

MINUTES OF THE STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE SEMINAR ROOMS MUSWELLBROOK LIBRARY, 136 BRIDGE STREET, MUSWELLBROOK ON 9 DECEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 4:14PM.

PRESENT: Cr J. Drayton (Chair), Cr D. Hartley, Cr L. Dunn, Cr G. McNeill (VC), Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes (VC) and Cr S. Ward.

IN ATTENDANCE: 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), Mr N. Mowbray (Policy Officer), Ms L. Ward (EA to Mayor & GM) and Mrs M. Sandell-Hay (Governance Officer).

1 Acknowledgement of Country

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

2 Apologies

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

The apology for inability to attend the meeting submitted by Cr C. Bailey and Cr D. Douglas be ACCEPTED.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward, Cr G. McNeill and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

The Minutes of the State Significant Development Committee Meeting held on **11 November 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 D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward, Cr G. McNeill and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

4 Disclosure of Any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Nil

5 Business Arising

Nil



6 Business

6.1 Denman Renewable Energy Hub Battery Energy Storage System – Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement

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

The Committee ENDORSES the draft submission on the Denman Renewable Energy Hub Battery Energy Storage System for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward, Cr G. McNeill and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

6.2 Upper Hunter South Solar Farm - Council comments on the Environmental Impact Statement

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

The Committee ENDORSES the draft submission on the Upper Hunter South Solar Farm for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure including the letter dated 9 December, 2025 addressed to Senior Environmental Assessment Officer Kate Tierney.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward, Cr G. McNeill and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

6.3 Muswellbrook Solar Farm – Traffic Management Plan

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

The Committee ENDORSES the draft comments on the Muswellbrook Solar Farm Traffic Management Plan for submission to the Proponent for the Project, Ox2.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward, Cr G. McNeill and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil



6.4 Activities Summary for State Significant Development and Energy Generation Projects

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr L. Dunn and Cr S. Ward that:
The information contained in this report be noted.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Hartley, Cr D. Marshall, Cr L. Dunn, Cr S. Ward, Cr G. McNeill and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

7 Adjournment into Closed Committee

8 Closed Committee

Nil

9 Resumption of Open Committee

10 Date of Next Meeting

10 February, 2025

11 Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 4:37pm.

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Mr D. Finnigan
General Manager

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Cr J. Drayton
Chairperson