statements for the period ended 30 September 2024 pursuant to, and in accordance with, the Local Government Regulation 2012 (s204).

BACKGROUND

The monthly financial report of Council provides a snapshot of Councils financial performance (Profit and Loss), financial position (Balance Sheet) and cash flow for the reporting period.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate aim No 5 :Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence. Strategy No 5.3.1 ensure transparency of Council’s financial operations and performance and promote awareness within the community of councils financial management and other strategies.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no Budget or resource Considerations contained within this report. The Annual budget is provided with the Financial Report for information purposes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires the Chief Executive Officer to present a financial report to the Councils monthly meeting. The financial report is to be as close to the last day of the month of the reporting period as possible.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Advise if called

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council’s Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Summary of risks and opportunities:

- Risk 1- Financial reports are covered by many Laws, regulations and standards and subject to public scrutiny.

- Risk 2
- Risk 3
- Opportunity 1- As a responsibility, the Financial Reports are an excellent method to provide information to external parties and stake holders including ratepayers, the public and other interested parties in a simple and easy to understand format.
- Opportunity 2 -

Report Prepared By:

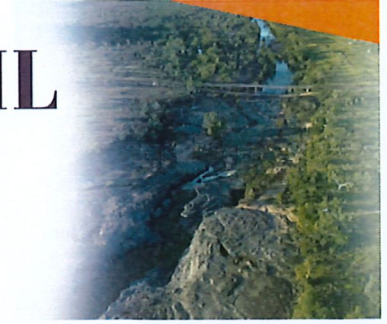
Report Authorised By:

Laurie Hawker – Finance Manager	
Date:5-12-2024	Date:

ATTACHMENTS

Financial Reports

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL



Etheridge Shire Council

Financial Report

**General Meeting of
Council**

18 December 2024

Etheridge Shire Council
Index of Attached Reports

November 2024

Index

- 1 Cash position
- 2 Comparative data
- 3 Financial highlights
- 4 Monthly cash flow estimate

Standard Reports

- Capital Funding Detail - WIP report
- PCS Revenue and Expenditure Budget
- PCS Balance Sheet Summary
- PCS Statement of Comprehensive Income
- PCS Statement of Financial Position
- PCS Statement of Cash Flows

Etheridge Shire Council

Cash Position

As at 30 November 2024

	Actual
Current Assets	
Bendigo Cash at Bank	\$ 178,489
Investments	\$ 8,379,320
22108 Reserve Cash Acc	\$ 279,020
22821 2024 ILP Staff Housing 6Mil	\$ 3,980,790
Cash on Hand	\$ 1,500
	\$ 12,819,118
Cash back Current Liabilities	
Annual Leave Payable	\$ 570,178
Current LSL Payable	\$ 227,348
Accrued Time-in-Lieu	\$ 65,598
RDO	\$ 12,596
Restricted cash - grants received not yet spent less grants receivable	\$ 1,976,813
	\$ 2,852,533
Receivables	
Receivables - Debtors	\$ 350,183
Receivables - Rates	\$ 219,940
Receivables - Govt Subsidy	\$ 10,241
	\$ 580,364
Payables	
Accounts Payable	\$ 464,412
Emergency Fire Service Levy	\$ 128,481
Retentions Current	\$ 1,407,888
Current Loan - Forsyth Water	\$ 13,561
ILU Staff Housing	\$ 67,847
	\$ 2,082,189
Working Capital	\$ 8,464,760

Etheridge Shire Council

Comparative Data

	November 2024		
	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Cash Position	\$ 12,819,118	\$ 16,148,578	\$ 8,805,231
Working Capital	\$ 8,464,760	\$ 16,876,274	\$ 7,327,927
Rate Arrears	\$ 219,940	\$ 330,011	\$ 123,267
Current Debtors	\$ 350,183	\$ 1,649,788	\$ 1,215,962
Current Creditors	\$ 464,412	\$ 247,960	\$ 1,909,393
Current Loan Payable	\$ 81,408	\$ 9,903	\$ 8,098

Etheridge Shire Council

Financial Highlights

As at 30 November 2024

	Actual	Budget	Percentage
Total revenue	\$ 33,300,317	\$ 57,737,020	58%

Statements are for 5 months of the financial year and generally would represent 42% of the overall budget.

The Recurrent revenue is \$30.872 million which is due to the receipt of the \$24.947 million Grants Revenue including \$17.1 million Flood Damage grants and \$7.2 million of FAGS grants.

Total expenditure	-\$ 24,805,042	-\$ 47,938,436	52%
--------------------------	----------------	----------------	-----

Statements are for 5 months of the financial year and generally would represent 42% of the overall budget.

Roads flood damage expenditures are the major cash outflow of Council at \$18.7M, closely followed by DTMR expenditures of \$1.957M. The big picture is that expenditures are on track at 53% compared

Surplus/Deficit

The surplus net operating result is reflecting strong early positive cash flows. The result is in line with the budgetted net result year to date.	\$ 8,495,275
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Etheridge Shire Council

Monthly Cash Flow Estimate

November 2024

	Revenue	Expenditure
Revenue		
Rates	\$ 30,000	
Fees and Charges Billings	\$ 30,000	
Own Roads Program Recoveries	\$ -	
Main Roads Invoiced Recoveries		
Grants Expected	\$ 228,350	
Flood Damage NDRRA	\$ 6,700,000	
GST	\$ 213,000	
Expenditure		
Payroll		\$ 560,000
Operating and Contractor Payables		\$ 7,000,000
PAYG-W; GST		\$ -
Loan Payments		\$ 121,000
Capital Acq		\$ -
Other		\$ -
	\$ 7,201,350	\$ 7,681,000
Cash decrease expected during the next period	\$ 479,650	

WIP - November 2024		PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	BUDGET	%
0400-4150-0000	Work in Progress - Land & Land Improvements					
3255-4500-0000	Land purchase - Purchase of Lynd medical centre land & surveying costs	16,034.42	13,571.42	29,605.84	-	0%
		16,034.42	13,571.42	29,605.84		
0400-4250-0000	Work in Progress - Buildings					
3080-4501-0000	Aged Care Facilities -Advisory	86,798.12		86,798.12		
3610-4501-0001	FNQRP (24-25) - Cap Imp - Coordination Centre (Gtown)		4,518.00	4,518.00	200,000.00	2%
3610-4501-0002	FNQRP (24-25) - Cap Imp - Housing Project					
3270-4500-0000	Cap Imp - Shire Office - Admin office parking area					
3280-4504-0000	Staff housing - SHP (Staff Housing Project)	50,655.70	1,781,133.91	1,831,789.61	3,069,304.00	58%
3280-4505-0000	Staff housing - ILF (Independent Living Facility)	1,119,497.87	1,608,774.82	2,728,272.69	2,616,643.00	61%
3295-4500-0000	Demountable office - Relocation	3,251.19		3,251.19		
3350-4502-0003	Depot - Cap improvements - Septic installation	9,136.40		9,136.40		
3411-4500-0001	W4Q Capital Works (21/24) - Georgetown - Streetscaping (roads)	366,670.20		366,670.20		
3411-4500-0002	W4Q Capital Works (21/24) - Georgetown Sports Centre	114,393.31	31,914.88	146,308.19		
3411-4500-0003	W4Q Capital Works (21/24) - Einasleigh - Drainage improvement (roads)	213,312.55	8,157.50	221,470.05		
3411-4500-0004	W4Q Capital Works (21/24) - Fors/Gtown - Water Telemetry					
3411-4500-0005	W4Q Capital Works (21/24) - Rural Addressing	39,603.45	77,560.61	117,164.06		
3411-4500-0006	W4Q Capital Works (21/24) - Forsayth Cemetery Fencing					
3412-4500-0001	W4Q Capital Works (24/25) - Multi-Purpose Centre Mt Surprise		4,518.00	4,518.00	120,000.00	4%
3620-4500-0001	LRCI Phase 3 - Forsayth Transfer Station	569,004.97	85,748.92	654,753.89	75,000.00	114%
3620-4500-0002	LRCI Phase 3 - Gtown Sports center (Parking & drainage) (2- See Land)	45,452.61		45,452.61		
3620-4500-0003	LRCI Phase 3 - Reseals 2	428,053.23		428,053.23		
3620-4500-0004	LRCI Phase 3 - Industrial estate	6,024.00	3,451.25	9,475.25	222,888.00	
3620-4500-0005	LRCI Phase 3 - Storm water drainage - Forsayth	252,644.99		252,644.99		
3620-4500-0006	LRCI Phase 3 - Reseal Baroota Street Einaslei					
3620-4500-0007	LRCI Phase 3 - Reseal Terrestrial carpark	9,036.95		9,036.95		
4011-4501-0000	Gtown Streets Cap Imp - Georgetown Streetscaping & chairs		3,877.20	3,877.20	20,000.00	19%
4013-4500-0000	Einasleigh Cap Imp - Streets - Gorge picnic area				50,000.00	0%

WIP - November 2024		PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	BUDGET	%
5030-4500-0001	Cap Imp - Upgrade Eins Common Stock Yrds (other structures)	112,975.54		112,975.54		
5151-4505-0000	Cap Imp - Mt Surprise Bike Park - Stage 2	-				
6010-4500-0000	Cap Imp Terrestrial - TED - Terrestrial Up Build Extension				1,000,000.00	0%
6010-4503-0001	Cap Imp Terrestrial - Ducted airconditioning replacement	34,305.68		34,305.68		
6030-4501-0000	Hostel Cap Imp - Re-roof, drainage & flooring		86,143.20	86,143.20		
		3,460,816.76	3,695,798.29	7,156,615.05	7,373,835.00	50%
0400-4350-0000	Work in Progress - Other Structures		-			
3620-4506-0001	RAUP- Airstrip Einasleigh & Mt Surprise - Fencing		9,484.90	9,484.90	900,000.00	1%
4011-4502-0000	Cap Imp - Gtown - Town Fence		27,646.52	27,646.52		
4140-4506-0001	Cap Imp Depot - Self bunded Ad blue tank	21,535.41	3,286.09	24,821.50		
4500-4512-0000	Cap Imp - Charleston Dam & other fencing				20,000.00	0%
5151-4500-0000	NWMP Round 2 - Walking path, signage, TO engagement, bush tucker	65,218.14		65,218.14	58,440.00	0%
5151-4501-0000	Griffith Uni Project - Totem structures & boundary signs	448,134.28	18,081.40	466,215.68		
5151-4502-0001	Cap Imp - All Towns - Electronic Community Notice Boards (SMS)				80,000.00	0%
5151-4504-0000	Cap Works - Wash down facility	200,368.91	216,110.57	416,479.48	450,000.00	48%
5151-4507-0000	Cap Works - PTII Mt Surprise Bus Stop	15,994.72	57,911.62	73,906.34		
5152-4500-0001	Cap Imp - Forsayth - Seating				25,000.00	0%
5152-4500-0002	Cap Imp - Forsayth - Signage					
5152-4500-0003	Cap Imp - Forsayth - Fitness Equipment				20,000.00	0%
5152-4500-0004	Cap Imp - Forsayth - Learning Hub					
5154-4500-0001	Cap Imp - Mt Surprise - Learning Hub					
5163-4500-0001	Cap Imp - Cemeteries - Improvements				30,000.00	0%
6010-4502-0001	Cap Imp Terrestrial - Security upgrade	36,807.48		36,807.48		
		788,058.94	332,521.10	1,120,580.04	1,583,440.00	21%
0400-4450-00000	Work in Progress - Fleet Plant & Equipment		-			
4150-4500-2625	Fuso Shogun 8 Wheeler - Tipper		328,329.48	328,329.48	362,000.00	91%
4150-4500-2630	Fuso Shogun 8 Wheeler - Truck		-	-	362,000.00	0%
4150-4500-2635	Fuso Shogun 8 Wheeler - Truck		328,329.48	328,329.48	362,000.00	91%

