

**MINUTES OF LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2025 AT 2:30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Ken Cudmore, Cr Donna Lawson, Cr Jason Allan, Cr Shawn Cain, Cr Terry Cohen, Cr James Robertson, Cr Charlie Simkin

IN ATTENDANCE: Glenn Inglis (Acting General Manager) Dean Frost (Director Corporate and Community Services), Nathan Skelly (Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services), Christie Pearson (Executive Operations), Jared McCulloch (Governance, Risk and Corporate Records Coordinator)

AUDIO RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Mayor informed the meeting as follows:

“THIS MEETING OF LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL IS BEING LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED AND A WEBCAST OF THIS MEETING WILL BE PUBLISHED TO COUNCIL’S WEBSITE AT WWW.LIVERPOOLPLAINS.NSW.GOV.AU SO THAT IT IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.”

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCIL PRAYER

Cr Terry Cohen recited the Acknowledgement of Country and the Council Prayer.

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS OR ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/39

Moved: Cr Jason Allan

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

1. That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 12 February 2025 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED

3.2 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/40

Moved: Cr Terry Cohen

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

1. That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 February 2025 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED

3.3 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 2025/41

Moved: Cr Terry Cohen

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

1. That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2024 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Mayor requested Councillors disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration at the Ordinary Meeting, in accordance with Part 4 and part 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Cr Cain declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item 6.10 - Infrastructure & Environmental Services Directorate Report for the reason that he provides services to the Water and Waste Water division of Council. If there are any items that require discussion he will vacate the chamber.

Cr Simkin declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 6.14 for the reason that he is current Vice President of the Golf Club Committee and he will vacate the chamber.

5 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/42

Moved: Cr Ken Cudmore

Seconded: Cr Shawn Cain

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Mayoral Minute for February 2025.

CARRIED

6 REPORTS TO COUNCIL**6.1 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025**

RESOLUTION 2025/43

Moved: Cr James Robertson

Seconded: Cr Terry Cohen

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Executive Services Report for February 2025.

CARRIED

6.2 RESOLUTIONS REGISTER UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2025/44

Moved: Cr Charlie Simkin

Seconded: Cr James Robertson

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Resolutions Register as at 7 March 2025 as appended at *Annexure 1* and the Resolution Register for 2023 and 2024 as appended at *Annexure 2*.

CARRIED

6.3 ALGA'S 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION FUNDING PRIORITIES

RESOLUTION 2025/45

Moved: Cr Donna Lawson

Seconded: Cr Terry Cohen

That Council:

1. Supports the national federal election funding priorities identified by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA);
2. Supports and participates in the Put Our Communities First federal election campaign; and
3. Writes to the local federal member(s) of Parliament, all known election candidates in local federal electorates and the President of the Australian Local Government Association expressing support for ALGA's federal election funding priorities.

CARRIED

6.4 AUSTRALIA KOREA FOUNDATION GRANT

RESOLUTION 2025/46

Moved: Cr Charlie Simkin

Seconded: Cr James Robertson

That Council:

1. Note that a return visit by a delegation from Suseong-gu, Daegu Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea (DMC) to the Liverpool Plains in 2025 will no longer be going ahead.
2. Note that should there be an opportunity for a visit to the Liverpool Plains in the future, LPSC will investigate possible funding opportunities through the Australia-Korea Foundation, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to facilitate such a visit.

CARRIED**6.5 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORT FEBRUARY 2025**

RESOLUTION 2025/47

Moved: Cr Jason Allan

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Corporate and Community Services Directorate update report for February 2025.

CARRIED**6.6 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING PLAN 2024 - 2026**

RESOLUTION 2025/48

Moved: Cr Terry Cohen

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

That Council:

1. Endorse the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 2024-2026 Meeting Plan as appended at *Annexure 1*.

CARRIED

6.7 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/49

Moved: Cr James Robertson

Seconded: Cr Charlie Simkin

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Statement of Investments as at 28 February 2025 as appended at *Annexure 1*.

