



MINUTES of

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 17 December 2024 at 4:00 PM

Attendance at Meeting:

Councillors: Mayor R Bell (Chair)
Deputy Mayor T O'Connor
Cr S Burrows
Cr L Doran
Cr L Petrov
Cr A Blakester
Cr D Mailler
Cr J Philp
Cr K Arnold

Apologies: Nil

Staff: Ms T Averay, General Manager
Mr M Raby, Director, Infrastructure & Development
Mr R Siddique, Acting Manager Finance
Mr S Vivers, Acting Manager, Development & Planning
Ms L Chalmers, Executive Support Officer
Dr R Abell, Director, Corporate & Community
Mr M McLindin, Group Manager Civil Services
Mr B Dyer, Manager Governance
Ms E Sims, Planning Officer - Strategic

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[AUDIO](#) of meeting held 17 December 2024

UNCONFIRMED

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting opened at 4:00pm.

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

Nil.

6 DISCLOSURE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/S

Nil.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 26 NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 01.12/24

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows

Seconded: Cr Adam Blakester

That Council adopts the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 26 November 2024 as a true and correct record.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

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

8.1 LATE REPORT – MAYOR ACTIVITY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2024

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO MOVE AN ITEM

RESOLUTION 02.12/24

Moved: Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor

Seconded: Cr Sarah Burrows

That Council move Item 8.1 to be heard at Item 9.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

9 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

8.1 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 03.12/24

Moved: Mayor Robert Bell

Seconded: Cr David Mailler

That Council receives the Mayor's Activity report for November 2024.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

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 CHRISTMAS STREET FAIR EVALUATION REPORT****RESOLUTION 04.12/24****Moved: Cr Jen Philp****Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov****That Council notes the information presented in this report.****For: Crs Robert Bell, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, David Mailler, Jen Philp and Kath Arnold****Against: Nil****CARRIED 9/0****14.2 AMENDMENTS TO FEES AND CHARGES****RESOLUTION 05.12/24****Moved: Cr Kath Arnold****Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov****That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the recommended amendments to the 24/25 Fees and Charges Schedule for Public Exhibition for a period of 42 days.**
- 2. Receives a further report following the public exhibition period subject to the receipt of submissions if any amendments are proposed.**
- 3. Adopts the proposed fees if no submissions are received, and/or no changes are proposed.**

For: Crs Robert Bell, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, David Mailler, Jen Philp and Kath Arnold**Against: Nil****CARRIED 9/0**

14.3 KEEPING OF ANIMALS POLICY**RESOLUTION 06.12/24**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor

Seconded: Cr David Mailler

That Council:

1. Endorses the revised Draft Policy - Keeping of Animals Policy (Urban Areas) (2024), with the following amendments:
 - a) The inclusion of a Sub-paragraph 2.2 (d) namely “be mindful of the cumulative effect of multiple large animals, which individually are permitted, may create an unreasonable annoyance to neighbours; and
 - b) The inclusion of the following paragraph within Part 1.3 (Scope) “ this policy does not apply to the keeping of animals or birds in connection with any existing educational facility. Any school is expected to maintain high levels of amenity, health and safety and not unreasonably impact on adjoining occupiers.
2. Places the Policy on Public Exhibition for a period of 42 days for the purposes of receiving further public submissions.
3. Receives a further report following the public exhibition period subject to the receipt of submissions and/or if the draft policy is proposed to be amended.
4. Authorises the adoption of the Draft Policy - Keeping of Animals (Urban Areas) (2024) if:
 - a) No submissions are received; or
 - b) No new submission themes/matters being raised, to the satisfaction of the General Manager; or
 - c) If no amendments to the policy are required to be made.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.4 ENERGYCO NEW ENGLAND REZ COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP**RESOLUTION 07.12/24**

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows

Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov

That Council nominates Cr Burrows as its representative to EnergyCo's New England Renewable Energy Zone transmission project community reference group.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

RESOLUTION 08.12/24

Moved: Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor

Seconded: Cr David Mailler

That Council:

- 1 Endorses the revised Community Engagement Strategy for public exhibition for a period of 42 days.
- 2 Receives a further report following the public exhibition period subject to the receipt of submissions if any amendments are proposed.
- 3 Adopts the proposed strategy if no submissions are received, and/or no changes are proposed.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.6 REQUEST - RENAMING OF EMU CROSSING BRIDGE

RESOLUTION 09.12/24

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows

Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov

That Council:

1. Notes the recent request to rename Emu Crossing Bridge.
2. Notes the Policy Guidelines set out in Section 9.3 and 7 of the Geographical Name Board's Place Naming Policy 2019 which advised against the formal naming of infrastructure after a living person, or a deceased person within 12 months of their passing.
3. Determines not to initiate community consultation to change the name of the Emu Crossing Bridge.
4. Advises the requester of its determination.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.7 COUNCIL PROVISION OF IN KIND SUPPORT TO NE DRUM RUNNERS**RESOLUTION 10.12/24****Moved: Cr Leanne Doran****Seconded: Cr Jen Philp**

That Council resolves to provide the requested in kind support in the form of periodic access and use of Council's water truck for New England Drum Runner events in Bundarra during the 2025 calendar year on the basis that:

- a) Council's truck operator resource becomes a volunteer member of the New England Drum Runners;
- b) The New England Drum Runners accepts Council's truck operator resource as a volunteer member; and
- c) The New England Drum Runners Association maintains its Public Liability insurance coverage of \$20,000,000 for the period of the 2025 calendar year.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**14.8 LOANS AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 11.12/24****Moved: Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor****Seconded: Cr David Mailler**

That Council notes that the total loan position as of 30 November 2024 is \$1,245,918.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.9 INVESTMENTS AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2024**RESOLUTION 12.12/24****Moved:** Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor**Seconded:** Cr Sarah Burrows**That Council notes the cash position as of 30 November 2024 consisting of:**

- cash and overnight funds of \$2,247,830;
- term deposits of \$24,350,000;
- total convertible funds of \$26,597,830 (\$2,247,830 + \$24,350,000) (including restricted funds).

For: Crs Robert Bell, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, David Mailler, Jen Philp and Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**CARRIED 9/0****14.10 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 13.12/24****Moved:** Cr Adam Blakester**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor**That Council receives the attached Monthly Finance Report for November 2024.****For:** Crs Robert Bell, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, David Mailler, Jen Philp and Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**CARRIED 9/0****14.11 DEBT RECOVERY UPDATE****RESOLUTION 14.12/24****Moved:** Cr Sarah Burrows**Seconded:** Cr Leanne Doran**That Council notes the debt recovery update report.****For:** Crs Robert Bell, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov, Adam Blakester, David Mailler, Jen Philp and Kath Arnold**Against:** Nil**CARRIED 9/0**

14.12 S355 COMMITTEES

RESOLUTION 15.12/24

Moved: Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor

Seconded: Cr Leanne Doran

That Council:

1. Advertises for nominations to the Bundarra School of Arts and Community Consultative Committee for 2025; and
2. Receives a report regarding the replacement need and potential terms of reference for the Uralla Township and Environs Committee in line with the Community Engagement Strategy.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

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14.13 COUNCIL INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - GENERAL MANAGER**RESOLUTION 16.12/24****Moved:** Cr Sarah Burrows**Seconded:** Cr Adam Blakester

Any previous delegation to the General Manager be revoked and Council delegate to the General Manager the "Instrument of Delegation - General Manager" attached to this report.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**14.14 REGISTER RESOLUTIONS ACTIONS STATUS AS AT 11 DECEMBER 2024****RESOLUTION 17.12/24****Moved:** Cr Adam Blakester**Seconded:** Cr Lone Petrov

That Council notes the Resolution Actions Status Report as at 11 December 2024.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**PROCEDURAL MOTION - BREAK****RESOLUTION 18.12/24****Moved:** Cr Leanne Doran**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor

The Chair called for a short break at 6:03 pm.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

PROCEDURAL MOTION - RETURN

RESOLUTION 19.12/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Tom O'Connor

The Chair reconvened the meeting after a short break at 6:16pm.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

15 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 20.12/24

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Kath Arnold

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 Grace Munro Aged Care Centre limited - update on lease proposal

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2)(c), (d)(i) and (d)(ii) 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council.

15.2 New England Weeds Authority Update Report

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (a) and (f) 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) and details of systems and/or arrangements that have been implemented to protect Council, councillors, staff and Council property.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

RESOLUTION 23.12/24**Moved:** Cr Sarah Burrows**Seconded:** Cr Leanne Doran

That Council return to Open Session of Council and that the resolutions of Closed Session of Council become the resolutions of Open session of Council.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**16 COMMUNICATIONS OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Chair communicated the Council decisions from the closed session.

15.1 GRACE MUNRO AGED CARE CENTRE LIMITED - UPDATE ON LEASE PROPOSAL**RESOLUTION 21.12/24****Moved:** Cr Sarah Burrows**Seconded:** Cr Jen Philp

That Council notes the CBRE valuation report.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**15.2 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORT****RESOLUTION 22.12/24****Moved:** Cr Adam Blakester**Seconded:** Cr David Mailler

That Council:

1. Authorises the payment of an additional \$72,000 in the 2024-2025 Budget to maintain the continued operations of the New England Weeds Authority, noting this exceeds the budgeted contingency by \$31,000.
2. Notes the attached proposal to the Minister for Local Government to dissolve the New England Weeds Authority.
3. Notes the proposed transfer of two positions from the New England Weeds Authority to Uralla Shire Council to conduct biosecurity and weed control responsibilities, and the proposed MOU between Uralla and Walcha Councils for weed spraying.

4. Writes to the NSW Minister for Local Government seeking an expedient resolution of the process to dissolve the New England County Council, noting the continuing financial burden on member Councils and the uncertainty experienced by NEWA staff.
5. Writes to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries and Agriculture urging a review of the current Weed Action Program (WAP) funding process and timeline to provide greater certainty for Councils and earlier allocation of essential funds in the applicable financial year.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

17 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 7:00pm.

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