WIP - November 2024		PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	BUDGET	%
new number req.	Caravan compass GIS 21 ft				100,000.00	0%
new number req.	Caravan roadster vacationer				100,000.00	0%
new number req.	Caravan Industrial 2 Man				100,000.00	0%
new number req.	Caravan Traymark industrial				100,000.00	0%
new number req.	Caravan Traymark industrial				100,000.00	0%
new numbers req.	24-25 replacements (remaining)				1,048,689.60	0%
4150-4500-2650	Fuso FV51 Hooklift		118,608.92	118,608.92	118,608.92	10%
4150-4500-3165	Mower		7,701.48	7,701.48	7,701.48	1%
	Plant Sale - Plant 2146		- 54,545.45	- 54,545.45	-	
	Plant Sale - Plant 2413 & 2011		- 90,909.09	- 90,909.09		
		\$0.00	\$637,514.82	\$637,514.82	\$2,761,000.00	23%
0400-4550-0000	Work in Progress - Furniture & Other Equipment				-	
2060-4500-0001	Cap Imp - Keyless Entry	22,477.55		22,477.55		
		22,477.55	-	22,477.55	-	#DIV/0!
0400-4650-0000	Work in Progress - Roads Infrastructure				-	
3610-4502-0001	FNQRP 24-25 - Gilbert River Bridge upgrade				500,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0002	LRCI Phase 4 - Recon & Seal Oak Park Road				79,698.00	0%
3620-4505-0003	LRCI Phase 4 - Design and reseal for Hayman				240,100.00	0%
3620-4505-0004	LRCI Phase 4 - Einas Forsayth Rd Ch 9480-18960				145,854.00	0%
3620-4505-0005	LRCI Phase 4 - Cleaning Road Grids		7,572.67	7,572.67	7,900.00	96%
3620-4505-0006	LRCI Phase 4 - Install hip roof MultiPurp Cen		111,057.23	111,057.23	100,000.00	111%
3620-4505-0007	LRCI Phase 4 - Design & Reseal Undara Road				162,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0008	LRCI Phase 4 - Remove the vegetation in the Etheridge River in Georgetown				50,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0009	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of Media filter in Water Treatment Plant				50,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0010	LRCI Phase 4 - Recon & Seal Water Treatment Access Road				98,556.00	0%
3620-4505-0011	LRCI Phase 4 - Supply and installation of waste transfer bins.				80,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0012	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of 4 x 1650 mm diameter reinforced concrete pipe- Kidston road @ ch 25.850 km		3,714.80	3,714.80	75,000.00	5%
3620-4505-0013	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of 4 x 1200 mm diameter reinforced concrete pipe @ ch 26.175 km		7,429.60	7,429.60	70,000.00	11%
3620-4505-0014	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of 4 x 1050 mm diameter reinforced concrete pipe @ ch 26.398 km			-	66,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0015	LRCI Phase 4 - Construction of box culvert and concrete floodway at Granite		968.59	968.59	169,000.00	1%
3620-4505-0016	LRCI Phase 4 - Dust pads Einasleigh				-	
4011-4500-0000	Cap Works - Hayman Street Drainage	3,413.60	903.60	4,317.20		
4011-4503-0000	Cap Imp - Crampton Road intersection		6,526.00	6,526.00		
		10,332.92		10,332.92		
4012-4500-0000	Resealing work in First street 22/23 survey/design & construction					
4012-4501-0000	Cap Imp - Cleaning Road Grids					
4013-4501-0001	Cap Imp - Etheridge River - Remove vegetation		44,864.65	44,864.65	50,000.00	90%

WIP - November 2024		PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	BUDGET	%
4014-4500-0001	Mt Surprise Cap Ex - Drainage O'Briens Creek		90,778.74	90,778.74		
4014-4500-0002	Mt Surprise Cap Ex - Drainage Atkinson St			-		
4014-4500-0003	Mt Surprise Cap Ex - Drainage Garnet St			-		
4014-4500-0004	Mt Surprise Cap Ex - Drainage Un-Named Rd			-		
4014-4500-0005	Mt Surprise Cap Ex - Drainage GDR 0-0.330		8,488.73	8,488.73		
4014-4500-0006	Mt Surprise Cap Ex - Drainage GDR 0-0.610			-		
4014-4500-0007	Mt Surprise Cap Ex - Drainage GDR 0-0.5 West			-		
4020-4500-0000	Capital Imp - Sealed Services - Forsayth - Einasleigh Rd Reseal	437,049.58	371,743.00	808,792.58		
4020-4530-0000	Capital Imp - Forsayth Einasleigh 23-24 - Survey & design (TIDS)-27.767 KM - 32.267 KM	3,167,100.37	1,114,603.35	4,281,703.72	1,269,422.00	88%
4020-4535-0000	Capital Imp - Forsayth Einasleigh 24-25 - Survey & design (TIDS) - 32.267 k - 37.10 km		992,950.46	992,950.46		
4020-4540-0000	Forsayth-Eins cap works - sign replacement	170,643.58		170,643.58		
new number req.	Further Signage TBC				40,000.00	0%
4020-4550-0000	Road realignments (Percy vale Road)		5,672.60	5,672.60		
4020-4560-0000	Eins-For Rd Ch 32.57-33.27 R2R	7,890.61		7,890.61	1,335,063.00	0%
4020-4565-0000	Forsayth-Eins Rd Ch 34.667 KM - 36.267 KM- Reconstruction					
4020-4570-0000	Big Joe Bridge Einasleigh R2R - Asphalt work	3,457.78	433.18	3,890.96		
4040-4500-0000	Cap Imp - Queenslander Creek upgrade	44,269.63	1,185,186.32	1,229,455.95	60,000.00	1975%
4060-4500-0000	Cap Imp - Floodways	-	-	-		
4060-4500-0001	Kidston Road R2R	106,373.80	19,164.08	125,537.88		
4060-4500-0002	Agate Creek Road R2R	191,784.35	12,550.00	204,334.35		
4060-4500-0003	Oakleigh Station Road R2R	3,012.00		3,012.00		
4060-4500-0010	Replacement of 4 nos - 375 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Dulthara road at chainage 38.152 km	4,572.17		4,572.17		
4060-4500-0011	Replacement of 4 nos - 375 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Dulthara road at chainage 45.1 km	4,512.07		4,512.07		
4060-4500-0012	Gilberton Rd at Ch 51.094			-		
4060-4500-0013	Gilberton Rd (Kidston) at Ch 26545			-		
4060-4500-0014	Replacement of 4 nos - 450 mm diameter Pipe culvert in North head road at chainage 21.10 km	2,587.32		2,587.32		
4060-4500-0015	Replacement of 4 nos - 450 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Vanlee road at chainage 9.46 km	1,260.60		1,260.60		
4060-4500-0016	Carpentaria Downs Station Rd	14,890.58		14,890.58		
4060-4500-0017	Conjubby Road	17,255.25		17,255.25		
4060-4500-0018	Replacement of 4 nos - 450 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Gilberton road at chainage 51.80 km			-		
4060-4501-0000	Cap Imp - Floodways	161,298.14		161,298.14		
4060-4502-0000	Cap Imp - Culvert Replacement				66,750.00	0%

WIP - November 2024		PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	BUDGET	%
4060-4503-0000	Cap Imp - Floodways (Granite Creek)		8,383.40	8,383.40		
4061-4504-0000	Reseals - Georgetown	195,454.65		195,454.65	459,000.00	0%
4061-4504-0008	Re sealing work in Hayman Street		6,449.60	6,449.60		
4061-4504-0009	Re sealing work in Colin Street		8,921.03	8,921.03		
4061-4504-0010	Re sealing work in Cumberland Street		19,337.94	19,337.94		
4061-4504-0011	Re sealing work in Crampton Road		38,530.02	38,530.02		
4063-4500-0001	Reseals - Mt Surprise - Cox Lane	12,802.19		12,802.19		
4063-4500-0002	Reseals - Mt Surprise - Garnet Street					
4063-4500-0003	Reseals - Mt Surprise - Undara Road		133,980.29	133,980.29		
4065-4500-0000	Reseals - Oak Park	27,184.96		27,184.96		
4140-4505-0001	Cap Imp Depot - Seal top yard (1- Land) (budget in land & improvements)				20,000.00	0%
		4,587,146.15	4,200,209.88	8,787,356.03	5,194,343.00	81%
0400-4750-0000	Work in Progress - Water Infrastructure					
4320-4500-0002	Capital Imp. Georgetown Water Plant & Equipment at cost - Replacement of Meters	6,769.74	1,294.21	8,063.95		
4320-4500-0004	Capital Imp. Georgetown Water Plant & Equipment at cost - New Water Connections	7,996.66		7,996.66		
4320-4501-0006	Cap Imp Gtown Water - new main to Etheridge River			-	35,000.00	0%
4320-4501-0008	Capital Imp. Georgetown Water Infra - Standpipe Gtown - landfill	15,631.88		15,631.88		
4340-4500-0002	Capital Imp. Forsayth Water PPE - Replacement of meters	1,621.28		1,621.28		
4340-4500-0004	Capital Imp. Forsayth Water PPE - New Water Connection	2,311.05	1,391.04	3,702.09		
4500-4506-0001	Charleston Dam Rec Area - Charleston Dam Rec Survey Des (4 - See Land) - playground	85,373.05		85,373.05	277,626.95	0%
4500-4506-0002	Charleston Dam Rec Area - Fencing	150,357.45		150,357.45		0%
4500-4508-0000	Charleston Dam - Water supply pipelines	13,056.61		13,056.61		0%
		283,117.72	2,685.25	285,802.97	312,626.95	1%
		9,157,651.54	8,882,300.76	18,039,952.30	17,225,244.95	52%

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 42% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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	REVENUE			EXPENDITURE			SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)		
	30 Nov 2024		Budget	30 Nov 2024		Budget	30 Nov 2024		Budget
1000-0001 Governance									
1000-0002 Elected Members	0.00	0%	0	210,574.54	51%	414,000	(210,574.54)	51%	(414,000)
1010-0002 Governance	0.00	0%	0	372,134.47	46%	810,000	(372,134.47)	46%	(810,000)
1020-0002 Economic Development	150,142.00	7%	2,291,000	116,343.06	47%	250,000	33,798.94	2%	2,041,000
1040-0002 Regulatory Services									
1040-0003 Town Planning	1,100.00	11%	10,000	41,953.84	120%	35,000	(40,853.84)	163%	(25,000)
1041-0003 Building Control	450.00	23%	2,000	0.00	0%	200	450.00	25%	1,800
1042-0003 Environmental Health	1,881.00	21%	9,000	13,398.34	45%	30,000	(11,517.34)	55%	(21,000)
1043-0003 Local Laws	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	5,000	0.00	0%	(5,000)
1040-0002 Regulatory Services	3,431.00	16%	21,000	55,352.18	79%	70,200	(51,921.18)	106%	(49,200)
1050-0002 Disaster Management	1,321,712.20	158%	835,000	71,283.10	54%	133,000	1,250,429.10	178%	702,000
1060-0002 WH&S	0.00	0%	0	159,000.82	52%	305,000	(159,000.82)	52%	(305,000)
1000-0001 Governance	1,475,285.20	47%	3,147,000	984,688.17	50%	1,982,200	490,597.03	42%	1,164,800
2000-0001 Corporate									
2000-0002 General Rates	2,623,079.64	99%	2,655,000	410,960.15	78%	530,000	2,212,119.49	104%	2,125,000
2010-0002 General Administration	5,744,745.03	85%	6,764,773	1,403,900.85	52%	2,697,500	4,340,844.18	107%	4,067,273
2020-0002 Employee Services	1,065,429.75	48%	2,200,000	866,018.98	40%	2,155,000	199,410.77	443%	45,000
2030-0002 ICT	0.00	0%	0	175,217.69	48%	365,000	(175,217.69)	48%	(365,000)
2040-0002 Broadcasting Services	0.00	0%	0	2,580.33	39%	6,600	(2,580.33)	39%	(6,600)
2000-0001 Corporate	9,433,254.42	81%	11,619,773	2,858,678.00	50%	5,754,100	6,574,576.42	112%	5,865,673
3000-0001 Community									
3000-0002 Commercial Rental Properties									
3000-0003 Staff housing	54,258.00	39%	140,000	173,551.94	34%	517,000	(119,293.94)	32%	(377,000)
3002-0003 Savannah House	1,625.00	41%	4,000	11,286.09	39%	29,000	(9,661.09)	39%	(25,000)
3003-0003 Demountable Office (Mary St)	21,000.00	44%	48,000	450.75	8%	6,000	20,549.25	49%	42,000
3004-0003 Independent Living	0.00	0%	1,200,000	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	1,200,000
3000-0002 Commercial Rental Properties	76,883.00	6%	1,392,000	185,288.78	34%	552,000	(108,405.78)	-13%	840,000
3010-0002 Libraries	0.00	0%	6,000	10,311.78	39%	26,200	(10,311.78)	51%	(20,200)
3020-0002 Community Development	26,250.00	109%	24,000	102,771.66	36%	283,000	(76,521.66)	30%	(259,000)
3030-0002 Sport & Recreation	50.00	---	0	193,486.51	42%	455,500	(193,436.51)	42%	(455,500)
3040-0002 Halls	1,095.45	22%	5,000	139,303.38	43%	326,000	(138,207.93)	43%	(321,000)
3050-0002 Medical Centres	0.00	0%	0	9,793.52	20%	49,200	(9,793.52)	20%	(49,200)
3060-0002 Aerodromes	135,000.00	30%	450,000	122,501.90	39%	314,500	12,498.10	9%	135,500
3070-0002 Terrestrial Centre	98,133.60	8%	1,160,000	230,466.84	36%	632,000	(132,333.24)	-25%	528,000

