



MINUTES of

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 22 October 2024 at 4:00 PM

Attendance at Meeting:

Councillors: Cr T O'Connor Deputy Mayor – Acting Mayor (Chair)
Cr S Burrows
Cr L Doran
Cr L Petrov
Cr A Blakester
Cr J Philp
Cr K Arnold

Apologies: Mayor R Bell
Cr D Mailler

Staff: Ms T Averay, General Manager
Dr R Abell, Director, Corporate & Community
Mr M Raby, Director, Infrastructure & Development
Mr M Ahammed, Manager Finance & IT
Ms W Westbrook, Executive Assistant
Mr M McLindin, Group Manager Civil Services
Ms E Sims, Project Strategic Officer

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AUDIO OF MEETING [HERE](#)

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting opened at 4:05pm.

2 PRAYER

The Chair recited the Uralla Shire Council prayer.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair read the acknowledgement of country.

4 WEBCAST INFORMATION

The Chair advised the meeting was recorded, with the recording to be made available on Council's website following the meeting and reminded the attendees from making defamatory statements.

5 APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLUTION 01.10/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Sarah Burrows

That Council receives and notes the leave application from Cr Mailler.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

Notation: Mayor Bell on Leave accepted in October 2024 meeting.

6 DISCLOSURE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/S

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 02.10/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Kath Arnold

That Council adopts the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 24 September 2024 as a true and correct record with the following amendment:

- i. Cr Blakester be noted as an alternate representative on s355 Bundarra Hall of Arts Consultative Committee.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 03.10/24

Moved: Cr Tom O'Connor

Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov

That Council change the adopted date of the Ordinary Meeting for April 2025 from that recorded in Resolution 05.09/24, namely Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Tuesday 29 April 2025.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

8 URGENT, SUPPLEMENTARY, AND LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS (INCLUDING PETITIONS)

The Chair advised there were no late, urgent and supplementary items or reports of business.

9 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

Nil

10 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

11 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

12 NOTICE OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

13 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Nil

14 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

14.1 STATE OF THE SHIRE REPORT - END OF TERM 2021-2024

RESOLUTION 04.10/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Jen Philp

That Council

1. Notes the contents of *The State of the Shire End of Term 2021-2024 Report*; and
2. Submits the Report with the Financial Statements for the year end 2024 to the NSW Office of Local Government.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

14.2 LOANS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**RESOLUTION 05.10/24****Moved:** Cr Adam Blakester**Seconded:** Cr Sarah Burrows**That Council notes that the total loan position as of 30 September 2024 is \$1,278,455.****For:** Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**Absent:** Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler**CARRIED 7/0****14.3 INVESTMENTS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 06.10/24****Moved:** Cr Sarah Burrows**Seconded:** Cr Lone Petrov**That Council**

- i. **Notes the cash position as of 30 September 2024 consisting of:**
 - cash and overnight funds of \$3,195,469;
 - term deposits of \$24,350,000;
 - total convertible funds of \$27,545,469 (\$3,195,469 + \$24,350,000) (including restricted funds).
- ii. **Establishes a restricted fund for Bundarra Rural Transaction Centre Account balance.**

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**Absent:** Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler**CARRIED 7/0**

14.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**RESOLUTION 07.10/24**

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows
Seconded: Cr Adam Blakester

That Council

- i. **Receives the attached Monthly Finance Report for September 2024, and**
- ii. **Receive a report on the Uralla Landfill and waste strategy at the November meeting.**

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

14.5 DEBT RECOVERY UPDATE**RESOLUTION 08.10/24**

Moved: Cr Adam Blakester
Seconded: Cr Sarah Burrows

That Council notes the debt recovery update report.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

14.6 RENEWABLE BENEFIT SHARING POLICY**RESOLUTION 09.10/24****Moved:** Cr Adam Blakester**Seconded:** Cr Leanne Doran**That Council:**

1. Notes the submission received.
2. Adopts the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Policy without further amendment.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**Absent:** Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler**CARRIED 7/0****14.7 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE - RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BODY****RESOLUTION 10.10/24****Moved:** Cr Sarah Burrows**Seconded:** Cr Leanne Doran**That Council:**

1. Delay the establishment of the Community Advisory Body until the Striking a New Deal project is substantially progressed.
2. Review and revise the draft Terms of Reference on the basis of broader, more substantive community and stakeholder engagement as part of the Striking a New Deal project.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**Absent:** Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler**CARRIED 7/0**

