



CONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 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

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:17am 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

Nil

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Council wishes to extend their condolences to the families of James Johns, Janice Steele and Ralph Tate.

Congratulations:

Council wishes to congratulate Linconn and Claudia Steele on the birth of their daughter, Loretta.
Council wishes to congratulate Phil and the Parks & Gardens team for their excellent work in maintaining the Charleston Dam facilities.

Apologies:

Nil

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 20th November 2024

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 20th November 2024 be confirmed as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.01
5/0**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Royes

#24.11.10 – Einasleigh and Mt Surprise Town Maintenance

#24.09.17 – Community Consultation

#23.11.25 – Lynd Medical Centre Fence

Cr Carroll

#24.11.14 – Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas Policy

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Due to a previously declared conflict of interest relating to #24.11.17 – Crushing and Screening Options, Cr Royes left the meeting at 9:52am.

Cr Carroll

#24.11.17 – Crushing and Screening Options

ATTENDANCE

Cr Royes returned to the meeting at 10:01am.

Cr Ryan

#24.08.30 – Term Lease 0/222075

ATTENDANCE

Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 10:45am and returned at 10:47am

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10:47am

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 11:00am

RESOLUTION

1. In light of the recent deputation by the lessee, Council agree not to review its previous decision to allow a long-term lease with the Department of Resources for lease 0/222075 on Lot 8 SP189943;
2. That the CEO be directed to present a report to Council providing options for future leasing of the land, including a land use study.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.02
4/1

Cr Ryan requested that her vote be recorded against the above motion.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

1. Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.03
5/0

2. Project Management – Growing Regions Funding

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RESOLUTION

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.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.04
5/0

3. Public Notice of Meetings for 2025

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*.

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.05
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

4. Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.06
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mark Watt left the meeting at 11:58am and returned at 11:59am
Raju Ranjit entered the meeting at 12:00pm.

5. Financial Performance as at 5th December 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a monthly finance report is required to be presented to Council stating the progress made in relation to the budget for the period of the financial year as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting held.

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.07
5/0

6. 2025-2029 Corporate Plan

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.

RESOLUTION

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.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.08
5/0

7. 2024 External Audit Final Management Report

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.

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.09
5/0

8. *Audit Committee Meeting Minutes – 27th November 2024*

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.

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.10
5/0

9. *RADF Advisory Committee Minutes*

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.

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.11
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:28pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 12:57pm

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

10. Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.12
5/0

11. Road Register Review

RESOLUTION

Council resolved that the Road Register be given priority for review prior to considering tenders for the upcoming flood damage pick up.

ATTENDANCE

Cr Tincknell left the meeting at 1:17pm and returned at 1:18pm
Renee Bester left the meeting at 2:04pm and returned at 2:06pm

12. Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 11 for Georgetown and Forsayth Aerodromes Fencing Upgrade Project

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.

RESOLUTION

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 \$600,000.00 for Georgetown aerodrome and \$700,000.00 for Forsayth aerodrome to carry out following works.

a. Forsayth Aerodrome:

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

b. Georgetown Aerodrome:

- Installation of animal exclusion fencing (1.8m high x 2946m 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.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.13
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester left the meeting at 2:36pm and returned at 2:38pm

13. SES Support Grant Application for 2025-2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RESOLUTION

That Council agrees to apply for funds under the SES Support Grant program for \$150,000.00 (100% funding) to upgrade the existing the SES facility.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.14
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 2:50pm, pursuant to section 254J, to discuss (e) legal advice obtained by the Council or legal proceedings involving the local government, (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.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.15
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Raju Ranjit left the meeting at 3:25pm and returned at 3:26pm
Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 3:29pm and returned at 3:33pm

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to come out of closed session at 4:27pm.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.16
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION ADDENDUM

Director Of Engineering Services

14. Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the tender of the flood damaged restoration Zone 5 (north and south).

RESOLUTION

That the consideration of tenders ESC2024-041 and ESC2024-042 flood damaged restoration Zone 5 (north and south) lay on the table until further information is obtained.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.17
5/0

RESOLUTION

A remedial payment of \$13,165.44 be made to D & D Terry of Old Robin Hood Station. Further, that upon payment the matter be considered closed.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

LOST
2/3

Cr Hughes, Cr Royes and Cr Carroll voted against the motion.
Cr Tincknell and Cr Ryan voted for the motion.

RESOLUTION

That Council direct the CEO to seek legal advice on the claim by D & D Terry seeking compensation against Council in relation to incident on 28th April 2024 on the Cobbold Gorge Road, and report back to Council.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.18
5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council request the CEO to seek governance advice on Council organizational issues impacting on Council's performance.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.12.19
5/0

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Royes	NWROC Meeting attendance a. NWROC Enabling Infrastructure Plan - presented document (attached) i. https://www.nwqroc.com.au/nwq-enabling-infrastructure-masterplan-2024 b. NWROC Regional Profile - present document (attached) i. https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:01d15458-d21b-4bd2-8f4a-61f516ece74b c. WQAC Priority Roads Network Report - presented document (attached) i. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K1gLM68x8UDnh-dE94-EQO7rbXtqFhI8/view ii. WQAC-Priority-Roads-Network-Report-2024.pdf
Cr Tincknell	Freehold Land Opportunities

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:07pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR