

MINUTES OF THE STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE TEC MEETING ROOM, TERTIARY EDUCATION CENTRE, 87 HILL STREET, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2025 COMMENCING AT 4.10PM.

PRESENT: Cr J. Drayton (Chair), Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr L. Dunn, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr R. Mahajan, Cr M. Morris, Mr D. Finnigan (General Manager), Ms S. Pope (Director – Planning & Environment), Ms S. Richards (Director - Community & Economy), Ms T. Folpp (Environmental Planning Officer), Mrs T. Ward (Sustainability Officer), Ms A. Hathway (Legal Counsell (VC)) Mr N. Mowbray (Policy Officer) and Mrs M. Sandell-Hay (Acting Manager - Governance & Risk).

1 Acknowledgement of Country

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

2 Apologies

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

The apology for inability to attend the meeting submitted by Cr G. McNeill be ACCEPTED.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr C. Bailey and Cr S. Ward that:

The Minutes of the State Significant Development Committee Meeting held on **10 June, 2025**, a copy of which has been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

4 Disclosure of Any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Nil

5 Business Arising

Nil



6 Business

6.1 Maxwell Joint Tailings & Reject Management Project - Council Comments on Modification Report

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

The SSD Committee provides feedback on and endorses the submission on the Maxwell Joint Tailings Management Project (SSD-9526 MOD 3) tabled at the Committee meeting.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

6.2 Activities Summary for State Significant Development and Energy Generation Projects

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

The information contained in this report be noted.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

7 Adjournment into Closed Committee

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D. Douglas and Cr C. Bailey that:

The Committee adjourn into Closed Session.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil



8 Closed Committee

8.3 Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro - Planning Agreement Initial Letter of Offer

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed: (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or (iii) reveal a trade secret.

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

Council

1. Notes the Initial Letter of Offer for a Planning Agreement with Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Trust (see Attachment A); and
2. Authorises Staff to continue negotiations with Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Trust, giving effect to the recommendations outlined in Attachment B.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

9 Resumption of Open Committee

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

The meeting return to Open Committee.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr C. Bailey, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward and Cr R. Scholes.

Against: Nil.

The Mayor read out the resolution from Close Committee.

10 Date of Next Meeting

9 September, 2025

11 Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 4.41pm.

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Mr D. Finnigan
General Manager

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Cr J. Drayton
Chairperson