

**MINUTES OF INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, 144 OTHO STREET,
INVERELL
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 11:00 AM**

1 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Councillor Kate Dight, Councillor Fiona Brown, Councillor Paul Harmon, Councillor Ian Hooker, Councillor Greg Kachel, Councillor Paul King, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Wendy Wilks and Councillor Joanne Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Brett McInnes (General Manager), Paul Pay (Director Corporate and Community Services), Justin Pay (Director Civil Services), Sharon Stafford (Governance and Executive Services Coordinator) and Peter Caddey (Manager Administration & Marketing Services)

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 18 DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 2025/01

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Ross

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 18 December 2024 as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cr Harmon requested that standing orders be suspended to enable him to report to Council on a matter.

RESOLUTION 2025/02

Moved: Councillor Brown

Seconded: Councillor Williams

That standing orders be suspended to enable Cr Harmon to report to Council, the time being 11.05am.

Carried

Resumption of Standing Orders

RESOLUTION 2025/03

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That standing orders be resumed, the time being 11.35am.

Carried

The General Manager advised that standing orders had been suspended. The General Manager confirmed that during that time, Cr Harmon confirmed his resignation from Council, effective from the close of the meeting. During his address Councillor Harmon reflected upon his time as a Councillor and Mayor. Cr Harmon sought to apologise for the remainder of the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2025/04

Moved: Councillor Ross

Seconded: Councillor Kachel

That the apology from Cr Harmon for personal reasons for the remainder of the meeting be accepted.

Carried**4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS / PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cr Wilks declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest of a significant nature in Item # 12.6 *'Health Services Amendment (Splitting of Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025'*. The nature of the interest is that Cr Wilks is a board member of Hunter New England Health.

5 PUBLIC FORUM

At this juncture, the time being 11.38am, Cr Wilks left the meeting having previously declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest of a significant nature in respect of Item #12.6 *'Health Services Amendment (Splitting of Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025'*. The nature of the interest is that Cr Wilks is a board member of Hunter New England Health.

Health Services Amendment (Splitting of Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025

Mr Bob Bensley spoke against the proposal to split the Hunter New England Health into 2 Local Health Districts and strongly encouraged Council to oppose the Bill.

At this juncture, the time being 11.44am, Cr Wendy Wilks returned to the meeting.

6 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

7 ELECTIONS

Nil

8 ADVOCACY REPORTS

Nil

9 NOTICES OF BUSINESS

Nil

10 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 INVERELL AND DISTRICT LIQUOR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 14 JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/05

Moved: Councillor King
 Seconded: Councillor Williams

That the minutes of the Inverell and District Liquor Consultative Committee Meeting held on 14 January 2025 be received and noted.

Carried

11.2 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 13 JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/06

Moved: Councillor King
 Seconded: Councillor Williams

That the minutes of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee meeting held on 13 January 2025 be received and noted.

Carried

12 DESTINATION REPORTS

12.1 DUTIES OF DISCLOSURE - PECUNIARY AND OTHER MATTERS

RESOLUTION 2025/07

Moved: Councillor Hooker
 Seconded: Councillor Williams

That the tabling of the 'Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Other Matters' returns of the newly elected Councillors by the General Manager be noted.

Carried

12.2 REQUEST FOR DONATION - INVERELL SHOW SOCIETY - INVERELL SHOW 28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 2025

MOTION

Moved: Councillor King
 Seconded: Councillor Brown

That Council donate a sum of \$15,000 to Inverell Show Society as sponsorship for the 2025 Inverell Show and the amount be funded from Council's donations vote.

Lost

FORESHADOWED MOTION

Moved: Councillor Kachel

That the report be received and noted.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Fiona Brown

Seconded: Joanne Williams

That Council donate a sum of \$10,000 to the Inverell Show Society for the 2025 Inverell Show and the donation be funded from Council's donations vote.

The Amendment on being put to the meeting was lost.

The Original Motion on being put to the meeting was lost.

Lost

FORESHADOWED MOTION (Cr Kachel) 2025/08

Seconded: Cr Wilks

That the report be received and noted.

The Foreshadowed Motion on being put to the meeting was Carried.

