

MINUTES OF THE STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE TEC MEETING ROOM, LEVEL 1 TERTIARY EDUCATION CENTRE, 87 HILL STREET, MUSWELLBROOK ON TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 4:00PM.

PRESENT: Cr J. Drayton (Chair), Cr D. Douglas, Cr G. McNeill, Cr D. Marshall, Cr R. Scholes and Cr S. Ward.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr A. Barry, 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)(VL), Mrs T. Ward (Environmental Planning Officer), Mrs M. Sandell-Hay (Governance Officer), Ms L. Ward (EA to Mayor & GM) and Mr D. Waddell (Trainee ICT Support Officer), Mr N. Mowbray (Policy Officer), Ms. C. Wilson (Administration Officer) and 3 people in the public gallery.

1 Acknowledgement of Country

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

2 Apologies

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

The apology for inability to attend the meeting submitted by Cr C. Bailey, Cr L. Dunn and Cr. D. Hartley be ACCEPTED.

In Favour: Cr J. Drayton, Cr D. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, 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 D. Marshall and Cr R. Scholes that:

The Minutes of the State Significant Development Committee Meeting held on **10 February, 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. Douglas, Cr D. Marshall, Cr S. Ward, Cr G. McNeill and Cr R. Scholes

Against: Nil

4 Disclosure of Any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cr D. Douglas - Declared a pecuniary interest in Item 6.3 - Cr D. Douglas advised Committee that her son has a contract with the Mt Pleasant Mine.

5 Business Arising

Nil



6 Business

6.1 Hunter Transmission Project - Council comments on the Submissions Report and Amendment Report

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr R. Scholes and Cr G. McNeill that:

The State Significant Development Committee ENDORSES the submission provided in Attachment A.

6.2 Muswellbrook Solar Farm - Revised Accommodation and Employment Strategy

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

The State Significant Development Committee:

1. Notes the responses in the Table that is Attachment A;
2. Supports the revised Accommodation and Employment Strategy for Muswellbrook Solar Farm subject to the commitments in that Strategy being fulfilled; and
3. Advises that the use of accommodation built for the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP), if built in Hebden Rd, is not supported by Council due to traffic safety and lack of legacy outcomes. This Temporary Worker Accommodation will only be used for the HTP project then decommissioned.

6.3 Mount Pleasant Mine MOD8 - Council comments

Disclosure of Interest

Cr D. Douglas - declared a pecuniary interest in this Item. Cr D. Douglas advised the Committee that her son has a contract with the Mt Pleasant mine.

At 4:24 pm Cr D. Douglas left the Council Chambers and therefore took no part in discussion or voting on this item.

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

The State Significant Development Committee ENDORSES the draft submission on Mount Pleasant Modification 8, to be tabled at the Committee Meeting, for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

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

Against: Nil

At 4:29 pm Cr D. Douglas returned to the Council Chambers and returned to their chair.



6.4 Activities Summary for State Significant Development

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

The information contained in this report be noted.

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

Against: Nil

7 Closed Committee

Nil

8 Date of Next Meeting

12 May, 2026

9 Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 4:32pm.

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Mr D. Finnigan
General Manager

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Cr J. Drayton
Chairperson