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 42% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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		REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)				
		30 Nov 2024	Budget	30 Nov 2024	Budget	30 Nov 2024	Budget			
3080-0002	Little Gems Child Care Centre	51,013.16	18%	287,000	218,746.40	44%	494,500	(167,733.24)	81%	(207,500)
3090-0002	Georgetown Student Hostel	96,587.50	40%	240,000	104,944.30	29%	361,450	(8,356.80)	7%	(121,450)
3100-0002	Cemeteries	45.45	2%	2,000	21,791.42	109%	20,000	(21,745.97)	121%	(18,000)
3000-0001	Community	485,058.16	14%	3,566,000	1,339,406.49	38%	3,514,350	(854,348.33)	<999%	51,650
4000-0001	Infrastructure Services									
4000-0002	Parks Gardens Reserves and Grounds	2,253.35	113%	2,000	286,186.68	46%	625,000	(283,933.33)	46%	(623,000)
4010-0002	Rural Lands Protection	16,528.59	43%	38,000	103,432.42	24%	435,073	(86,903.83)	22%	(397,073)
4020-0002	Street Lighting	0.00	0%	0	3,901.98	23%	17,250	(3,901.98)	23%	(17,250)
4030-0002	Roads									
4030-0003	Shire Roads	2,830,628.61	72%	3,938,650	1,644,256.15	38%	4,336,500	1,186,372.46	-298%	(397,850)
4031-0003	Town Streets	22,500.00	11%	198,000	55,194.58	8%	654,542	(32,694.58)	7%	(456,542)
4032-0003	Flood Damage	17,129,740.44	53%	32,252,193	18,692,380.57	57%	32,879,049	(1,562,640.13)	249%	(626,857)
4030-0002	Roads	19,982,869.05	55%	36,388,843	20,391,831.30	54%	37,870,091	(408,962.25)	28%	(1,481,249)
4040-0002	Depot and Stores	48,972.60	39%	125,000	382,385.75	35%	1,084,800	(333,413.15)	35%	(959,800)
4050-0002	Recoverable Works									
4050-0003	Private Works	49,920.09	23%	220,000	34,627.29	19%	180,000	15,292.80	38%	40,000
4051-0003	DTMR	2,643,084.97	56%	4,753,901	1,959,194.10	161%	1,218,901	683,890.87	19%	3,535,000
4050-0002	Recoverable Works	2,693,005.06	54%	4,973,901	1,993,821.39	143%	1,398,901	699,183.67	20%	3,575,000
4060-0002	Plant Operations	4,101,609.74	58%	7,120,000	1,429,000.97	39%	3,664,000	2,672,608.77	77%	3,456,000
4000-0001	Infrastructure Services	26,845,238.39	55%	48,647,744	24,590,560.49	55%	45,095,115	2,254,677.90	63%	3,552,628
5000-0001	Utilities									
5000-0002	Water Supply									
5000-0003	Georgetown WTP & Reticulation	348,768.14	88%	395,100	319,985.90	38%	849,900	28,782.24	-6%	(454,800)
5001-0003	Forsayth WTP & Reticulation	97,550.18	88%	111,200	152,939.22	56%	271,500	(55,389.04)	35%	(160,300)
5002-0003	Charleston Dam	0.00	0%	0	11,675.51	10%	120,000	(11,675.51)	10%	(120,000)
5000-0002	Water Supply	446,318.32	88%	506,300	484,600.63	39%	1,241,400	(38,282.31)	5%	(735,100)
5010-0002	Waste Management									
5010-0003	Georgetown	153,734.74	102%	150,400	103,121.20	34%	305,800	50,613.54	-33%	(155,400)
5011-0003	Forsayth	15,539.53	104%	14,950	8,625.99	12%	75,000	6,913.54	-12%	(60,050)
5012-0003	Einasleigh	11,317.22	108%	10,500	7,387.04	39%	18,885	3,930.18	-47%	(8,385)
5013-0003	Mt Surprise	12,190.45	102%	12,000	5,544.50	67%	8,233	6,645.95	176%	3,767
5010-0002	Waste Management	192,781.94	103%	187,850	124,678.73	31%	407,918	68,103.21	-31%	(220,068)

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 42% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

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Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

	REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)	
	30 Nov 2024	Budget	30 Nov 2024	Budget	30 Nov 2024	Budget
5000-0001 Utilities	639,100.26	92% 694,150	609,279.36	37% 1,649,318	29,820.90	-3% (955,168)
TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE	38,877,936.43	57% 67,674,667	30,382,612.51	52% 57,995,083	8,495,323.92	88% 9,679,583

Etheridge Shire Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>Orig. 24/25</u>
Income			
Revenue			
Recurrent revenue			
Rates, levies and charges	3	2,838,344	2,712,803
Fees and charges	3	132,847	315,600
Interest Income	3 7	109,155	668,100
Other income	3	29,389	64,150
Rental Income	3 8	76,883	192,000
Sales revenue	3	2,737,478	5,053,901
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	3 4	24,947,997	40,809,966
Total recurrent revenue		30,872,043	49,816,520
Capital revenue			
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4	2,428,274	7,920,500
Total capital revenue		2,428,274	7,920,500
Expenses			
Recurrent expenses			
Employee benefits		(2,931,182)	(6,336,250)
Materials and services		(19,334,168)	(35,285,463)
Finance Interest Costs		(77,699)	(240,000)
Depreciation and amortisation: PP&E	9	(2,461,993)	(6,076,723)
Total recurrent expenses	6 7	(24,805,042)	(47,938,436)
Net Operating Result		8,495,275	9,798,584
Other Expenses			
Total other expenses		0	0
Net Capital result		8,490,920	8,933,634
Other comprehensive income			
Increase / (decrease) in asset revaluation surplus		0	(8,437,846)
Total other comprehensive income for the year		0	(8,437,846)
WIP Cap Exp			
Total WIP (Tsf to Fin Postn)		0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year		8,495,275	1,360,738

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Etheridge Shire Council

Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>Orig. 24/25</u>
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	12,819,118	8,741,500
Receivables	12	580,364	1,826,328
Contract Assets		3,520,331	4,461,587
Other Current Assets		0	70,206
Inventories	13	518,886	440,958
		<u>17,438,699</u>	<u>15,540,579</u>
Total current assets	2	<u>17,438,699</u>	<u>15,540,579</u>
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4 7	291,522,290	305,684,329
Total non-current assets	2	<u>291,522,290</u>	<u>305,684,329</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>308,960,989</u>	<u>321,224,908</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	17	1,782,149	3,056,532
Contract Liabilities		1,139,683	11,809,000
Borrowings	21	81,408	3,700
Provisions	18	797,526	347,000
Total current liabilities		<u>3,800,766</u>	<u>15,216,232</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Borrowings	21	5,888,121	5,981,751
Provisions	18	2,230,996	2,351,773
Total non-current liabilities		<u>8,119,117</u>	<u>8,333,524</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>11,919,883</u>	<u>23,549,756</u>
NET COMMUNITY ASSETS		<u>297,041,106</u>	<u>297,675,152</u>
Community Equity			
Asset revaluation reserve	25	196,709,827	198,272,192
Shire Capital		39,500,666	39,500,000
Retained surplus/(deficiency)		51,369,813	59,903,438
Reserves		9,460,800	0
TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY		<u>297,041,106</u>	<u>297,675,630</u>

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Etheridge Shire Council

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from customers		14,462,026
Payments to suppliers and employees		(32,078,453)
Interest received		109,971
Rental income		76,883
Non-capital grants and contributions		24,862,795
Borrowing costs		(77,699)
Net cash - operating activities	23	<u>7,355,524</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations		2,386,948
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(8,229,528)
Net cash - from investing activities		<u>(5,842,580)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayment of borrowings		104,121
Net cash flow - financing activities		<u>104,121</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		1,617,064
Add cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year		10,618,714
Cash and cash equivalents - closing	3	<u>12,819,118</u>

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

General Meeting 18th December 2024

Subject	2025 – 2029 Corporate Plan
Classification	Open
Author	Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per s104 of the Local Government Act 2009, Council is required to prepare a Corporate Plan that incorporates community engagement. Throughout the second half of 2024, Council has conducted a survey, Community Consultation meetings, and Council workshops. Suggestions and survey results were incorporated to shape the current draft document. The draft plan was advertised for public comment for 30 days with no further comments received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the 2025-2029 Corporate Plan as presented, to use as the basis for the preparation and implementation of Operational Plans & Budgets for the inclusive financial years.

BACKGROUND

Section 165 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires the preparation of 5-year corporate plan:

- (1) A local government must prepare a 5-year corporate plan for each period of 5 financial years.
- (2) A local government must adopt its 5-year corporate plan in sufficient time to allow a budget and annual operational plan, consistent with the corporate plan, to be adopted for the first financial year that is covered by the plan.
- (3) A local government may, by resolution, amend its 5-year corporate plan at any time.
- (4) A local government must discharge its responsibilities in a way that is consistent with its 5-year corporate plan.

Section 166 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires that the corporate plan contents:

- a) outline the strategic direction of the local government; and
- b) state the performance indicators for measuring the local government’s progress in achieving its vision for the future of the local government area; and
- c) include the following information for each commercial business unit—
 - i. an outline of the objectives of the commercial business unit;
 - ii. an outline of the nature and extent of the significant business activity the commercial business unit will conduct.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

The cost to develop the Corporate Plan and engage with the community is a core LG activity and is budgeted for within Council’s operating expenditure.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009 requires that Council adopt a Corporate Plan as part of its Financial Management systems. Sections 165 and 166 of the Local Government Regulations 2012 specify the minimum content of the plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council’s Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Consult	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A wide variety of consultation has been undertaken to finalise the draft document.
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Summary of risks:

- Council may not comply with State and Federal legislative requirements
- Council may not have strategic priorities to work towards achieving which would be detrimental to operational plan objectives and budget formation for future financial years

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services	Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 02/12/2024	Date:

ATTACHMENTS

Include attachments such as:

- 2025-2029 Corporate Plan



CORPORATE PLAN

2025-2029



Etheridge Shire Council



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Message from the Mayor

" I am pleased to present Etheridge Shire Council's Corporate Plan for 2025 - 2029. "

Cr. Barry Hughes

Council has just recently completed a review of the existing Corporate Plan. It is councils' duty to present the revised version of the Corporate Plan that will serve the current Council as a working document for the next five years.

Information for the revision process has been collated utilising valuable input from Councillors and staff, as well as strong participation in the survey and local meetings from communities across the Shire.

The new Corporate Plan will guide and assist Councils deliberations, bringing clarity to decision making processes across all aspects of Councils business.

The KPI's forming the cornerstones around the revised Corporate Plan consist of

- A sustainable Transport network that meets community needs.
- A sustainable Environment of natural assets, water, wastewater and waste management.
- A diversified Economic development ensures a prosperous shire.
- Quality Social infrastructure makes the shire a desirable place to live.
- Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence.

It is the expectation of this Council and officers of council, that the plan offers itself as a significant tool to help achieve the necessary changes to be undertaken on a proactive platform. This will ensure effective financial and physical performances from whole of council delivering a sustainable future for all shire residents.

In revising the existing Corporate Plan council has considered extensively the changing dynamics across community's and industries within the shire, and in doing so has provided strategic pathways and objectives to achieve cost effective outcomes.

Council has a very clear intention to remain engaged with whole of community to maintain a high level of service provision and connectivity as well as strong leadership through advocacy to all levels of government.

I look forward to working closely with your council to ensure that community expectations match the capacity of council to deliver through continuity of engagement, encouragement of council and community partnerships and collaboration, plus a robust management approach to achieve the goals set out in this document.

Barry Hughes
MAYOR

Elected Representatives

Mayor

Barry Hughes

Phone: 0458 621233

Email: mayor@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Deputy Mayor

Laurell Royes

Phone: 0459 278 377

Email: cr.royes@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Councillor

Seven Ryan

Phone: 0448 089 144

Email: cr.ryan@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Councillor

Ian Carroll

Phone: 0459 623 582

Email: cr.carroll@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Councillor

Ian Tincknell

Phone: 0459 136 283

Email: cr.tincknell@etheridge.qld.gov.au

.... "Our Councillors represent the level of government most closely linked to the community.

Etheridge Shire Council comprises a Mayor and four councillors.

Councillors are elected to serve a four-year term and their role is to make decisions and provide democratic leadership

on the infrastructure, facilities, services and works programs that are needed for the region.

The next elections are scheduled for March 2028"

.....



Regional Profile

The early history of the Etheridge Shire is synonymous with famous explorers such as Leichhardt (1844-45), Gregory (1855-56), McKinlay (1862) and Jardine (1864), all of whom traversed the area seeking minerals, timber and good pastoral land.

Etheridge Shire Council – Administration Building Georgetown History also records that in 1869 a young geologist named Richard Daintree explored the area around 41 Mile Creek and the Gilbert and Copperfield rivers, revealing the presence of payable gold. May 1870 saw the establishment of the community of Etheridge, along the banks of the Etheridge River. In November of the same year, this new settlement became known as Georgetown, named after the first gold commissioner in the region, Howard St. George.

The Etheridge Shire Council was first called the “Einasleigh Divisional Board” which then became the Einasleigh Shire Council in 1902 before changing its name to the Etheridge Shire Council in March 1919, because Council’s mail was being sent to Einasleigh instead of Georgetown.

The grazing occupation of the Gulf Savannah originated with Carpentaria Downs, which in the mid 1800’s was partially owned by sea captain Robert Towns, founder of both Burketown and Townsville. The main pastoral settlements appeared in the eastern part of the Shire, where large individual areas were taken up. In many cases these settlements remain some of the largest stations in the Shire today.

Relics of the famous gold rush days can still be found throughout the district and the settlements of Mt Surprise, Einasleigh, and Forsyth, together with Georgetown, remain a fossickers dream. The Etheridge goldfield, the “poor mans” goldfield, has never been worked out, and modern-day prospectors armed with metal detectors still search for specimens such as coloured topaz, agates, sapphires, smoky quartz and other precious stones, as well as nuggets of gold.

The Etheridge Shire covers approximately 39,039 square kilometres of Queensland’s Gulf Savannah Region. The Shire is connected by four main communities being: Mt Surprise, Einasleigh, Forsyth and Georgetown and two smaller communities: Kidston and Oak Park.

Local Government’s role as a third tier of government in Australia is defined in State Government legislation - being the Local Government Act 2009. Council comprises of a Mayor and four Councillors elected on an undivided basis every four years.

The Shire will be faced with many changes and challenges over the next 5 - 10 years to maintain social, environmental and financial sustainability. It is of concern that the Shire population has been diminishing and growing older and that the Shire youth are not returning after leaving for their education.

Assessment of Local Conditions

The Etheridge Shire has experienced a steady decline in population over the last five years, leaving an estimated population of 726 people at 30 June 2023. The decline in population inversely reflects the increase in local unemployment and has caused considerable changes to the local demographics.

Positively, the population median age, which was 47.0 years in 2018, had reduced to 44.4 years in 2023. The proportion of residents aged 45+ now make up 41.3% of the shire, while those below 25 make up 31.2%. The 25-44 age group commonly associated with young families is 27.6% (see: <http://profile.id.com.au/fnqroc/population?WebID=160>).

In 2022/23, The economy's "Value Added" for Etheridge Shire was \$94.7M. Agriculture, predominately beef cattle was \$57M or 60%. The "value added" from tourism was \$9M. The difference between 'local employment' (408) and 'employed residents' (363) indicates that approximately 45 (11%) people employed in the Shire live outside the Shire.

Even with the employment statistics, the unemployment rate of 1.8% is below the regional rate of 3.3% (for further detail, go to: <http://economy.id.com.au/fnqroc/about?WebID=160>.)

Table 1 - Etheridge Shire Population Estimate: 2004 to 2024

2004	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,022	1,018	1,013	1,009	1,004	1,000	988	976	964	952	940	926	819	804	793	794	803	724	726



Vision Statement & Guiding Principles

our Mission

... To lead the community in line with our guiding principles to achieve our shared vision...

our Vision

...Etheridge Shire is a place of innovation, diversity, and opportunity for all. We have vibrant and unique communities that are provided with community focused services that maintain our country centric ways of life. Dynamic leadership ensures sustainable communities, economies, and best practices for our environment...

Our Guiding Principles

- Safe** - We focus on creating a safe workplace to ensure the wellbeing of our staff and the community;
- Teamwork** - We work together as one council towards shared goals and for the greater good of the community;
- Respect** - We will be inclusive, treat people with courtesy and fairness, and ensure each individual is valued and heard;
- Integrity** - We will behave in a way that is honest, open, and transparent. We will take responsibility for our actions and strive for excellence;
- Value** - We aim to deliver services efficiently, effectively and in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner; and
- Engagement** - We engage with our staff and community to inform our decision making, and create awareness of our activities.

Corporate Plan Aims & Outcomes

Aim 1 – Roads/Transport

A sustainable transport network that meets community needs

Outcome

1.1 Shire rural roads are all weather, town streets are bitumen with footpaths, kerb, channelling and drainage.

1.2 Transport and Main Roads is committed to developing a network that is fully sealed to Road Train Route standard.

1.3 There are multiple public transport options.

Strategy No.	Strategy	Performance Measure
1.1.1	An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's road assets.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
1.1.2	Develop and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and funded, 10-year Capital Works Program for roads, incorporating road train access and drainage.	10 Year Capital Works Program annually adopted.
1.1.3	Lobby for adequate funding to enable the repair of the shire road network affected by natural disaster.	Quantity of work completed.
1.1.4	Work with regional groups and our communities to upgrade Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS).	Number of LLRS roads and funding opportunities.
1.2.1	Maintain relationship with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to undertake road construction and maintenance (Road Train Routes).	% of works program completed.
1.2.2	Continue to lobby to raise the national profile of the Georgetown to Forsyth, Kennedy, Gulf and Gregory Development Roads and Bridges and for additional funding for high priority widening and sealing.	% of works program completed.
1.3.1	An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's airports and airfield assets.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
1.3.2	Advocate for improved airfield infrastructure and services.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
1.3.3	Advocate for improved rail and bus services.	Number of services available.

Aim 2 – Environment

A sustainable Environment of natural assets, water, wastewater and waste management

Outcome

2.1 Best practice water and wastewater management.

2.2 Best practice waste management.

2.3 Best practice natural environment and pest management.

2.4 An energy efficient shire.

2.5 Industry has sustainable environmental practices.

Strategy No.	Strategy	Performance Measure
2.1.1	An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's water and wastewater assets.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
2.1.2	Develop and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and funded, 10-year Capital Works Program to deliver good quality, reliable water and wastewater supplies for all communities.	10 Year Capital Works Program annually adopted.
2.1.3	Water Reservoirs are operating and environmentally compliant.	% Compliance.
2.1.4	Lobby for adequate funding to enable the repair and maintenance of shire water and wastewater network affected by natural disaster or other events.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
2.2.1	An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's collection and waste management facilities throughout shire.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
2.2.2	Waste transfer stations are operating and environmentally compliant	% Compliance.
2.3.1	Develop Council's Biosecurity Plan in consultation with landowners and other stakeholders to reduce the impact of existing and emerging pests and weeds.	Works program annually adopted.
2.3.2	In partnership with the community and external agencies, promote and support best practice management of the natural environment.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
2.4.1	Support of renewable energy, carbon reduction programs and council's carbon footprint.	Quantity of Renewable energy and carbon credits.
2.5.1	Companies and industries are environmentally compliant.	% Compliance.

Aim 3 – Economic

A diversified economic development ensures a prosperous Shire

Outcome

3.1 A variety of land and housing options for the community.

3.2 A diversified economic base: rural, tourism, mining and support services.

3.3 Large scale projects provide a legacy for our communities.

Strategy No.	Strategy	Performance Measure
3.1.1	Maintain a compliant planning scheme that supports the future development of our shire.	% Compliance.
3.1.2	Review and update the asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's housing stock.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
	Plan and develop a range of land and housing options for youth, families and older members of the communities.	
3.1.3	Advocating for the release of land or State Land for future development across the shire.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
3.2.1	Facilitate the development and marketing of a distinctive regional image.	Growth in economic development.
3.2.2	Support community development to expand and meet the growing needs of the region through infrastructure, income diversification and advocacy.	Growth in economic development, tourism numbers, rural products, mining, renewable energy.
3.2.3	Support skills development (youth, business, industry).	Number of programs conducted.
3.2.4	Career pathway and employment opportunities for youth.	% of under 35 consistent with state average.
3.2.5	Improve business and policy outcomes to support local businesses.	% of local spent dollars.
3.2.6	Advocate for the development of the Etheridge Agriculture Precinct and associated agricultural , including commodities ie water, industries.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
3.3.1	Companies of large-scale projects operate with a suitable social licence to our community.	Employment by Industry.
3.3.2	Large-scale projects provide long term benefits to our community.	Value Added by Industry Sector.

Aim 4 – Social

Quality social infrastructure makes the shire a desirable place to live

Outcome

4.1 An active community with a variety of recreational activities.

4.2 An invigorated Community with a variety of multi-age services.

4.3 A culturally aware community.

4.4 A variety of modern communication mechanisms available for the whole Shire.

Strategy No.	Strategy	Performance Measure
4.1.1	Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's parks, garden and recreational facilities.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
4.1.2	Establishment suitable recreational activities/facilities at water reservoirs.	% of works program completed.
4.1.3	Enhance and improve the aesthetics of each town.	% of works program completed.
4.1.4	Advocate for funding for additional sport and recreation infrastructure.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
4.2.1	Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's Health, assisted living, childcare facilities	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
4.2.2	Ensure that services to the community for childcare, youth hostel and assisted living services are provided.	Operational performance and customer feedback.
4.2.3	Construct care facilities to retain citizens in the community.	% of works program completed.
4.2.4	Advocate and facilitate the provision and improvement of central and remote health services.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
4.2.5	Advocate and facilitate for improvements in educational services to be provided within the shire.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
4.2.6	Advocate for policing and emergency capability and service delivery across the Shire.	Number of meetings attended.
4.3.1	Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's social infrastructure.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.
4.3.2	Provide libraries, as learning and information centres.	Operational performance and customer feedback.
4.3.3	Engage with and support local arts and cultural groups.	Number of meetings attended.

Strategy No.	Strategy	Performance Measure
4.3.4	Build and strengthen the Shire's identity through the support and provision of a variety of events and branding our corporate image.	Number of events held and funding obtained.
4.3.5	Encourage local historians to preserve and promote local history and heritage.	Number of meetings attended.
4.4.1	Improve co-operation and communication with relevant stakeholders and all levels of government in the strategic planning of future community infrastructure.	Number of meetings attended and funding obtained.
4.4.2	Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the maintenance, replacement and enhancement of council's communication assets.	Asset management Works Program annually adopted.



Aim 5 – Governance

Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence

Outcome

5.1 Effective communication between council and the community and across the community.

5.2 Council operations support quality service provision and good governance.

5.1 Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

5.4 Desirable staffing balance that reflects Council and community expectations.

5.5 Council is effective in attracting and retaining qualified, experienced and committed staff.

5.6 Council is effective in planning, preparing and responding to natural disasters.

Strategy No.	Strategy	Performance Measure
5.1.1	Using appropriate media, promote civil and respectful discussion and participation in relevant issues.	Community Survey.
5.1.2	Disseminate accurate and relevant information within the organization, the community and other relevant audiences.	Community Survey.
5.1.3	Review the current practice of holding consultation meetings throughout the Shire and distribution of newsletter 'Inform' to maximise effective community engagement.	Number of "community connect" meetings.
5.1.4	Council will embrace exceptional customer service, valuing staff and promoting ethical standards of practice, supported by clear policies and strategies.	Community Survey.
5.2.1	Ensure the transparency of council's administration and promote awareness within the community of council's financial management and other strategies.	Operational performance and customer feedback.
5.2.2	Pursue opportunities for external income sources to enhance financial capacity beyond traditional methods.	Financial Position.
5.2.3	Ensure the efficiency of procurement and stores activity.	% Compliance.
5.2.4	Ensure the efficiency of depot and engineering administration.	% of works program completed.
5.2.5	Maintain a profitable fleet business and manage contractor hire arrangements.	% profitability of plant.
5.3.1	Ensure a preparedness to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies and engage in planning activities aimed at minimising the impact of such disasters on the community.	Number of events and community feedback.

Strategy No.	Strategy	Performance Measure
5.3.2	Maintain a compliant, resourced disaster management plan.	% Compliance.
5.4.1	Expect an environment of honesty and integrity in which elected members, managers and staff work together in a spirit of trust and teamwork.	Annual Staff and contractor Survey.
5.4.2	Actively participate in the membership of regional development and other organisations in order to achieve mutual regional priorities.	Number of meetings attended.
5.4.3	Councillors take a leadership role in the community, serve as a role model and provide strategic direction for the continued growth and development of the region.	Number of meetings attended.
5.5.1	Develop, review and implement a staffing strategy to the efficiency of council operations.	Strategy adopted.
5.5.2	Council processes, service levels and use of technology provide an efficient use of resources.	Number of processes reviewed.
5.5.3	Provide accountable, professional, responsible, timely and accessible services to external and internal customers that reflect the values of the organization.	KPI: External - Snap send solve, Internal - Council Requests.
5.6.1	Ensure councillors and staff are provided with relevant skills and professional development opportunities to achieve stated strategic priorities and corporate objectives.	% of works program completed.
5.6.2	Implement effective HRM strategy throughout the organisation.	Staff turnover.
5.6.3	Develop and implement organisation well-being programs.	% Compliance.
5.6.4	Develop and implement proactive WHS and enterprise risk strategies to reduce threats to the council and the community.	% Compliance.