Carried

12.3 REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ASSISTANCE - INVERELL POLOCROSSE CLUB INC - SWAN CUP 2025**RESOLUTION 2025/09**

Moved: Councillor Ross

Seconded: Councillor Williams

That:

- i. Council supply a water truck over the 3 days of the 2025 Swan Cup event being held 28 to 30 March 2025 at a cost of \$2,724.00, with the amount being allocated from Council's donations budget; and*
- ii. Council allow the Inverell Polocrosse to utilise 4 grandstands from the Inverell Sporting Complex for the event dependent on no other events being held at the Sporting Complex requiring the grandstands at the same time as the Swan Cup.*

Carried

12.4 CYBER SECURITY POLICY**RESOLUTION 2025/10**

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Ross

That Council endorse the Cyber Security Management Policy as presented.

Carried

12.5 COUNCIL SUBMISSION - MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE (CONSULTATION DRAFT)**RESOLUTION 2025/11**

Moved: Councillor Wilks

Seconded: Councillor Kachel

That Council endorse the preparation of a submission in response to the Draft Code of Meeting Practice consistent with the key matters contained within this report.

Carried

At this juncture, the time being 12:13pm, Cr Wilks left the Chambers having previously declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest of a significant nature in Item #12.6 '*Health Services Amendment (Splitting of Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025*'. The nature of the interest is that Cr Wilks is a board member of Hunter New England Health.

12.6 HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (SPLITTING OF HUNTER NEW ENGLAND HEALTH DISTRICT) BILL 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/12

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Kachel

That:

- i. Council offer its support for the proposed State Government Inquiry in response to the Health Services Amendment (Splitting Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025; and*
- ii. Inverell Shire Council make a submission to the Inquiry.*

Carried

At this juncture, the time being 12.17pm, Cr Wilks returned to the meeting.

12.7 2025 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLUTION 2025/13

Moved: Councillor Ross

Seconded: Councillor Brown

That:

- i. Council defer consideration of putting forward any motions to the National General Assembly;*
- ii. Mayor Cr Kate Dight and Deputy Mayor Cr Jo Williams be endorsed as Councillor representatives to attend the 2025 National General Assembly with the General Manager;*
- iii. Mayor Cr Kate Dight be Council's voting delegate with Cr Jo Williams to act in a proxy capacity if required;*
- iv. the Ordinary Meeting of Council for the month of June be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025.*

Carried

12.8 EVANS STREET CULTURAL PRECINCT

RESOLUTION 2025/14

Moved: Councillor Hooker

Seconded: Councillor King

That Council accept the artist's impression of the central archway configuration for the Evans Street Cultural Precinct however further investigate and consult with Council regarding the design for the walkways prior to community consultation.

Carried

12.9 DELUNGRA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 2025/15

Moved: Councillor King

Seconded: Councillor Williams

That:

- i. The Plan of Management for the Delungra District Development Council be amended to provide for an Executive of four (4) community representatives;*
- ii. Council appoint the four (4) community representatives that expressed an interest in being appointed to the Delungra District Development Council;*
- iii. Council's delegate to the Delungra District Development Council be Cr Jo Williams; and*
- iv. To facilitate attendance at future meetings, that meetings be requested to be held during daylight hours.*

Carried

12.10 COUNCILLOR INDUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION 2025/16

Moved: Councillor Brown

Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That:

- i. The information be received and noted; and*
- ii. Council acknowledge the obligations associated with induction training and professional development.*

Carried

13 INFORMATION REPORTS

13.1 STRATEGIC TASKS - 'SIGN OFF' - DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/17

Moved: Councillor Wilks

Seconded: Councillor Williams

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.2 ORDINANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 2025/18

Moved: Councillor Wilks

Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.3 ORDINANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/19

Moved: Councillor Wilks
 Seconded: Councillor Ross

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.4 SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES DURING DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 2025/20

Moved: Councillor Ross
 Seconded: Councillor Wilks

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.5 SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES DURING JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/21

Moved: Councillor Wilks
 Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.6 PCG MEETING - INVERELL AQUATIC CENTRE REPLACEMENT

RESOLUTION 2025/22

Moved: Councillor Wilks
 Seconded: Councillor King

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.7 PCG MEETING - INVERELL AQUATIC CENTRE REPLACEMENT

RESOLUTION 2025/23

Moved: Councillor Wilks
 Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.8 WORKS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2025/24