CARRIED

6.8 REVIEW OF POLICIES FOR THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2025/50

Moved: Cr Charlie Simkin

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

That Council:

1. Adopt the reviewed Financial Reserves Policy, appended at *Annexure 1*.
2. Adopt the updated Cash Handling Policy, appended at *Annexure 2*.
3. Adopt the updated Related Party Policy, appended at *Annexure 3*.
4. Adopt the updated Investments Policy, appended at *Annexure 4*.
5. Adopt the updated Loan Borrowing Policy, appended at *Annexure 5*.
6. Place the updated Hardship Policy, appended at *Annexure 6*, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and adopt the updated Policy as exhibited, subject to no submissions being received.
7. Place the updated Sale of Land to Recover Unpaid Rates and Charges Policy, appended at *Annexure 7*, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and adopt the updated Policy as exhibited, subject to no submissions being received.
8. Place the updated Debt Recovery Policy, appended at *Annexure 8*, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and adopt the updated Policy as exhibited, subject to no submissions being received.
9. Request a further report at the conclusion of the public exhibition period if submissions are received on Policies on public exhibition.

CARRIED

6.9 ROYAL THEATRE – SERVICE REVIEW OUTCOME

RESOLUTION 2025/51

Moved: Cr Donna Lawson

Seconded: Cr Terry Cohen

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the Royal Theatre Service Review
2. Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the sale or lease of the Royal Theatre, 115 Henry Street Quirindi;
3. Advertise the EOI for a period of 28 days on Council’s website, local newspapers and one (1) National newspaper;
4. Note that a report will be submitted to the Council at the first available meeting after the closing of the EOI process, including all responses, for the determination of a purchaser/lessor.

At 3:07pm, Cr Charlie Simkin left the meeting.

At 3:09pm, Cr Charlie Simkin returned to the meeting.

CARRIED

Cr Cain declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item 6.10 - Infrastructure & Environmental Services Directorate Report for the reason that he provides services to the Water and Waste Water division of Council. There was no discussion in relation to the Water and Waste Water division of Council and therefore he did not vacate the chamber.

6.10 INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/52

Moved: Cr Charlie Simkin

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Infrastructure & Environmental Services Directorate report for the month of February 2025

CARRIED**6.11 LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025**

RESOLUTION 2025/53

Moved: Cr James Robertson

Seconded: Cr Charlie Simkin

That Council:

1. Endorse the minutes of the Local Traffic Committee meeting held 4 March 2025 as appended at *Annexure 1*

CARRIED

6.12 STORM RESPONSE - GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

RESOLUTION 2025/54

Moved: Cr Shawn Cain

Seconded: Cr James Robertson

That Council:

1. Note the foregone income of \$6,873.50 relating to offering free disposal of green waste following storms in late January 2025 which will be reflected in the March Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

CARRIED

6.13 REVIEW OF CORPORATE PROPERTY AND DISPOSAL OF LAND POLICY

RESOLUTION 2025/55

Moved: Cr James Robertson

Seconded: Cr Jason Allan

That Council:

1. Repeal the Corporate Property and Disposal of Land Policy, appended at *Annexure 1*.

At 3:33pm, Cr Charlie Simkin left the meeting.

CARRIED

Cr Simkin declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 6.14 for the reason that he is current Vice President of the Golf Club Committee and he vacated the chamber and did not participate in the debate whilst item 6.14 was being considered.

6.14 QUIRINDI GOLF CLUB - REQUEST FOR WATER CHARGES RELIEF

RESOLUTION 2025/56

Moved: Cr James Robertson

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

That Council:

1. Decline the request to reduce water access charges at the Quirindi Golf Course from the existing 100mm water meter down to the 40mm water meter rate for a 3-4 year period.
2. Agree to a final year of temporary reduction in access charge at the Quirindi Golf Club from

the 100mm access charge rate to the 40mm access charge rate during 2024/25, subject to the following occurring within the first 90 days of the 2025/26 rating year:

- (a) Club Quirindi engage with Councils Water Services staff to develop a feasible strategy for putting in place legitimate cost reduction methods for irrigation purposes for water sourced from the Quirindi Water Supply used at the Quirindi Golf Course.
- (b) Club Quirindi's board provide a written commitment to Council acknowledging the administrative reduction in water Access Charges expires at the end of 2024/25 and that they undertake tangible work to their water systems in partnership with Council that facilitates the requested reduction in charges for water sourced from the Quirindi Water Supply for irrigation purposes.

