

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE SEMINAR ROOM, MUSWELLBROOK LIBRARY 187 BRIDGE STREET, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2024 COMMENCING AT 600PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cr G.T. McNeill (Deputy Mayor), Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr J.A. Lecky, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D.E. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B.N. Woodruff.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr D. Finnigan (General Manager), Ms S. Pope (Director – Planning & Environment), Ms S. Welchman (Director - Community & Economy), Mr P. Chambers (Chief Engineer), Mr M. Lysaught (Director – Property & Place), Ms K. Hamm (Manager – Governance & Risk), Mr J. Hogan (Chief Financial Officer), Mrs M. Sandell-Hay (Governance Officer), Ms J. Fernandes (EA to Mayor & GM), Ms J. Ayres (Acting Media & Communications Co-Ordinator), Ms A. Cox (Integrated Planning & Reporting Officer) and 2 people in the public gallery.

**1. Applications for Attendance via Audio Visual Link**

Nil

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by Cr Bowditch

**3. Civic Prayer**

The Civic Prayer was read by Cr Lecky.

**4. Apologies and Applications for a Leave of Absence**

56 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr B. Woodruff and Cr D. Marshall that:

The apologies for inability to attend the meeting submitted by Cr D. Douglas, and Cr S. Reynolds be ACCEPTED and the necessary Leave of Absence be GRANTED.

In Favour: Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff.

Against: Nil.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

**Ordinary Council Meeting held in 23 July, 2024**

57 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr J. Lecky and Cr B. Woodruff that:

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on **23 July, 2024**, a copy of which has been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil





## 6. Disclosure of any Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

**Cr R. Mahajan** - Declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10.1 - Cr Mahajan advised Council that he and his wife own a property listed in the report.

## 7. Mayoral Minute

Nil

## 8. Public Participation

Nil

## 9. Business Arising (From Previous Meetings)

Nil

## 10. Business (Specific Reports)

### 10.1. Planning and Environment

#### 10.1.1. Monthly Report to Council - Planning, Environment and Regulatory Services

##### Disclosure of Interest

**Cr R. Mahajan** declared a pecuniary interest in this item. Cr Mahajan advised Council that he and his wife own a property listed in the report.

At 6.03pm Cr Mahajan left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

**58** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr M. Bowditch that:  
The information contained in this report be noted.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn,  
Cr G. McNeill, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

At 6.05pm Cr Mahajan returned to Council Chambers and resumed his chair at the meeting table.

### 10.2. Community Infrastructure

#### 10.2.1. NSW Environmental Trust - Grant Offer

**59** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr J. Lecky and Cr B. Woodruff that:  
Council NOTES the information contained in the report.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn,  
Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and  
Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil





### 10.3. Property and Place

Nil

### 10.4. Corporate Services

#### 10.4.1. 2023/2024 Operational Plan - 30 June 2024 Quarterly Review

60 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr J. Lecky that:  
Council NOTES the 2023/2024 Operational Plan Fourth Quarter Review dated 30 June 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

#### 10.4.2. Report on Investments held as at 31 July 2024

61 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr L. Dunn that:  
Council NOTES Council's Investments as at 31 July 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

#### 10.4.3. Monthly Financial Report - July 2024

62 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Mahajan and Cr J. Lecky that:  
Council NOTES the Financial Reports for the month ending 31 July 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

### 10.5. Community and Economy

Nil





## 11. Minutes of Committee Meetings

### 11.1. Future Fund Committee - 13 June, 2024

63 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr J. Lecky and Cr R. Scholes that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Future Fund Committee held on 13 June 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

### 11.2. Industrial Closures Committee - 18 June, 2024

64 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr L. Dunn and Cr B. Woodruff that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Industrial Closures Committee held on 18 June, 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

### 11.3. State Significant Development Committee - 9 July, 2024

65 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr J. Drayton and Cr B. Woodruff that:  
Council NOTES the Record of Proceedings of the meeting of the State Significant Development Committee held on 9 July, 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil





#### **11.4. Finance Review Advisory Committee - 18 July, 2024**

**66** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Mahajan and Cr D. Marshall that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Review Advisory Committee held on 18 July, 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn,  
Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and  
Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

#### **11.5. Regional Entertainment Centre Advisory Committee - 1 August 2024**

**67** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr L. Dunn and Cr R. Scholes that:  
Council NOTES the Minutes of the meeting of the Regional Entertainment Centre Advisory Committee held on 1 August 2024 subject to the following amendment:

The Acknowledgement of Country was ready by Cr Woodruff.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn,  
Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and  
Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

#### **11.6. AGL Community Funding Investment Committee - 13 August 2024**

**68** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr A. Barry and Cr D. Marshall that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the AGL Community Funding Investment Committee held on 13 August, 2024.

In Favour Cr J. Lecky, Cr A. Barry, Cr M. Bowditch, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn,  
Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and  
Cr B. Woodruff

Against: Nil

### **12. Notices of Motion**

Nil





## **13. Councillors Reports**

### **13.1 Councillor Appreciation**

Cr McNeill, on behalf of the Mayor and Councillors, thanked the staff for their support throughout the term which was always consistent, providing accurate information etc.

Cr McNeill also thanked Cr Reynolds for his efforts over this term noting Cr Reynold's passion for his community.

Cr McNeill further thanked Cr Brett Woodruff for his outstanding, consistent, reliable service over the past 28 years which has been of immense assistance during his time with Council.

Cr Lecky and Dunn also congratulated and thanked Cr Woodruff for his contribution to Council over the past 28 years as a Councillor.

Cr Woodruff thanked Councillors for their well wishes for his time spent on Council which equated to roughly 37 years - commencing on staff both Outdoor and Indoor and then following on as a Councillor. Cr Woodruff said that it was the greatest gift you can receive is the trust that people put in you and it has been an amazing journey.

Cr Woodruff received a standing ovation.

Mr Finnigan also reiterated Councillors comments, you have a heart of gold, you have served the community that you love, with faithfulness and honesty - giving your town everything you have. You have always provided wisdom to us all, you have been steadfast. You possess wisdom that is a result of a life lived well, a life lived hard and a life lived true. We treasure you Brett and we always will. We consider it a great privilege to have worked with you.

### **13.2 Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music**

Cr Lecky advised Council that she had attended the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music's 25th Anniversary.

## **14. Written Questions**

Nil

## **15. Questions for Next Meeting**

Nil

## **16. Adjournment into Closed Council**

## **17. Closed Council**

Nil

## **18. Resumption of Open Council**





## 19. Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 6.28pm.

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PAGES 1 to 7) WERE CONFIRMED AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER, 2024 AND ARE A FULL AND ACCURATE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST, 2024.**

.....  
Mr D. Finnigan  
**General Manager**

.....  
Cr G. McNeill  
**Chairperson**