Moved: Councillor Ross
 Seconded: Councillor Wilks

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.9 IPART REVIEW - DAM LEVY

RESOLUTION 2025/25

Moved: Councillor Kachel
 Seconded: Councillor Wilks

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.10 WATER & SEWER SERVICES STRATEGIC PLANNING

RESOLUTION 2025/26

Moved: Councillor Wilks
 Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.11 PRE PROJECT CONTROL GROUP MEETING MINUTES 21 JANUARY 2025 - HIGH STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

RESOLUTION 2025/27

Moved: Councillor Wilks
 Seconded: Councillor Kachel

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.12 MAINTENANCE GRADING OUTCOMES - 2023/2024

RESOLUTION 2025/28

Moved: Councillor Williams
 Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.13 2024 GENERAL LAND REVALUATION (2024 BASE DATE)

RESOLUTION 2025/29

Moved: Councillor Williams
 Seconded: Councillor Brown

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.14 LAKE INVERELL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

RESOLUTION 2025/30

Moved: Councillor King
 Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.15 SUCCESSFUL GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION - DELUNGRA SKATE PARK

RESOLUTION 2025/31

Moved: Councillor Williams
 Seconded: Councillor Wilks

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.16 INTERIM REPORT - FEDERAL INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY

RESOLUTION 2025/32

Moved: Councillor Williams
 Seconded: Councillor Brown

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.17 LETTER OF APPRECIATION - NEW ENGLAND SKIN & MEDICAL CLINIC

RESOLUTION 2025/33

Moved: Councillor Wilks
 Seconded: Councillor Kachel

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.18 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

RESOLUTION 2025/34

Moved: Councillor Williams
 Seconded: Councillor Ross

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

13.19 DRAFT REGIONAL COMMUNITIES CONSULTATION GUIDE

RESOLUTION 2025/35

Moved: Councillor Wilks

Seconded: Councillor King

That:

- i. the report be received and noted; and*
- ii. Council make a submission involving some minor feedback in respect of the draft Consultation Guide.*

Carried

14 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

14.1 GOVERNANCE - MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/36

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor King

That:

- i. The report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted; and*
- ii. The Certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.*

Carried

14.2 QUARTERLY BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025

RESOLUTION 2025/37

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor King

That:

- 1. The Quarterly Operational Plan and Budget Review for 31 December 2024 be adopted; and*
- 2. The proposed variations to budget votes for the 2024/2025 Financial Year be adopted providing an estimated Cash Surplus at 31 December 2024 from operations of \$4,715.*

Carried

15 REFERRAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

15.1 REFERRAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 2025/38

Moved: Councillor King

Seconded: Councillor Ross

That:

- i. Council refer the item to Closed (Public Excluded) meeting of the Council and that the press and members of the public be asked to leave the chambers whilst Council considers the following items:*

Item: Request for a Reduction in a Water Usage Account

Authority: Section 10A (2) (b) Local Government Act 1993 as the matters and information are the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

ii. And that Council proceeds into Closed Council to discuss the matter referred to it, for the reason stated in the motion of referral.

Carried

At 1.01pm, the Chairperson offered the opportunity to members of the public as to whether any part of the meeting should not be considered in Closed Council. There was no response.

16 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)

RESOLUTION 2025/39

Moved: Councillor King

Seconded: Councillor Wilks

That Council proceeds out of Closed Council into Open Council.

Carried

Upon resuming Open Council at 1.05pm, the Chairperson verbally reported that the Council had met in Closed Council with the Press and Public excluded, and had resolved to recommend to Council the following:

16.1 REQUEST FOR A REDUCTION IN A WATER USAGE ACCOUNT

RESOLUTION 2025/40

Moved: Councillor Kachel

Seconded: Councillor Hooker

That:

- i. the report be received; and*
- ii. Council issue an amended account for the property known as 79-81 Otho Street, Inverell for the total of \$482.21, which is based on the average consumption prior to the leak and write off \$1,681.33.*

Carried

17 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Nil

18 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:06pm.

The Minutes of this meeting to be confirmed by Council at the meeting to be held on 26 March 2025.