Financial Capability to Implement this Corporate Plan

Financing the infrastructure and services required to support the strategies and objectives outlined within the Corporate Plan, while improving services and public facilities remains a significant challenge.

The limited revenue base of the Council continues to result in high reliance on State and Federal Government funding for major projects. The implementation of a number of strategies identified within the plan is therefore subject to obtaining this funding. Economically, Council will develop a robust strategy to pursue funding streams to support all developments across Council's business.

Etheridge Shire Council maintains a 10 - year Strategic Financial Plan and is in the process of developing a 10 - year Asset Management Plan that will cover the life of the Corporate Plan and beyond. In simple terms, these plans identify planned expenditure and management of assets on council's activities and facilities over the 10 - years from where the funds have come and what the cumulative financial impacts of this will be on the shire as a whole. It is council's financial blueprint for the future and a living document that is required to be regularly reviewed.

The Corporate Plan encapsulates significant infrastructure improvements necessary to facilitate desired growth over the forthcoming five to ten years. The financial plan identifies the use of significant own - source revenue raised through rates and charges as well as external grants and borrowings as being necessary to implement these requirements.

The extension of the timeframe for the Financial Plan beyond that of the Corporate Plan ensures that council is aware of the ongoing impact of maintenance and debt servicing relating to new and improved facilities. Care is taken to ensure that debt relating to specific assets is extinguished well in advance of the end of the useful life of the asset.

Councillors and the Executive Management Team will ensure that council remains in a sustainable financial position.

The *Local Government Act 2009* requires all local governments to prepare and adopt a Corporate Plan covering a period of at least five years. Under the terms of the Act, the Corporate Plan is to be the basis for council's operational plans and budgets in each year.

Council discussed the development of this Corporate Plan at its regular community consultation meetings through-out the Shire, through articles in the 'Inform' newsletter and through its social media sites.

Council is required to make assessments of progress towards implementing its corporate and operational plans. Those assessments are contained in formal written reports and must be presented to a meeting of council at regular intervals of not more than three months.

The key threat to the sustainability of the Shire is the economic decline of its community. Council will continue to lobby for grants and subsidies to fund its operations, but will also seek to exploit opportunities and innovative ways to create jobs, economic growth and prosperity and address social and economic disadvantage.

Meeting Date	18th December 2024
Subject	2024 External Audit Final Management Report
Classification	Open
Author	Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council’s final management report was prepared by Queensland Audit Office (QAO). QAO issued an unmodified audit opinion on the 2023/2024 financial statements. The Final management Report includes identified (or previously identified) issues which have been reported to management and an update on managements actions taken to resolve these.

The presented 2024 Final Management Report was received by the Audit Committee at its most recent meeting held 27th November 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to receive the 2024 External Audit Final Management Report and note the contents therein.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the Executive Summary, Council’s Audit Committee received the 2024 Final Management Report. It should be noted that there was 1 significant deficiency identified within the 2023/2024 and Council are working toward developing and implementing the required policy or process to resolve this. Furthermore, there are still 3 unresolved significant deficiencies from prior years. There are also 9 deficiencies, including 2 as a result of this audit, and 7 from previous years.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence
 Corporate Outcome No. 5.1: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Council has made a budget allocation for External Audit Fees.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council’s Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Risks:

1. Lack of oversight on financial reporting
2. Poor risk management
3. Non-compliance with legal and regulatory requirements

Mitigation:

1. Implement risk management systems & audit functions

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 29/11/2024

Date:

ATTACHMENTS

External Audit 2024 Final Management Report



2024 FINAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

Etheridge Shire Council

18 November 2024

Barry Hughes
Mayor
Etheridge Shire Council

Dear Barry

Final management report for Etheridge Shire Council

We have completed our 2024 financial audit for Etheridge Shire Council. QAO has issued an unmodified audit opinion on your financial statements.

The purpose of this report is to update you on any matters that have arisen since we presented our interim report to you on 25 July 2024.

Reporting on issues identified after the closing report

I can confirm that we have not identified any significant issues since the presentation of our closing report to the audit committee. The issues and other matters we have formally reported to management and an update on management's actions taken to resolve these issues is included as Appendix A.

Please note that under section 213 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, you must present a copy of this report at your Council's next ordinary meeting.

Report to parliament

Each year, we report the results of all financial audits and significant issues to parliament.

We intend to include the results of our audit of Etheridge Shire Council in our report to parliament on Local Government 2024. We will comment on the results of our audit, any significant internal control issues, and the overall results for the sector, including major transactions and events. We will discuss the proposed report content with your entity contact and continue to consult as we draft it. Formally, entities have an opportunity to comment on our report, and for these comments to be included in the final version tabled in parliament.

Audit fee

The final audit fee for this year is \$96,000, exclusive of GST. This fee is in line with the fee estimated in our external audit plan.

We would like to thank you and your staff for your engagement in the audit this year and look forward to working with your team again next year.

If you have any questions about this report or would like to discuss any matters regarding our services and engagement, please do not hesitate to contact me on 4046 0090 or William Cunningham, QAO Director on 3149 6042.

Yours sincerely



James Gaustad
Partner

Appendix A1 – Status of issues

Internal control issues

This section provides an update on the control deficiencies we have identified since our interim report. It includes a response from management.

Our risk ratings are as follows. For more information and detail on our rating definitions, please see the webpage here: www.qao.qld.gov.au/information-internal-controls or scan the QR code.



S Significant deficiencies

24CR-1 Ex-gratia payments

Observation

Council does not have a policy for the circumstances in which ex-gratia payments might be considered.

Council paid an ex-gratia payment to a former employee on termination of the employment arrangement. The payout excluding unused leave entitlements was \$86,071 and this has been disclosed as a termination benefit in the financial statements. Legal advice was obtained, and the final deed of settlement was signed by the Acting Chief Executive Officer in line with Council delegations. However, there was no formal documentation retained about the negotiation and decision-making process, including that an ex-gratia payment would be made, the value of the payment, and whether the Mayor was aware of the payment. Due to the lack of formal documentation retained, there is a lack of transparency around the decision to award, and the calculation of the payment.

Implication

Without a policy, there is risk that ex-gratia payments could be made that are difficult to support due to a lack of transparency over what circumstances they can be paid, how they are calculated, and who should approve them.

In this case, a payment has been made that Council was not bound by the employment contract to pay, and there is no documentation of Councils consideration of whether the payment was an appropriate use of Council funds.

QAO recommendation

To ensure that ex-gratia payments made can be supported and are defensible, it is important that public sector entities have robust policies and guidance covering:

- the type of ex-gratia payments that can be made and when they can be made
- the basis for determining the appropriate amount paid
- who can approve them.

Public sector entities should also maintain proper records supporting each ex-gratia payment including evidence of key decisions made and who they were made by. At a minimum, these should record:

- the payment date and the recipient of the payment
- the reason for the payment and how the payment amount was determined

- whether independent advice was obtained to support the basis and amount of the payment
- how the payment represents appropriate use of public money
- who approved the payment
- other payment details the executives, board or Council consider relevant.

QAO issued guidance on this topic which can be found here: [Ex-gratia payments – what those charged with governance need to consider | Queensland Audit Office \(qao.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Management response

Council note the recommendation and will consider the development and implementation of an ex-gratia payment policy or process.

Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services

Status: Wok In Progress

Action date: 30 June 2025

Appendix A2 – Matters previously reported

The following table summarises all control deficiencies, financial reporting issues and other matters that had previously been raised but were not resolved as at the date of our interim report, some of which may have been reported as resolved in the closing report to Management. The listing includes issues from our interim report this year and those issues raised in prior years.












Our risk ratings are as follows. For more information and detail on our rating definitions, please see the webpage here: www.qao.qld.gov.au/information-internal-controls or scan the QR code.





Internal control issues			Financial reporting issues		
S	D	O	H	M	L
Significant deficiency	Deficiency	Other matter	High	Medium	Low

Internal control issues

Ref.	Rating	Issue	Status and comment
23CR-3	S	Donated assets Council did not record donated assets when ownership was transferred.	Work in progress A new internal process was implemented towards the end of the 2024FY. Audit difference identified in relation to this in the current year. Responsible officer: Finance Manager Original action date: June 2024 Revised action date: June 2025
24IR-2	D	Criminal history checks for new potential employees Council's Recruitment and Selection Policy is silent on which positions should be subject to criminal history checks prior to issuing an offer of employment.	Work in progress Recruitment and Selection Policy set for review in 2025FY. Responsible officer: Manager People and Culture Original action date: June 2024 Revised action date: June 2025
24IR-3	D	Non-compliance with procurement policy and local government regulations An instance of such non-compliance was identified which identified that sound contracting principles were not followed, and the highest quality goods and services for the best value for money not obtained.	Resolved Training was provided to employees and the implementation of annual refresher training. No additional issues identified from audit work performed.
24IR-4	D	Review of TechOne current user access rights Identified that the existing review of user access appropriateness does not include a review of access rights.	Work in progress A formal review and sign off process is being considered and more frequent user account and profile reviews to be undertaken. Responsible officer: Manager Systems & Information Action date: 30 June 2025

Ref.	Rating	Issue	Status
22CR-1		<p>Chart of accounts requires amendment</p> <p>The chart of accounts did not enable Council to accurately track and record grant revenue, capitalised expenditure and prepare accurate financial statements.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Some revision to chart of accounts has taken place but there is still further work required.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 26 January 2023</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
21CR-2		<p>Management of capital grants</p> <p>No comprehensive grants register detailing relevant details including recognition method applicable to the funding. Errors identified in current and prior year financial statements were material.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Grants register includes revenue for each grant and is regularly updated with expenditure. The register was used as the basis for contract asset and liability calculations for 2024 EOFY; however, given material errors were identified as part of the audit of EOFY grant accounting, further refinements are still needed.</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
21CR-3		<p>Job costing and chart of accounts</p> <p>The structure of the chart of accounts makes it difficult to determine whether each contract and sub-contract generated a surplus or a loss.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Some revision to chart of accounts has taken place but there is still further work required. Furthermore, job costing is still to be reviewed.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2022</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
21CR-4		<p>IT general controls and policies</p> <p>A number of IT policies were outdated or did not include key elements to ensure adequate management of the IT environment.</p> <p>The computer, email and internet policy remained out of date at the date of the audit visit.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Policy framework review has commenced.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate & Community Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2022</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
22CR-3		<p>Contracts over \$200,000 not disclosed on Council's website</p> <p>We identified contracts which were not disclosed on Council's website in the 2022 financial year.</p> <p><i>Update: We identified one example of a contract over \$200,000 in the 2024 financial year that was not disclosed on the Council website.</i></p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2023</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>

23IR-1		<p>Improve financial reporting by strengthening month-end and year-end processes</p> <p>A number of material balances are not being accrued and adjusted on a regular basis including accruals, contract assets and liabilities, asset capitalisations and clearance of work in progress.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Some material balances are still not updated until end of financial year.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Original Action date: 31 March 2024</p> <p>Revised Action date: 30 June 2025</p>
23IR-2		<p>Review of recruitment policy</p> <p>Recruitment policy does not have a requirement to assess, obtain or document criminal history checks or to verify qualifications of prospective employees.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Policy remains out of date.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 31 December 2023</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
23IR-3		<p>Insufficient risk management and governance procedures</p> <p>Risk register is out of date and governance procedures are limited.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Risk register remains out of date; however, updating it has been flagged as a high priority.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 31 December 2024</p>
23IR-4		<p>Policies are not reviewed on a timely basis</p> <p>We have reviewed the information on Council's website against requirements of the LG Act and Regulation.</p> <p>[1] Investigation policy – does not appear to be disclosed on Council's website [s150AE LGA].</p> <p>[2] Fraud & corruption management policy and management plan were due for review on 30 June 2018.</p> <p>[3] Procurement principles policy per Council website was due for review on 30 June 2024.</p> <p>[4] Delegation policy per website is not signed as endorsed and does not have details of when it was adopted by Council or when the review date is.</p> <p>[5] Advertising expenditure policy was due for review on 28 February 2021.</p> <p>[6] Internal audit policy was due for review on 30 April 2020.</p> <p>[7] Asset management policy was due for review on 30 April 2021.</p> <p>[8] Dealing with a complaint about a public official policy was due for review on 30 June 2020.</p> <p>[9] Risk management policy was due for review on 15 April 2021.</p> <p>Various other Council specific policies disclosed on Council website are past their review date.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>The outdated policies were renewed by Council in July and August 2024.</p>