14.8 FURTHER APPOINTMENTS NEEDED FOR COUNCILLOR DELEGATES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**RESOLUTION 11.10/24****Moved:** Cr Leanne Doran**Seconded:** Cr Kath Arnold

That Council appoint Cr Burrows to be the representative on the Thunderbolt Community Consultative Committee (TCCC) for the full term of Council.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0**RESOLUTION 12.10/24****Moved:** Cr Jen Philp**Seconded:** Cr Lone Petrov

That Council nominate Mayor Bell to be the representative on the New England Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC), subject to his agreement on his return from leave, for the full term of Council.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp and Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0**14.9 INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (STRATEGIC WATER PLANNING STUDY)****RESOLUTION 13.10/24****Moved:** Cr Adam Blakester**Seconded:** Cr Sarah Burrows

That Council note the status report for the Integrated Water Cycle Management Project.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

14.10 CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS REPORT**RESOLUTION 14.10/24****Moved:** Cr Leanne Doran**Seconded:** Cr Kath Arnold**That Council note the Civil Works Report to the October 2024 meeting.****For:** Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**Absent:** Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler**CARRIED 7/0****14.11 REGISTER RESOLUTIONS ACTIONS STATUS AS AT 16 OCTOBER 2024****RESOLUTION 15.10/24****Moved:** Cr Leanne Doran**Seconded:** Cr Jen Philp**That Council notes the Resolution Actions Status Report as at 16 October 2024.****For:** Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**Absent:** Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler**CARRIED 7/0****PROCEDURAL MOTION - BREAK****RESOLUTION 16.10/24****Moved:** Cr Leanne Doran**Seconded:** Cr Sarah Burrows**The Chair called for a short break at 6:12pm****For:** Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**Absent:** Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler**CARRIED 7/0**

PROCEDURAL MOTION - RETURN

RESOLUTION 17.10/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Sarah Burrows

The Chair reconvened the meeting after a short break at 6:28pm.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

14.12 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY UPDATE

RESOLUTION 18.10/24

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows

Seconded: Cr Jen Philp

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the report.
2. In conjunction with the other constituent Councils (namely Walcha, Armidale and Glen Innes), prepares a joint proposal to the Minister for Local Government to dissolve the New England County Council and include the requirements of the Office of Local Government (OLG).
3. Includes in the proposal in (2) above, the transfer of responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act from the New England County Council to the four constituent Councils.
4. Authorises the General Manager to work with the other constituent Councils, the New England County Council, and the Office of Local Government to achieve the earliest possible date for the transfer of Biodiversity Act Responsibilities; and to develop and implement all necessary administrative arrangements.
5. Endorses the proposal for Uralla Council to resume standalone biosecurity services with the potential for an MOU with Walcha Council and other Councils to be reviewed by the General Manager.
6. Advises the Audit Office NSW of Council's commitment to continue to provide financial assistance to ensure the financial sustainability of the New England County Council until it is dissolved.
7. Notes a further report will be provided if additional financial assistance is required pending the Minister's determination.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

15 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 19.10/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Jen Philp

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:

15.1 New England County Council (New England Weeds Authority) Operational Review

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - a of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

15.2 McMaugh Gardens Residential Aged Care Facility Business Review - Consultant Report

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

RESOLUTION 22.10/24

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows

Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov

That Council return to Open Session of Council.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

16 COMMUNICATIONS OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Chair communicated the Council decisions from the closed session.

RESOLUTION 23.10/24

Moved: Cr Kath Arnold
Seconded: Cr Adam Blakester

That resolutions of Closed Session of Council become the resolutions of Open session of Council.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

15.1 NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY) OPERATIONAL REVIEW

RESOLUTION 24.10/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran
Seconded: Cr Adam Blakester

That Council notes the contents of the report.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

15.2 MCMAUGH GARDENS RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITY BUSINESS REVIEW - CONSULTANT REPORT

RESOLUTION 25.10/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran
Seconded: Cr Jen Philp

That Council:

1. Notes the Stewart Brown – McMaugh Gardens Review Report delivered 4 October 2024.
2. Adopts a *Retain and Invest* Strategic Option.
3. Undertakes further strategic investigation, analysis and consultation into what a *Retain and Invest* Strategy would entail.
4. Directs the General Manager to develop a strategic business plan to implement a *Retain and Invest* strategy and report back to Council.

For: Crs Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, Jen Philp, Kath Arnold

Against: Nil
Absent: Crs Robert Bell and David Mailler

CARRIED 7/0

17 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 7:41pm.

Council Minutes confirmed by **Mayor Robert Bell on 26/11/2024: Resolution 01.11/24**

CONFIRMED