At 3:49pm, Cr James Robertson left the meeting.

At 3:51pm, Cr James Robertson returned to the meeting.

CARRIED

6.15 WERRIS CREEK INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT - FUNDING WITHDRAWN

RESOLUTION 2025/57

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Donna Lawson

Seconded: Cr Charlie Simkin

That Council:

1. Notes that funding has been withdrawn by the NSW Government for the Werris Creek Industrial Precinct Project;
2. Agrees that the project cannot progress; and
3. Notes that other funding opportunities will be sought in the future regarding investment opportunities in the Werris Creek economic base
4. Undertake an investigation into the grant funding application and subsequent project activities pertaining to the Werris Creek Industrial Precinct Project

At 4:00pm, Cr Charlie Simkin returned to the meeting.

At 4:10pm, Cr Jason Allan left the meeting.

At 4:14pm, Cr Jason Allan returned to the meeting.

CARRIED

6.16 DA 10.2024.100.1 - DISPLAY HOME - 25 COACH ST, WALLABADAH

RESOLUTION 2025/58

Moved: Cr Charlie Simkin

Seconded: Cr Terry Cohen

That Council:

1. Grant consent subject to conditions, as detailed in Schedule 1: Conditions of Development Consent - DA 2024/100. Development Application DA 2024/100 be determined pursuant to Section 4.16 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

In Favour: Crs Ken Cudmore, Terry Cohen, Donna Lawson, Jason Allan, Charlie Simkin and Shawn Cain

Against: Cr James Robertson

CARRIED 6/1

6.17 DA 10.2024.102.1 - DISPLAY HOME - 33 ELIZABETH STREET WALLABADAH

RESOLUTION 2025/59

Moved: Cr Charlie Simkin

Seconded: Cr Terry Cohen

That Council:

Grant consent subject to conditions, as detailed in Schedule 1: Conditions of Development Consent - DA 2024/102. Development Application DA 2024/102 be determined pursuant to Section 4.16 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

In Favour: Crs Ken Cudmore, Terry Cohen, Donna Lawson, Jason Allan, Charlie Simkin and Shawn Cain

Against: Cr James Robertson

CARRIED 6/1**7 DELEGATES REPORTS**

Nil

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

9 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 2025/60

Moved: Cr Donna Lawson

Seconded: Cr Charlie Simkin

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:

9.1 Mayoral Minute - General Manager Recruitment

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) of the Local Government Act, 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).

CARRIED

REPORT ON CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

The Mayor reported as follows on the matters considered in the confidential section of the meeting:

9.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT

RESOLUTION 2025/64

Moved: Cr Ken Cudmore

Seconded: Cr Donna Lawson

That Council:

1. Receive and note this confidential Mayoral Minute.
2. Receive and note the selection report from Local Government Management Solutions.
3. Appoint, subject to the successful completion of relevant background, medical and eligibility checks, the preferred candidate to the General Manager role on a five-year fixed term performance based contract.
4. Delegate to the Mayor to negotiate and finalise the contract provisions including the Total Remuneration Package with the preferred candidate and any other matters relevant to the onboarding of the General Manager.
5. Note the confidentiality of the information including documentation and consideration of this item in respect of the General Manager recruitment and selection process, and ensure it

is maintained.

6. On completion of the recruitment process the Mayor, Councillor Cudmore advise the name and relevant details of the General Manager.
7. Appoint the Interim General Manager, Glenn Inglis to continue to act in the position of General Manager until the commencement of the new General Manager, or until further resolution of Council, and delegate to the Interim General Manager all the functions, delegations and sub-delegations given to the General Manager by the Council.
8. Thanks the recruitment and selection panel for their concerted efforts in undertaking the process in an expeditious manner.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025/65

Moved: Cr Terry Cohen

Seconded: Cr Shawn Cain

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

CARRIED

At 5.51pm the Meeting moved back into Open Council. In accordance with the Liverpool Plains Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice, Section 14.22 & 14.23, the Chairperson provided a summary of the resolutions passed in Closed Council

The Meeting closed at 5.54pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 April 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON