

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN SEMINAR ROOMS, 126 BRIDGE STREET MUSWELLBROOK ON 27 MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6:00PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cr J. Drayton (Mayor), Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G.T. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D.E. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr D. Finnigan (General Manager), Ms S. Pope (Director – Planning & Environment), Mr M. Lysaught (Director – Infrastructure & Property), Mr P. Chambers (Chief Engineer), Ms A. Hathway (Legal Counsel), Mr J. Hogan (Chief Financial Officer), Ms K. Scholes (Group Manager - Infrastructure & Operations), Mr P. Ball (Manager - Works), Mr T. Connell (Communications Co-Ordinator), Mr N. Mowbray (Policy Officer), Mr S. Iagunkov (Water and Waste Manager) Mr. I. Skaines (Grants Officer) Ms. K. Manwarring, Ms L. Ward (EA to the Mayor & GM)

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

284 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Douglas and Cr D. Marshall that:

Authority be given for Cr Amanda Barry to attend the Council Meeting via video link.

In Favour: Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

## **2. Acknowledgement of Country**

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by Cr D. Hartley.

## **3. Civic Prayer**

The Civic Prayer was read by Cr. L Dunn.

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

Nil.



## 5. Confirmation of Minutes

### Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 April, 2025

285 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G. McNeill and Cr C. Bailey that:

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on **22 April, 2025** a copy of which has been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

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

**Cr D. Douglas** - Declared a significant pecuniary interest in Item 10.4.4. Cr Douglas advised Council that she is the CEO of Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

**C. R. Scholes** - Declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10.4.3. Cr Scholes advised Council that he is a member of the Rotary Club.

**Cr D Marshall** - Declared a non- pecuniary interest in Item 10.1.2. Cr Marshall advised Council he has a development application listed in the report.

**Cr C Bailey** Declared a insignificant non-pecuniary interest in Item 11.4 - Cr Bailey advised Council that she works for a contractor at Mount Pleasant owned by MACHEnergy.

**Cr R . Mahajan** declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10.1.2 - Cr Mahajan advised Council that he and his wife have a development application listed in the report.

**Cr G. McNeill** Declared an insignificant non-pecuniary interest in Item 10.4.5 - Cr McNeill advised Council the submission is from a former work colleague.

**Cr D. Hartley** - Declared insignificant non-pecuniary interest in Item 11.4 - Cr Hartley advised Council advised Council that she works for a contractor at Mount Pleasant owned by MACHEnergy.



**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. Net Zero 2050 Roadmap Update

286 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward that:

Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the report;
2. Authorises the General Manager to:
  - a) Commence investigations into the purchase/establishment of carbon offsets from the 2025/26 Financial Year onward, to reduce costs in the long-term given the expectation that Council will not be able to achieve next-zero targets by changing purchasing decisions and work practices, due to Council's waste management responsibilities;
  - b) Continue applying for grant funding for landfill gas capture systems when available;
  - c) Continue waste education programs in the community to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill; and
  - d) Calculate and report the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributable to proposed capital projects, property purchases/sales, and changes to waste management going forward.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil



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

#### Disclosure of Interest

Cr R. Mahajan declared an pecuniary interest in this item - Cr R. Mahajan advised Council that one of the properties listed in the report is owned by himself and his wife.

Cr D. Marshall declared a pecuniary interest in this item - Cr Marshall advised Council he has a development application listed in the report.

287 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr L. Dunn that:

1. The information contained in this report be noted.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

## 10.2. Corporate Services

### 10.2.1. 2025/2026 Councillor Remuneration

288 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr M. Morris that:

Council:

Notes the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal's 2025 Annual Determination:

1. Approves the maximum annual fee of \$23,220 for Councillors for 2025/2026; and
2. Approves the maximum additional annual fee of \$50,680 for the position of Mayor for 2025/2026.
3. The 2025/2026 Mayoral and Councillor fees will also include an additional 12% superannuation fee.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil



### 10.2.2. Community Strategic Plan for Endorsement

- 289** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr L. Dunn and Cr M. Morris that:
- Council endorses the Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 following placement of the draft Plan on public exhibition for a period of 40 days.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil

### 10.2.3. Code of Meeting Practice for Adoption

- 290** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G. McNeill and Cr D. Hartley that:
- Council adopts the attached *Code of Meeting Practice*.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil

### 10.2.4. Draft Financial Reserve Management Policy for Public Exhibition

- 291** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr R. Mahajan that:
1. Council endorses the *Draft Financial Reserve Management Policy* for placement on public exhibition via Council's website for a period of 28 days.
  2. If no submissions are received in relation to the *Draft Financial Reserve Management Policy* during the public exhibition period, then Council resolves to adopt the *Draft Financial Reserve Management Policy* on the day following the conclusion of the exhibition period.
  3. If submissions are received in relation to the *Draft Financial Reserve Management Policy* during the public exhibition period, then a further report will be submitted to Council for consideration of submissions received during the exhibition period.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil



### 10.2.5. Draft Modern Slavery Policy for Public Exhibition

292 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr C. Bailey that:

1. Council endorses the *Draft Modern Slavery Policy* for placement on public exhibition via Council's website for a period of 28 days.
2. If no submissions are received in relation to the *Draft Modern Slavery Policy* during the public exhibition period, then Council resolves to adopt the *Draft Modern Slavery Policy* on the day following the conclusion of the exhibition period.
3. If submissions are received in relation to the *Draft Modern Slavery Policy* during the public exhibition period, then a further report will be submitted to Council for consideration of submissions received during the exhibition period.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

### 10.2.6. Progress Report for 2022 - 2026 Delivery Program and 2024- 2025 Operational Plan

293 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr L. Dunn that:

Council NOTES the Progress Report on the 2022/2026 Delivery Program and 2024/2025 Operational Plan.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

### 10.2.7. March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review

294 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr R. Mahajan that:

Council ENDORSES the proposed changes in the March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil



### 10.2.8. Report on Investments held as at 30 April 2025

295 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr R. Scholes that:

Council notes the Investments as at 30 April 2025.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

### 10.2.9. Monthly Financial Report - April 2025

296 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr R. Mahajan that:

Council notes the Financial Reports for the month ending 30 April 2025.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

## 10.3. Infrastructure and Property

### 10.3.1. Public Amenities and Changing Places Facility at Simpson Park

297 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Douglas and Cr M. Morris that:

Council:

1. Endorses the proposed concept design as attached and described in the report;
2. Notes the budget available for the carrying out of the project; and
3. Supports progressing to tender for detailed design and construction.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Cr D. Marshall



**10.3.2. Signage and Wayfinding Master Plan**

298 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr C. Bailey that:

1. Council Places the draft concept developed Master Signage and Wayfinding Plan for the Muswellbrook Town Centre Precinct on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days, and
2. A further report be submitted to Council following public exhibition.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**10.3.3. Memorandum of Understanding - Reclassification of Bengalla and Wybong Roads**

299 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr S. Ward and Cr D. Hartley that:

Council:

1. Endorses the Memorandum of Understanding – Bengalla Link Road and Wybong Road (MR 709) February 2025; and
2. Delegates authority to the General Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil



### 10.3.4. Joint Water Treatment Plant MSC/UHSC Update

300 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr M. Morris that:

Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the report;
2. Approves further concept development of a Joint Water Treatment Plant and related facilities in partnership with Upper Hunter Shire Council; and
3. Authorises the General Manager to write to the Minister for Water, requesting inclusion of the Joint Water Treatment Plant in the Greater Hunter Regional Water Strategy.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

## 10.4. Community and Economy

### 10.4.1. Awarding of Sponsorship - Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Awards

301 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr C. Bailey that:

Council APPROVES cash Sponsorship of \$2,950.00 (including GST) to Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the staging of the 2025 Muswellbrook Business Awards to be held on Friday, 20 June 2025 at the Muswellbrook RSL.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

### 10.4.2. Awarding of a Community Grant - Rainbow Bricks LUG Inc

302 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Douglas and Cr L. Dunn that:

Council APPROVES a Community Grant (Fee Waiver) equivalent to \$562.50 for Rainbow Bricks LUG for the staging of the 2025 Lego Brickfest in Muswellbrook.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil



### 10.4.3. **Awarding of a Community Grant - Rotary Club of Muswellbrook - Science and Engineering Challenge**

#### **Disclosure of Interest**

Cr R. Scholes declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item. Cr Scholes advised Council that he is a member of the Rotary Club

At 6:29PM Cr R. Scholes left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

- 303** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr D. Marshall that:
- Council APPROVES a Community Grant (Cash and Fee Waiver) equivalent to \$4,149.00 for costs associated with staging the 2025 Science and Engineering Challenge in Muswellbrook.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil

At 6:32PM Cr R. Scholes returned to Council Chambers and resumed his chair at the meeting table.

### 10.4.4. **Awarding of a Community Grant - Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council - 2025 NAIDOC Day Celebrations**

#### **Disclosure of Interest**

Cr D. Douglas declared a significant pecuniary interest this item. Cr Douglas advised Council that she is the CEO of Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

At 6:32 pm Cr D. Douglas left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

- 304** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr L. Dunn that:
- Council APPROVES a Community Grant (Fee Waiver) of \$1,393.00 for the holding of the 2025 NAIDOC Week celebration in Muswellbrook on Sunday, 13 July 2025.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil

At 6:33 pm Cr D. Douglas returned to Council Chambers and resumed her chair at the meeting table.



