



# **CONFIRMED MINUTES**

**GENERAL MEETING OF  
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2025  
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM**

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**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**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 9:00am 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 family of Cr Kevin Davies and the Mareeba Shire Council.

**Congratulations:**

Nil

**Apologies:**

Nil

***CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES***

**General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

**RESOLUTION**

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be confirmed as amended.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED  
RESOLUTION #25.01.01  
5/0**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES**

**Cr Royes**

- 24.12.02 – Butchers Paddock Lease. Has a response been sent?
- 24.12.18 – Legal Advice – D & D Terry
- 24.12.19 – Governance Advice, organizational issues
- 24.11.20 – TIDS Project Status Report – overspend on Einasleigh – Forsayth Road
- 23.11.25 – Lynd Medical Centre Fence

**Cr Ryan**

- 24.08.07 – Drug and Alcohol Policy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10:03am

**RESUMPTION**

Council resumed the meeting at 10:28am

**CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS**

**1. Chief Executive Officers Briefing Report**

Mark Watt presented a verbal update to Council on activities over the last month including:

1. QRA Presentation
2. Insurance claim relating to Mosquito Creek
3. Gravel Pit – Robin Hood Road
4. QRA Costs – Einasleigh Fires
5. Executive Assistance to CEO – temporary role

**ATTENDANCE**

Clinton Mervis and Dave Watkins from Shepherd Services joined the meeting at 10:59am.  
Raju Ranjit entered the meeting at 11:00am.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

**RESOLUTION**

That Council go into closed session at 11:05am, pursuant to section 254J (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss the following items:

1. Zone 5 Flood Damage
2. Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green St, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility

**MOVED:** Cr. Carroll

**SECONDED:** Cr. Ryan

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.02**  
**5/0**

**ATTENDANCE**

Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 11:37am and returned at 11:40am.  
Clinton Mervis and Dave Watkins from Shepherd Services left the meeting at 12:03pm.

**RESOLUTION**

Council resolves to come out of closed session at 12:10pm.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.03**  
**5/0**

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to consider tenders ESC2024-041 and ESC2024-042 that lay on the table from the December 2024 General Meeting.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.04**  
**3/2**

VOTE

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes requested that their votes be recorded against the above motion.

**2. 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 Council:

1. Accepts the schedule of rates tender submitted by Halloran & Sons Earthmoving Pty Ltd for Contract 2024-041 Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5 North for \$1,901,982.09 ex GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates. Accepts the schedule of rates tender submitted by Halloran & Sons Earthmoving Pty Ltd for Contract 2024-042 Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5 South for \$843,563.81 ex GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates.
2. Signs and seals the contracts in the form proposed; and
3. Resolves that this report, its attachments and all discussions in relation to this matter remain confidential, but the resolution be made public immediately.

**MOVED:** Cr. Carroll

**SECONDED:** Cr. Hughes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.05**  
**3/2**

VOTE

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes requested that their votes be recorded against the above motion.

**3. Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green Street, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the tender of the Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green St, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by CBD Pty Ltd for Contract 2024 -047 Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green St, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility for \$348,200.46 exl GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates.
2. Signs and seals the contracts in the form proposed; and
3. Resolves that this report, its attachments and all discussions in relation to this matter remain confidential, but the resolution be made public immediately.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.06**  
**3/2**

VOTE

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes requested that their votes be recorded against the above motion.

**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. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Ryan

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.07**  
**5/0**

**5. Financial Performance as at 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 pursuant to section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**MOVED:** Cr. Carroll

**SECONDED:** Cr. Ryan

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.08**  
**5/0**

**6. Draft Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025-2030**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a draft of the proposed 5-Year Strategy for Culture and the Arts, which outlines a forward-thinking framework to enhance the shires cultural landscape. This strategy focuses on fostering creativity, supporting local artists, and promoting inclusive access to arts and cultural experiences. Key priorities include strengthening Council's capacity, capability and resources; elevating the profile and importance of the arts and cultural development within Council and the community; and diversifying our arts and cultural programming and building new audiences. The strategy aims to ensure sustainability, cultural diversity, and long-term growth, positioning the arts as a central element of community life. Community feedback was sought via survey and community consultation sessions, and further comment on the draft final document will be vital for refining and finalising the plan for adoption.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the draft Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025 – 2030 and publish for public feedback (30 days) before finalising the final document for adoption, as amended.

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Ryan

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.09**  
**5/0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned for lunch at 1:10pm

**ATTENDANCE**

Renee Bester left the meeting at 1:10pm.

**RESUMPTION**

Council resumed the meeting at 1:46pm.

**7. Quarterly 2024/25 Operational Plan Review – Second Quarter**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, tabled for Council's reception is the second quarter (1st October – 31st December 2024) progress report on implementing Council's 2024-2025 Operational Plan.

RESOLUTION

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

**MOVED:** Cr. Royes

**SECONDED:** Cr. Ryan

PROCEDURAL MOTION

That Council resolve to let the matter lay on the table until the February 2025 General Meeting.

**MOVED:** Cr. Ryan

**SECONDED:** Cr. Carroll

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.10**  
**5/0**

**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. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.11**  
**5/0**

**ATTENDANCE**

Mark Watt left the meeting at 2:44pm and returned at 2:45pm

**9. Independent Living Facility Project Status**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the status of the Independent Living Facility project.

RESOLUTION

1. That Council note and receive the status of the Independent Living Facility project.
2. That Council approves an additional budget of \$422,065.00 to complete the project fully, and a budget variation be included as part of the next quarterly budget review.

**MOVED:** Cr. Tincknell

**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #25.01.12**  
**5/0**

***GENERAL BUSINESS***

Cr Royes	Proposal to include DRFA (Monthly Flood Damage Report) in Open Session Agenda
Cr Royes	Finalisation of MOU Cairns Hinterland Health
Cr Royes	D&D Terry Insurance Claim
Cr Royes	Old Robin Hood Gravel Pit/ Road Reserve
Cr Royes	Payments to Local Sub-Contractors (Overdue/Delayed) (Flood Damage)
Cr Carroll	Percyvale Road
Cr Carroll	Cartage of gravel from Forsayth stockpile.
Cr Carroll	Gravel rule on Cobbold Gorge Road
Cr Tincknell	Letters pertaining to legal matters received by Council

***CONCLUSION***

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:54pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes  
MAYOR