<p>23-CR4</p>		<p>Credit card policy is out of date, and recognition of credit card transactions is not timely</p> <p>The credit card policy has not been renewed since 2004. Credit card transactions are not recorded until the card balance is paid.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Credit card policy has been adopted by Council in July 2024.</p> <p>Credit card transactions are still recorded only when the card balance is paid.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
<p>23-CR6</p>		<p>Employee termination checklists incomplete</p> <p>We identified examples of termination checklists that had sections not completed and/or were not signed or dated. We identified further examples of this in the current year (2023-24) audit.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Checklist has been revised; however, it has been observed that the checklists are not always fully completed for all staff members.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
<p>21CR-8</p>		<p>Policy to support reimbursement of relocation expenses</p> <p>Lack of formal policy or documented evidence of reimbursements paid to key management personnel. We recommended implementing a formal policy to support these decisions.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Relocation Policy was adopted by Council in August 2024.</p>
<p>24IR-1</p>		<p>Lack of review of system users</p> <p>We identified a lack of review of user accounts in both Windows and the accounting software Practical.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Management advise that a review will be scheduled in the near future.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 November 2024</p>

Appendix A3 – Climate-related financial disclosures

Next year audit planning considerations	Potential effect on your reporting obligations	Potential effect on your audit
<p>In June 2023, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) issued its first 2 standards – IFRS S1 <i>General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information</i> and IFRS S2 <i>Climate-related Disclosures</i>.</p> <p>In October 2023, the AASB released Exposure Draft SR1 <i>Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS) 1 General requirements for disclosure of Climate-related Financial Information</i> for public feedback.</p> <p>The AASB's approach is to take a 'climate first' approach and is proposing that references to sustainability in the ISSB standards be replaced with 'climate related' in the Australian equivalents.</p> <p>In-scope entities will need to prepare a new, standalone sustainability report and have it audited.</p>	<p>In January 2024, the Australian Treasury issued proposed legislation as to how it intends to mandate application of climate related financial disclosures (and applicable assurance requirements) to entities reporting under the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i>. Queensland Treasury will determine the application to Queensland public sector entities that aren't reporting under the Corporations Act, such as departments and statutory bodies.</p> <p>Etheridge Shire Council is not included in the scope of Commonwealth legislation; therefore, you are not a mandatory reporting entity and will need to follow the guidance from Queensland Treasury.</p>	<p>We will work with management to assess Queensland Treasury requirements and guidance, as applicable.</p>



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General Meeting **18th December 2024**

Subject	Audit Committee Meeting Minutes – 27th November 2024
Classification	Open
Author	Renee Bester

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 211, Council's Audit Committee met on 27th November 2024. A copy of the meeting minutes are provided as a written report about the matters reviewed at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held 27th November 2024, and note the business resolved therein.

BACKGROUND

Council constituted an Audit Committee in 2022, and under s211 of the *Local Government Regulations*, has requirements including:

- (1) *The audit committee of a local government must—*
 - (a) *meet at least twice each financial year; and*
 - (b) *review each of the following matters—*
 - (i) *the internal audit plan for the internal audit for the current financial year;*
 - (ii) *the internal audit progress report for the internal audit for the preceding financial year including the recommendations in the report and the actions to which the recommendations relate;*
 - (iii) *a draft of the local government's financial statements for the preceding financial year before the statements are certified and given to the auditor-general under [section 212](#) ;*
 - (iv) *the auditor-general's audit report and auditor-general's observation report about the local government's financial statements for the preceding financial year; and*
 - (c) *as soon as practicable after a meeting of the committee, give the local government a written report about the matters reviewed at the meeting and the committee's recommendations about the matters.*

- (2) *At a meeting of the audit committee—*
 - (a) *a quorum is at least half the number of members of the committee; and*
 - (b) *either—*
 - (i) *the chairperson presides; or*
 - (ii) *if the chairperson is absent, the member chosen by the members present as chairperson for the meeting presides.*

- (3) *The audit committee may, for performing its functions under subsection (1) (b) , seek information or advice from the person who has carried out the internal audit.*

- (4) *The chief executive officer must present the report mentioned in subsection (1) (c) at the next meeting of the local government.*

The Audit Committee has now met three times this year and are progressing well considering through business as required.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence.

Corporate Outcome No. 5.1: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Internal and External Audits are budgeted for within the 2024/25 year.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Audit Committee was constituted under the Local Government Act & Regulations and holds meetings accordingly.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Internal Audit Policy
Audit Committee Charter
Ex-gratia Payments Policy

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council’s Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Inform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Risks:

1. Lack of oversight on financial reporting
2. Poor risk management
3. Non-compliance with legal and regulatory requirements

Opportunities:

1. Improved governance practices
2. Strengthened Internal Audit functions & risk management frameworks

Mitigation:

1. Regular financial reporting to full Council
2. Implement risk management systems

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Renee Bester

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 29/11/2024

Date:

ATTACHMENTS

Audit Committee Meeting Unconfirmed Minutes – 27th November 2024



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM

**MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 2024
COMMENCING AT 9:00AM**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Barry Hughes
Cr. Laurell Royes (via Teams)
Mr. Jason Ritchie, Audit Committee Member (via Teams)

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs. Megan Alexanderson, Senior Finance Officer

OBSERVERS

Mr. James Gaustad, BDO (via Teams)
Mr. Andy Smith, Pacifica (via Teams)

WELCOME

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9.05am and welcomed all in attendance.

APOLOGIES

Apologies:

Laurie Hawker
James Gaustad (partial apology due to leaving at 10.00am due to other commitments)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Audit Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday, 28th October 2024.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held at Georgetown on Monday 28th October 2024 be confirmed.

MOVED: Jason Ritchie

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
3/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

CLOSED MEETING WITH AUDIT PRACTITIONERS

RESOLUTION

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.04 am for discussion with Audit Practitioners.

MOVED: Cr Hughes

SECONDED: Cr Royes

CARRIED
3/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester & Megan Alexanderson left the meeting at 9.05am.

After discussion, Mark Watt was authorised to remain in the meeting for discussion with Audit Practitioners.

RESOLUTION

The Mayor re-opened the meeting again at 9.19am.

MOVED: Cr Royes

SECONDED: Jason Ritchie

CARRIED
3/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester & Megan Alexanderson returned to the meeting at 9.21am.

FINANCE REPORTS

2024 External Audit Final Management Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council's Final Management Report was prepared by BDO Partner, James Gaustad and was received 18th November 2024.

The final closing report includes the results of the 2023/2024 audit, the status of audit issues, identified audit misstatements, and other matters in accordance with the audit plan.

RESOLUTION

That the Audit Committee receive the 2024 External Audit Final Management Report.

MOVED: Cr Royes

SECONDED: Jason Ritchie

CARRIED
3/0

2024 Internal Audit Plan & Progress Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council adopted Pacifica's proposed 3 year (2023-2025) Internal Audit Plan. A progress report was received as of September 2024. Additionally, a draft report for Tender Evaluation & Contract Management is currently awaiting management response.

The Audit Committee will also consider key projects to investigate during FY2025.

RESOLUTION

That the Audit Committee recommend to

1. Receive the following:
 - 2024 Internal Audit Plan
 - 2024 Internal Audit Progress Report
2. Recommend that the focus for the 2024/2025 Internal Audit be delayed to a future meeting after the consideration of the management response to the outstanding Audit Report.

MOVED: Jason Ritchie

SECONDED: Cr Royes

CARRIED
3/0

Associated Audit Policy & Charter Reviews & Adoption

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Audit Committee to review the current Internal Audit Policy, Audit Charter and give feedback on the Ex-Gratia Payments Policy.

RESOLUTION

That the Audit Committee recommend the Council adopt the following including amendments:

1. Updated draft 'S010 Internal Audit Committee Policy'
2. Updated draft 'Audit Committee Charter'
3. Draft 'Ex-Gratia Payment Policy'

MOVED: Cr Hughes

SECONDED: Cr Royes

CARRIED
3/0

ATTENDANCE

James Gaustad left the meeting at 10.01am.

CEO/DCS UPDATE

DCS Update

1. Audit Register
2. Audit Committee Work Plan
3. Governance Improvement Plan

CONCLUSION

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.20am. These minutes will be confirmed at the next meeting scheduled for February 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR

General Meeting 18th December 2024

Subject	RADF Advisory Committee Minutes
Classification	Open
Author	Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Regional Art's Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting was held 3rd December 2024, in Georgetown. The minutes of this meeting are tabled for Council's review.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to receive the unconfirmed minutes of the RADF Advisory Committee Meeting held 3rd December 2024, and adopt the recommendations contained therein.

BACKGROUND

Council constituted the RADF Advisory Committee to assist in the development of representation of residents throughout Etheridge Shire with regard for Art's and Cultural Strategies.

The RADF Advisory Committee meet throughout the year to make recommendations to Council regarding:

- RADF Funding allocations
- Shire's Arts & Cultural priorities

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 4: Quality social infrastructure make the shire a desirable place to live
Corporate Outcome No. 4.3: A culturally aware community

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Nil. RADF activities are funded through State Government funding allocated in July each year.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Summary of risks:

- Council may not be able to fully exhausted all funding allocated.

Report Prepared By:

Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

Date:03/12/2024

Report Authorised By:

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date:

ATTACHMENTS

Include attachments such as:

- Unconfirmed RADF Advisory Committee minutes (3/12/2024)

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024
Council Chambers, Georgetown

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Opening of Meeting

Cr Tincknell opened the meeting at: 10.15am

Declarations

Nil

Attendance & Apologies

Members Present: Cr Tincknell (Chair); Bekky Haase, Katie Jones

Advisor & Secretary: Renee Bester

Apologies: Lucy Elgey, Jennay Delacour Coates & Shannon Zohl

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation

The Minutes of the Advisory Committee (RADF) Meeting held at Council Boardroom, Georgetown on 2nd September 2024 be confirmed as being true and correct

MOVED: Ian Tincknell

SECONDED: Bekky Haase

Carried 3:0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Outstanding matters:

1. RADF Terms of Reference to be sent to committee members.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommendation

That Council advertise the Community Funding Program Round 2 for the amount of \$15,000 to open on the 19th December 2024 and close on the 7th March 2025. Applications will be presented to the next RADF meeting scheduled for 11th March, which will be confirmed at the March General Meeting scheduled for 19th March 2025.

MOVED: Katie Jones

SECONDED: Bekky Haase

Carried 3:0

2. Terms of Reference Update

That Council amend the RADF Terms of Reference to include 6 members (including Chair). The committee currently has members who are resigning for personal reasons or are ill. An additional member would allow the committee continuance in its progress, and favourable in achieving quorum.

MOVED: Bekky Haase

SECONDED: Katie Jones

Carried 3:0

3. Recruitment

That Council send expression of interest to selected persons for recruitment to committee to fill vacant positions in the future. People who respond as interested will be presented to the RADF committee early 2025.

MOVED: Bekky Haase

SECONDED: Katie Jones

Carried 3:0

4. Resignations

That Council accepts the resignations of Bekky Haase & Shannon Zohl effective 3rd December 2024.

MOVED: Ian Tincknell

SECONDED: Katie Jones

Carried 3:0

FUTURE MEETING

11th March 2025

MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting 11.35am.

GENERAL MEETING: 18 December 2024

Mayor and Councillors
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12
Georgetown, QLD 4871

Councillors,

I present my report for the period of: November 2024

1. Transport Main Roads

- A permanent electronic road closure sign for Lynd Roadhouse- TMR is working on it.
- Log Creek and Somerset Creek - Electronic warning signs – TMR is working on it
- Gilbert River CCTV is working

2. Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program (HVSPP)

- Georgetown washdown bay – Water connection completed, and road works will be done in Jan 2025.

3. Bridge Renewal Program

- Queenslander Creek Box culvert, Forsyth – sealing completed. Installation of fish baffles in progress

4. Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme

Forsyth – Einasleigh Road (32.267 km to 37.10 km)- completed

5. Signs

- The installation of Station signs in zone 4 completed except following signs. Soda Creek, Gilberton, The Oaks, Welfern, Oakleigh, Ballynure, Bagstow and Glenmore that have been ordered.
- Green signs.- Detail listing of all station directional signs and their costings will be developed in Jan and Feb 2025.
- Installation of “ No entry “ and “ Local traffic” signs – Daintree Road in Einasleigh completed
- Drinking water tap signs in the Georgetown : Signs will be installed on 11/12/2024 as per attached map

6. RTR

Drainage works in Mount Surprise

Drainage A: Completed
Drainage B : Completed
Drainage C: Completed
Drainage D: Completed
Drainage E: 20 %
Drainage F: Completed
Drainage G:
Drainage H: Completed
Drainage I: Completed
Drainage J:
Drainage K : 30 % COMPLETED
Drainage B1: 50 % completed

7. Independent Living Facility

The Work Progress of the ILH (Independent Living Houses) Project is as follows:

- Water mains completed
- Electrical works completed but waiting for Ergon for connection
- Sewer works completed

- Road works will be completed in Jan 2025.
- Footpath and Fencing will be completed in Feb 2025.

Staff Housing

- Construction of 6 houses installed
- Civil works will be completed in Jan and Feb 2025



Photo 1 : Facing West



Photo 2 : Facing North to South

8. Remote airstrip upgrade program round 10

Tender stage

9. Grant application

Grant Program	Projects applied for	Amount applied for	Remarks
2024-2028 Local Government Grants Subsidies Program 2024-2028 (60:40)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC pipe replacement (60:40) 	\$ 125,000	Waiting for results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply and Installation of five automatic Piezometers for Charleston dam 	\$ 125,000	
NAB Foundation Community Grants (100 %)	Purchase of Boat for Charleston Dam for Rescue purpose	\$25,000	Waiting for results
FNQRP	Airport fencing and water works	\$ 500,000	Waiting for results

10. Charleston Dam

- Weekly inspection on going
- Maintenance works on the dam wall completed

11. Georgetown Multipurpose Centre

- Hip roof construction completed.

12. Granite Creek – Gilberton Road - Floodway

Construction of the Concrete floodway completed.



Photo 3: Facing to west



Photo 4: Facing to South

13. Calendar of Event

Previous Month

4.11.024 Manager's meeting, Supervisor meeting
12.11.024 DRFA monthly meeting
13.11.024 Monthly Community connect session – Einasleigh
18.11.024 Manager's meeting, Supervisor meeting
20.11.024 Council meeting
29.11.024 FNQROC RRTG Meeting (MS Team)

Next Month (January 2025)

14.01.025 – DRFA Monthly management meeting
22.01.025 – FNQROC RRTG meeting

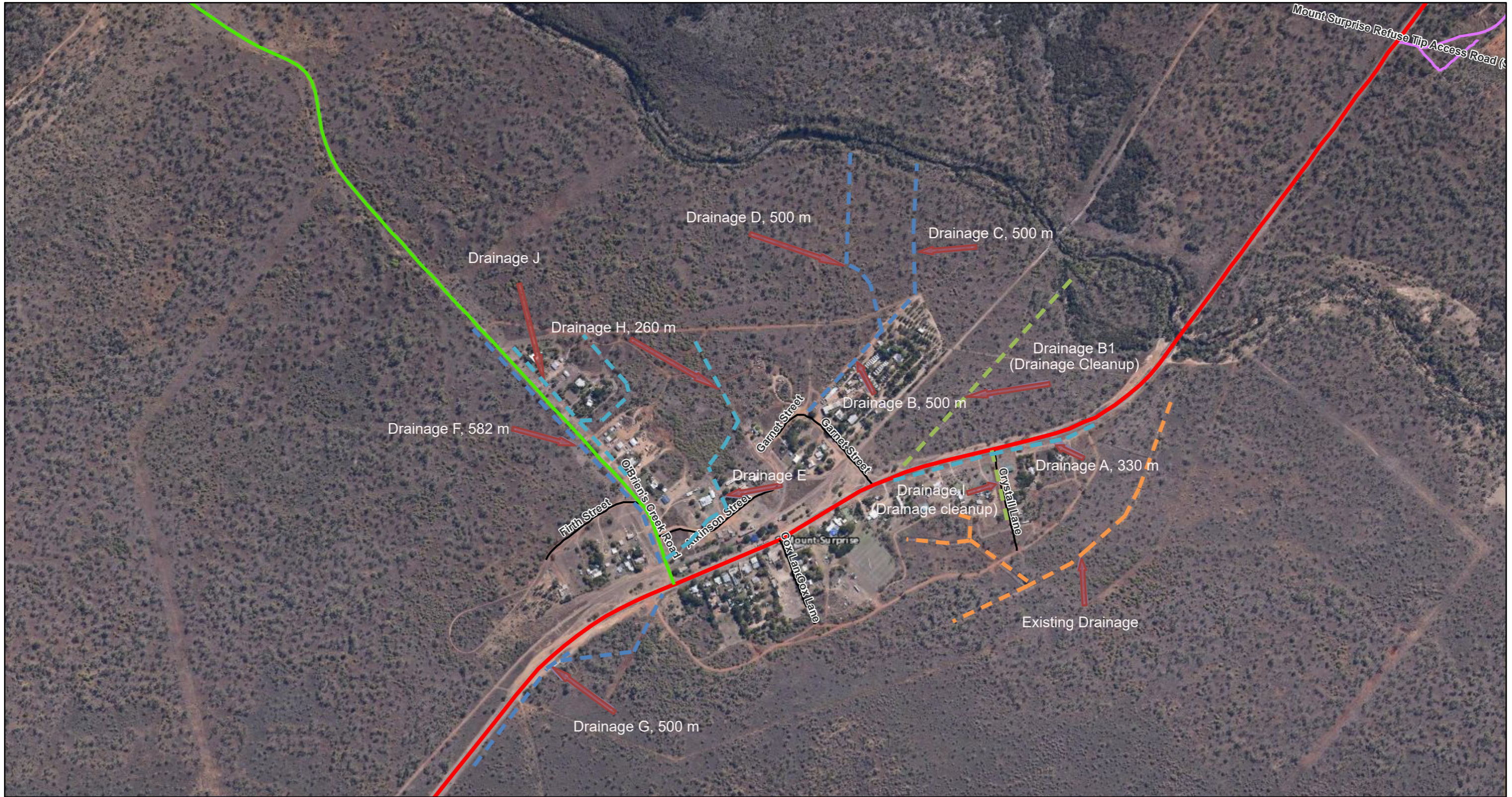
Regards

Raju Ranjit
Director of Engineering Services

Attachment

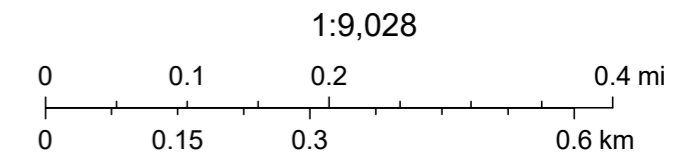
1. Mount Surprise Drainage Layout Plan
2. Drinking water Taps location maps

Etheridge Shire Council



25/10/2024, 4:32:30 pm

- Cities and Towns
- Green: Band_2
- Blue: Band_3
- Red: Band_1
- Road Centreline
- 5B
- 9A
- 1
- 4A



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Etheridge Shire Council



31/10/10/2024, 3:30:25 pm


QLD Globe Imagery


Blue: Band_3 — 9A

Red: Band_1 Road Centreline

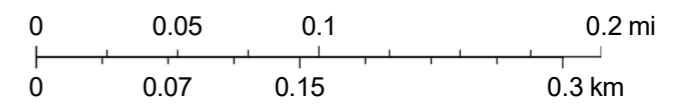
Green: Band_2 — 1

Notes

Sign Board Locations - 

Drinking Water Taps - 

1:4,514



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General Meeting	18th December 2024
Subject	Grant Application under Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 11 for Georgetown and Forsayth Aerodromes fencing upgrade project
Classification	Open
Author	Raju Ranjit – Director of Engineering Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the funding applications under Grant Application under Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 11 for Georgetown and Forsayth Aerodromes fencing upgrade project for 2025 /2026.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council agrees to apply an application of 50/50 funding partnership between Australian Government's Regional Aviation Access Program and Council to upgrade the stock proof fences in Georgetown and Forsayth Aerodromes.
2. That Council agrees to apply \$ 600,000 for Georgetown aerodrome and \$ 700,000 for Forsayth aerodrome to carry out following works .

Forsayth Aerodrome:

- Installation of animal exclusion fencing (1.8 m high x 2890 m long fence with two gates)
- Construct widened runway end turn pads as part of future works.
- Replace the lights and batteries.

Georgetown Aerodrome:

- Installation of animal exclusion fencing (1.8m high x 2946 m long fence with two gates).
- Conduct rolling of sealed surfaces with pneumatic tyred roller in hot weather.
- Consider replacement of tie down cable as part of future upgrades.

BACKGROUND

Forsayth Aerodrome:

Forsayth Aerodrome is classified as an Aeroplane Landing Area (ALA), unlike the higher “Certified” category aerodrome, there is no formal requirement for an ALA to meet the standards prescribed within MOS 139. There is however a requirement to meet the minimum operating standards specified by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), which generally align with MOS 139 whereas Georgetown Aerodrome is a registered aerodrome and there is formal requirements.

Council had engaged Aerodrome Design Services for a safety inspection in March 2022.

The Inspection was conducted to determine the compliance of the aerodrome with the applicable standards contained in the CASA Manual of Standards (MOS) Part 139 – Aerodromes and the recommendations contained in the Civil Aviation Advisory Publication (CAAP) 92-1.

A safety inspection of these Aerodromes found in overall very good condition and fully serviceable for the current level of operations except following recommendations.

- Consider installation of animal exclusion fencing.
- Plan to construct widened runway end turn pads as part of future works.
- Confirm age of lights and batteries, plan to install new batteries.
- Review status of WDI lighting.

Georgetown Aerodrome

An Aerodrome Technical Inspection was carried out at Georgetown Aerodrome on behalf of the Etheridge Shire Council on the 20th and 21st of October 2024. The inspection was conducted by Aerodrome Design Services Pty Ltd. The Technical Inspection included an examination of evidence recorded over the year and documented in the publications and documents listed in this report.

The inspection was carried out in compliance with the applicable standards for Aerodrome Technical Inspections set out in the CASA Manual of Standards Part 139-Aerodromes (MOS139-2019) and the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 139.230. The opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

There were no compliance issues identified by this inspection except recommendations:

- Continue planning to relocate the boundary fence to remove infringement to the OLS. A new fence would ideally consist of 1.8m high animal exclusion fencing.
- Conduct rolling of sealed surfaces with pneumatic tyred roller in hot weather.
- Consider replacement of tie down cable as part of future upgrades.

Council is receiving complaints from the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) time to time about the wildlife, animals in the runway and pavement conditions at Georgetown and Forsayth Aerodromes.

The Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program is part of the Australian Government's Regional Aviation Access Program. The objective of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program is to enhance the safety and accessibility of aerodromes in remote and very remote areas of Australia. Safe, operational aerodromes are vital in the delivery of essential goods and services in remote and very remote communities, particularly where road access is unavailable, unreliable or disrupted for extended periods due to seasonal weather conditions. An effective airstrip, accessible all year round, improves the delivery of health care services such as those provided by the Royal Flying Doctor Service or other aeromedical providers, improves access to work and education opportunities and helps connect residents of remote communities.

The Australian government has opened Round 11 for applications and close on 13th December 2024. Council

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 1: A Sustainable Transport Network That Meets Community Needs

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

The estimated costs to rectify the outstanding issues in Georgetown and Forsayth Aerodromes are 600,000 and \$ 700,000 respectively. If the grant application is successful, Council will require to sought a source for \$ 650,000 in 2025/2026 financial year.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council has responsibility to comply with the applicable standards contained in the CASA Manual of Standards (MOS) part 139.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Asset Management Policy

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low/Medium/High/Extreme

Please provide below a summary of risks and opportunities including review of likelihood and consequences and how mitigated if high risk.

Summary of risks and opportunities:

- Risk 1
- Risk 2
- Risk 3
- Opportunity 1
- Opportunity 2

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Raju Ranjit

Date: 3/12/2024

Date:

ATTACHMENTS

General Meeting 18th December 2024

Subject	SES Support Grant Application for 2025- 2026
Classification	Open
Author	Raju Ranjit – Director of Engineering Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the SES support grant application for 2025-2026.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council agrees to apply for funds under the SES Support Grant program for \$150,000 (100 % funding) to upgrade the existing the SES facility

BACKGROUND

The Georgetown SES facility provides basic services such as garaging and administration spaces and has space for office, parking for three fire trucks. There is no space for training session and new rural fire service truck. In order to accommodate for these addition services, it is proposed to extend the facility to build another two bays in the west side of the existing building. The extension includes the parking area specifically for emergency service vehicles, reducing response time during emergency.

The new structure will also secure equipment storage. By enhancing the facility's capacity and functionality, this project will enable the SES to operate more efficiently, ensuring timely and effective emergency responses for the Etheridge Shire community. The outcome will be a modern facility better equipped to meet the growing demands of emergency and disaster management.

The aim of the SES support Grant Program is to support the partnership between Local Government and SES to enable an effective local response to disasters and emergencies. The schedules of the SES Support Grant 2025-2026 are:

- The application was opened on 8th October 2024
- Application closed on 28th November 2024
- Grant outcomes will be announced from April 2025.

Due to time constraints, ESC has lodged the application on 26th November 2024.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best Practice Corporate governance and Organisational Excellence
Strategic Outcomes: Council Operations Support Quality Service Provision and Good Governance

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

The council should recognise the SES funding for 2025/2026 if successful.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	Consulted with relevant staff
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: LAssess likelihood and consequence to calculate outcome (Low, Medium, High)

CONSEQUENCE					
LIKELIHOOD*	Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Catastrophic 5
A (Almost certain)	H	H	E	E	E
B (Likely)	M	H	H	E	E
C (Possible)	L	M	H	E	E
D (Unlikely)	L	L	M	H	E
E (Rare)	L	L	M	H	H

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

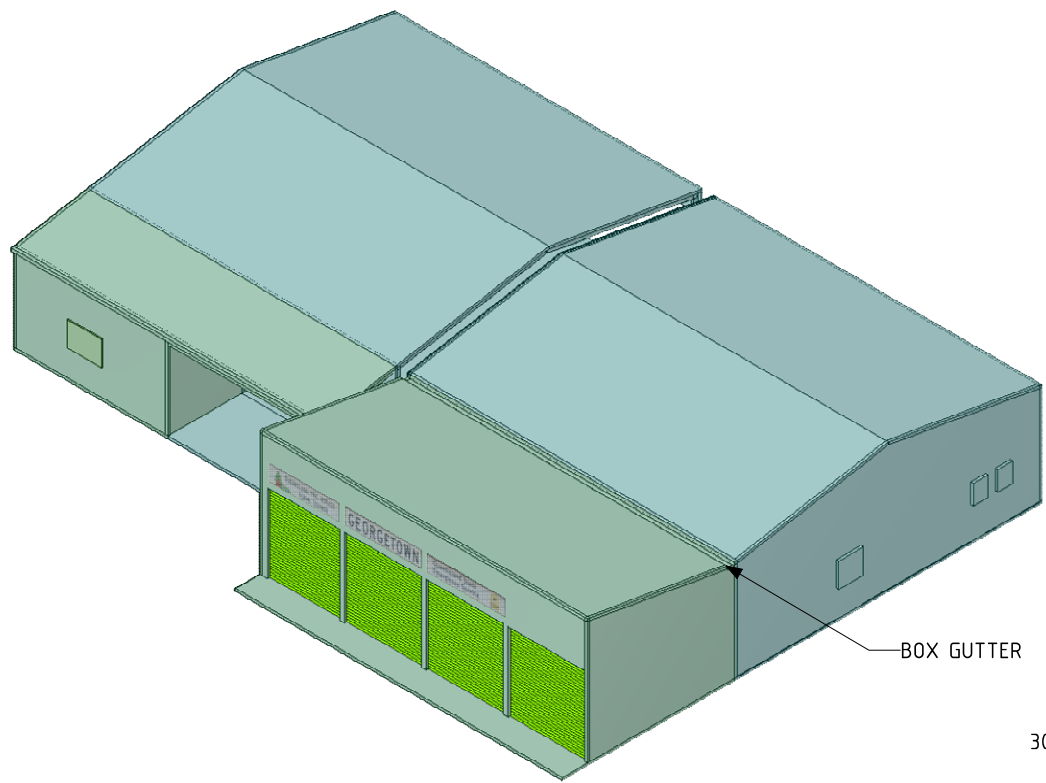
Raju Ranjit

Date: 6/12/2024

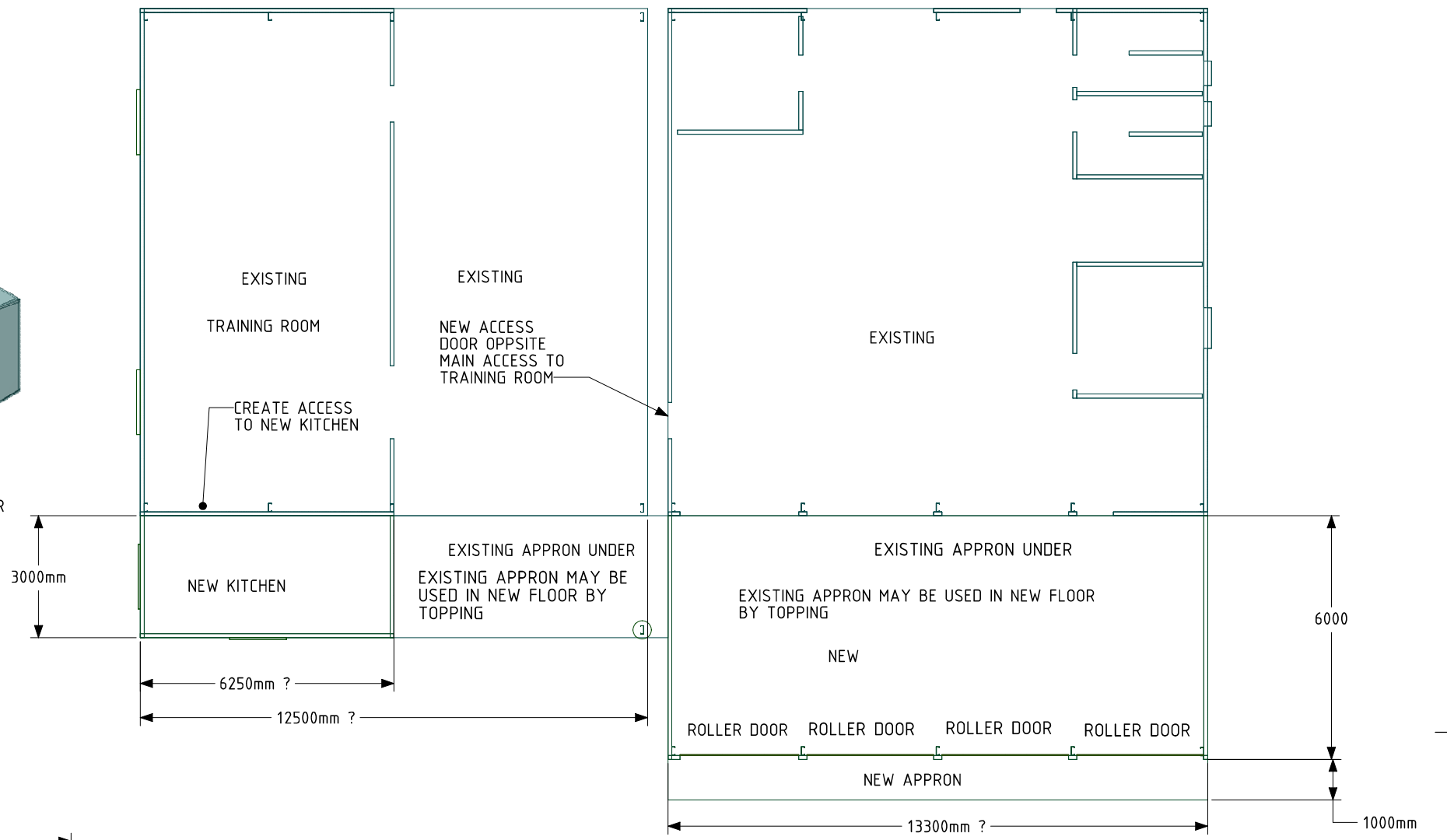
Date:

ATTACHMENTS

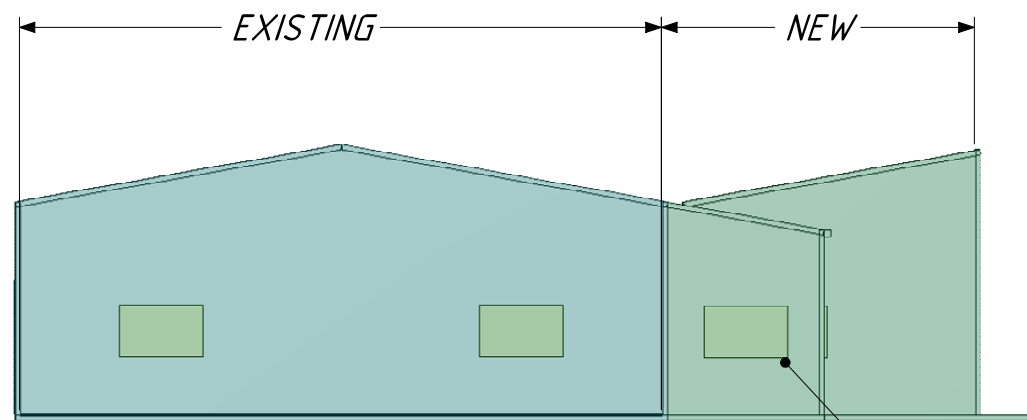
1. Concept Plan



3D VIEW



PLAN



END VIEW



ELEVATION

GEORGETOWN EMERGENCY SERVICES PROPOSED EXTENSION
CHECK ALL DIMENSION ON SITE

REV	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DRN	CHK	DES	RPEQ	DRAWING No.	TITLE
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

FORMAT: A2
IF IN DOUBT ASK

STANDARD TOLERANCE 1:50
WHOLE DIMENSIONS IN 5
DECIMALS IN 5
CASTINGS IN 15

WILDS DRAFTING SERVICE PTY.LTD.
119 LORIDAN DR. BRINSMEAD 4870, Q.L.D.
P (07) 40341435
M (07) 0419341435
E waynew11@bigpond.com

DATE 05/11/24

SCALE: 1:100

DRG No. WD1

REV



FOR YOUR INFORMATION



For reply please quote: *E&P/JG – TF/24/18112– DOC/24/184510*

Councillor Barry Hughes
Mayor
Etheridge Shire Council

Dear Councillor Hughes

Australia Day is a time for all Australians to come together to reflect on our history, respect the stories of others and celebrate our nation, achievements and people. Australia Day has many different meanings to many different Australians and is marked and celebrated in a diverse way.

It provides us with the opportunity to connect with family, friends and community.

I encourage your council to participate in Queensland's 2025 Australia Day Program and celebrate our national day within your local community.

Australia Day Ambassador Program

The Australia Day Ambassador Program, in partnership with the National Australia Day Council, invites local councils to host a range of activities and celebrations on Australia Day and welcome Ambassadors into communities to join the festivities. Ambassadors are inspirational individuals who generously volunteer their time, experiences and stories, often delivering speeches, officiating competitions or presenting Australia Day awards.

Australia Day Ambassadors include past recipients of the Australian of the Year Awards, talented athletes, medical professionals, business leaders, media personalities and community workers who provide inspiration and pride to Australia Day events.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet works with local councils to match Ambassadors with community celebrations and provides support to councils and Ambassadors throughout the program.

Great Australian Bites (GAB) program

The GAB program encourages communities to come together and celebrate Australia Day with

family and friends. These events showcase Queensland's exceptional produce and provides an opportunity for local entertainers to perform. I invite your council to submit an Expression of Interest to host a GAB event. In hosting this event, your Council would be supported through a partnership arrangement with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, which includes funding of up to \$16,000 (GST exclusive) for the GAB program, as well as marketing and event support.

Other programs

You are encouraged to participate in activities that respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure that localised meaningful, reflective and respectful Australia Day events can be achieved.

More information can be found on the Queensland Government Australia Day website, events.premiers.qld.gov.au/australiaday and the National Australia Day Council website, www.australiaday.org.au.

To register interest in the Australia Day Ambassador Program and the GAB program for 2025, please complete the online form, with Expressions of Interest to be submitted online by 12pm, Monday 9 December 2024.

For more information, or to discuss your interest in the Australia Day programs, please contact Engagement and Partnerships, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, by email at australiaday@premiers.qld.gov.au or on telephone (07) 3003 9200.

Thank you for supporting Queensland's Australia Day celebrations for 2025.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Crisafulli', with a horizontal line underneath.

DAVID CRISAFULLI MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS



Local Government
Remuneration Commission

06 December 2024

Dear Mayor and Councillors

Determination of maximum remuneration

I am writing to advise you of a recent decision about maximum council remuneration amounts made by the independent Local Government Remuneration Commission (the Commission).

Consistent with section 243 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation), the Commission has finalised its determination of the maximum remuneration amounts for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors for these categories, which will apply from 1 July 2025.

The remuneration schedule was published in the Government Gazette on 06 December 2024. More information about the council remuneration categories, guiding framework and maximum remuneration amounts is included in the Commission's Annual Report for 2024. The report is available online through the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers website: <https://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/for-councils/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission>

As you're aware, individual Queensland councils are responsible for making decisions about whether to increase mayor, deputy mayor and councillor remuneration to the new maximum amounts. Councils can decide to set mayor, deputy mayor and councillor remuneration at any amount below the maximum.

If you have any further queries in this regard, please contact the Commission Secretariat at LGRcenquiries@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Abbot'.

Bob Abbot OAM
Chair
Queensland Local Government Remuneration Commission

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15009
City East Qld 4002
www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au