#### **10.4.5. Awarding of a Community Grant - Upper Hunter Where There's a Will Disclosure of Interest**

Cr G. McNeill declared an insignificant non-pecuniary interest in this item - Cr McNeill advised Council the submission is from a former work colleague.

- 305** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Douglas and Cr D. Hartley that:
- Council APPROVES a Community Grant (cash) for the purchase of a Brother MFC-L8690CDW Wireless Multi-Function Colour Laser Printer and delivery valued at a total of \$764.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil

#### **10.4.6. Council Grant and Community Engagement Update**

- 306** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Douglas and Cr R. Scholes that:
- Council notes the information contained in the report and endorses Council staff to review and apply for funding opportunities identified in the report.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil

## **11. Minutes of Committee Meetings**

### **11.1. Infrastructure & Property Committee Meeting - 8 April 2025**

- 307** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr D. Hartley that:
- Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure and Property Committee held on 8 April 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.
- In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward
- Against: Nil

**11.2. Finance and Governance Committee - 10 April, 2025**

**308** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr M. Morris that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee held on 10 April, 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**11.3. Future Fund Committee - 10 April, 2025**

**309** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr M. Morris and Cr R. Scholes that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Future Fund Committee held on 10 April 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**11.4. MACH Energy Mt Pleasant Community Funding Investment Committee - 1 April, 2025****Disclosure of Interest**

Cr C Bailey declared a insignificant non-pecuniary interest in this Item - Cr Bailey advised Council that she works for a contractor at Mount Pleasant owned by MACHEnergy.

Cr D. Hartley declared insignificant non-pecuniary interest in this item- Cr Hartley advised Council advised Council that she works for a contractor at Mount Pleasant owned by MACHEnergy.

**310** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr M. Morris that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the MACH Energy Mt Pleasant Community Funding Investment Committee held on 1 April, 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**11.5. BHP Mt Arthur Community Funding Investment Committee - 7 April, 2025**

**311** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Hartley and Cr C. Bailey that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the BHP Mt Arthur Community Funding Investment Committee held on 7 April, 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**11.6. Dartbrook Community Funding Investment Committee - 8 April, 2025**

**312** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Douglas and Cr D. Marshall that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Dartbrook Community Funding Investment Committee held on 7 April, 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**11.7. Malabar Community Funding Investment Committee - 8 April, 2025**

**313** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr D. Hartley that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Malabar Community Funding Investment Committee held on 8 April, 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**11.8. Bengalla Community Funding Investment Committee Meeting - 16 April 2025**

**314** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Hartley and Cr M. Morris that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Bengalla Community Funding Investment Committee held on 16 April 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**11.9. Mangoola Coal Community Funding Investment Committee - 28 April 2025**

**315** RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Hartley and Cr M. Morris that:  
Council NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Mangoola Coal Community Funding Investment Committee Meeting held on 28 April 2025 and ADOPTS the recommendations contained therein.

In Favour Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward

Against: Nil

**12. Notices of Motion**

Nil.

**13. Councillors Reports****13.1 Tommy Emmanuel Concert**

Cr R Scholes advised Council that he attended the Tommy Emmanuel concert representing Council to congratulate Mr. Emmanuel for receiving an honorary Doctor of Music from the University of Newcastle.

**13.2 AGL Sculpture Opening**

Cr R Scholes advised Council that he attended the opening of the AGL Chair sculpture in the innovation prescient

**13.3 Proposed Youth Coun**

Cr J. Drayton advised Council that he has attended 10 local schools to discuss the Youth Council and involvement of the Youth with our Shire and our STEM System.



## 14. Written Questions

Nil.

## 15. Questions for Next Meeting

### 15.1 NetZero Targets

Cr G. McNeill asked if Council can lobby the State and Federal Governments for information regarding baseline targets regarding Councils current Net Zero targets?

## 16. Adjournment into Closed Council

316 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr D. Marshall that:

Council adjourn into Closed Session and members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the provisions outlined in Section 17 below.

In Favour: Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward.

Against: Nil.

The meeting was closed to the public at this stage.

## 17. Closed Council

### 17.1. DRAFT Risk Appetite Statements

*This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.*

*Council considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.*

317 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr D. Marshall that:

Council adopts the Risk Appetite Statements contained in the report.

In Favour: Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward.

Against: Nil.





## 18. Resumption of Open Council

318 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. Marshall and Cr G. McNeill that:

The meeting return to Open Council.

In Favour: Cr C. Bailey, Cr A. Barry, Cr D. Douglas, Cr J. Drayton, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Hartley, Cr G. McNeill, Cr R. Mahajan, Cr D. Marshall, Cr M. Morris, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward.

Against: Nil.

## 19. Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 6:54pm.

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PAGES 1 to 17) WERE CONFIRMED AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 24 JUNE, 2025 AND ARE A FULL AND ACCURATE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY, 2025.**

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

.....  
Cr J. Drayton  
**Chairperson**