

**MINUTES OF THE STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, TERTIARY EDUCATION CENTRE, 87 HILL STREET, MUSWELLBROOK ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 4:14PM**

**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, Mr D. Finnigan (General Manager), Ms S. Pope (Director – Planning & Environment), Ms S. Richards (Director - Community & Economy), Mr J. Hogan (Chief Financial Officer), Ms T. Folpp (Environmental Planning Officer), Mrs T. Ward (Environmental Planning Officer), Mrs M. Sandell-Hay (Governance Officer), Ms L. Ward (EA to Mayor & GM), Mr N. Mowbray (Policy Officer) and Mr K. Oldham (ITC Officer).

## **1 Acknowledgement of Country**

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

## **2 Apologies**

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

The Minutes of the State Significant Development Committee Meeting held on **9 December, 2026**, 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 **Bengalla Mine Modification 8 – Council Comments on the Modification Report**

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

The submission tabled at the Committee Meeting be endorsed by the State Significant Development 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

### 6.2 **Muswellbrook Solar Farm - Council Comments on the Waste Management Plan**

#### **MOTION:**

RECOMMENDED by Cr D. Marshall and Cr D. Douglas that:

The response provided in Attachment B is endorsed by the State Significant Development Committee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND LOST

#### **ALTERNATE MOTION**

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

The response provided in Attachment B is endorsed by the State Significant Development Committee subject to the consultation period with Councillors being extended by one week, to 17 February 2026, to allow Councillors to provide further comments to Staff.

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



**6.3 Muswellbrook Solar Farm - Council Comments on the Accommodation and Employment Strategy**

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

The response tabled at the Committee meeting is endorsed by the State Significant Development Committee subject to the consultation period with Councillors being extended by one week, to 17 February 2026, to allow Councillors to provide further comments to Staff.

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

**6.4 Activities Summary for State Significant Development and Energy Generation Projects**

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

Nil

**8 Closed Committee**

Nil

**9 Resumption of Open Committee**

Nil

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

10 March 2026

**11 Closure**

The meeting was declared closed at 4:25pm.

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Mr D. Finnigan  
**General Manager**

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Cr J. Drayton  
**Chairperson**