

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 (Sustainability 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