



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

18 February 2025

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 2PM**

The Mayor declared the Public Forum opened at **1.30pm** and welcomed the Councillors, Staff, Media, Members of the Gallery and those following on the Live Streaming.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country.

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 1) Mr Mayor presented a LGNSW 15-year Certificate, and a Council Certificate of Appreciation, to ex Councillor Narelle Payne after her 16 years' service as a Councillor over a 20 year period.
- 2) Awards were then presented to winners of the 2024 Narrandera Shire Christmas Decoration Competition.
 - Best Business – Narrandera Bakery
 - Best Street – Dalgetty Street Narrandera
 - Best Barellan House – Jane Barrett
 - Best Narrandera House – The Quince family

Unfortunately, there were no nominations received for the Best Grong Grong House, Best Binya House and Best Rural Mailbox.

- 3) Council's Community Development Manager, Sue Killham, then gave a presentation on Narrandera Shire's Cultural & Library Services.

The Mayor declared the Ordinary meeting opened at 2pm.

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting opened at **2pm** and welcomed Councillors, Council Officers, media, members of the gallery and those following via livestreaming. Advice was provided of Council's Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Evacuation Plan and locations of amenities.

Present

Chairperson Mayor Neville Kschenka, Cr Sue Ruffles, Cr Bob Manning, Cr Jenny Clarke OAM, Cr Cameron Rouse, Cr Peter Dawson, Cr Cameron Lander, Cr Braden Lyons, Cr Tracey Lewis

George Cowan (GM), Shane Wilson (DGMI), Cian Middleton (DGMCC), Vicki Maher (EA), Minute Taker Melissa Johnson (CAA)

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 APPLICATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

Nil

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The Mayor reminded Councillors and Council Officers of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Councillors and Council Officers to disclose any such interests:

General Manager George Cowan declared a Non Pecuniary Significant Interest in Item 14.1 under the Local Government Act as *report deals with annual performance review of GM* and took no further part in debate or discussion. GM as item 14.1 non pecuniary interest.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION 25/001

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Peter Dawson

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10 December 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

7.1 MAYOR REPORT - DECEMBER 2024, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 25/002

Moved: Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Mayor report for December 2024, January, and February 2025.

CARRIED**8 NOTICES OF MOTION AND QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE****8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - KARAWATHA DRIVE INTERSECTION****RESOLUTION 25/003**

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That:

1. A report be brought back to this Council on the Nallabooma (Karawatha Drive) intersection with State Road (Irrigation Way), regarding plans to upgrade the intersection, improvements and costs, for the better safety of all.

CARRIED**9 REPORTS OF COUNCILLORS**

Nil

10 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**10.1 AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 9 JANUARY 2025****RESOLUTION 25/004**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee held on Thursday 9 January 2025.

CARRIED**10.2 AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES - 6 FEBRUARY 2025****RESOLUTION 25/005**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2025.

CARRIED**11 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER****11.1 LAKE COOLAH OFF RIVER STORAGE****RESOLUTION 25/006**

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Notes the NSW Government stated position on Lake Coolah.
2. Notes the failure of Council's application for funding for the feasibility study.
3. Supports the lodgement of future applications for funding where it is clear that Lake Coolah meets the essential criteria, and which do not commit Council to significant co-contributions.

CARRIED**11.2 ENDORSEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****RESOLUTION 25/007**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Braden Lyons

That Council:

1. Endorses the Terms of Reference for the Australia Day Planning Advisory Committee, appended at *Attachment 1*.
2. Report back to council with clarification in terms of voting rights for alternate delegates.

CARRIED**11.3 ENDORSEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR KOALA REGENERATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE****RESOLUTION 25/008**

Moved: Cr Braden Lyons

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Endorses the Terms of Reference for the Koala Regeneration Advisory Committee, appended at *Attachment 1*
2. Report back to council with clarification in terms of voting rights for alternate

delegates.

CARRIED

12 REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.1 SPECIAL VARIATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - 31 DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 25/009

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Special Variation (SV) Improvement Plan Progress Report for the six-month period from 01 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 inclusive, appended at *Attachment 1*.

CARRIED

12.2 ENDORSEMENT OF SUBMISSION ON DRAFT MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

RESOLUTION 25/010

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the consultation draft of the new Model Code of Meeting Practice, issued by the Office of Local Government on 17 December 2024 and appended at *Attachment 1*.
2. Authorises the General Manager to make a submission to the Office of Local Government, prior to 28 February 2025, opposing the proposed changes to:
 - (a) restrictions on pre-meeting briefing sessions,
 - (b) remote attendance by Councillors and staff via audio-visual means,
 - (c) the ability to apply speaking time limits, and
 - (d) the role of the General Manager in relation to Council meetings.

CARRIED

12.3 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2022-26 MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT - 31 DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 25/011

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Delivery Program 2022-26 Mid-Year Progress Report as at 31 December 2024, appended as *Attachment 1*.
2. Notes that the report will be published to Council's website and made available for public view.

CARRIED

12.4 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2022-26 MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT - 31 DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 25/012

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-26 Mid-Year Progress Report as at 31 December 2024, appended as *Attachment 1*, and
2. Publishes the report to the community using the website of Council.

CARRIED

12.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT - DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN & DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

RESOLUTION 25/013

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Peter Dawson

That Council:

1. Receives the *Stronger Together* Community Engagement Outcomes Report, appended at *Attachment 1*.
2. Notes that the results and findings of the *Stronger Together* community engagement will be used to develop the draft Community Strategic Plan and draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan, which will be tabled at the March Ordinary Meeting for public exhibition.

CARRIED

12.6 PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS FOR COUNCILLORS POST-2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION 25/014

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Formally notes the tabling of the Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns by Councillors following the 2024 Local Government Elections, pursuant to clause 4.25 of the Code of Conduct.

CARRIED

12.7 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT (QBRS) - DECEMBER 2024 (QUARTER 2)

RESOLUTION 25/015

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the December 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement, appended at *Attachment 1*, and endorses the variations contained therein.

CARRIED

12.8 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - OCTOBER 2024

RESOLUTION 25/016

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Statement of Investments as at 31 October 2024.

CARRIED

12.9 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 25/017

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Statement of Investments as at 30 November 2024.

CARRIED

12.10 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - DECEMBER 2024

RESOLUTION 25/018

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Cameron Rouse

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Statement of Investments as at 31 December 2024.

CARRIED

12.11 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS - JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 25/019

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Statement of Investments as at 31 January 2025.

CARRIED

12.12 MONTHLY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 25/020

Moved: Cr Cameron Rouse

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Monthly Financial Performance Report for the month of January 2025, as detailed in this report.

CARRIED

13 REPORTS OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

13.1 NARRANDERA WATER TREATMENT PLANT - TREATMENT OPTIONS REPORT

RESOLUTION 25/021

Moved: Cr Cameron Lander

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council endorses:

1. The Treatment Options Report for the new Narrandera Water Treatment Plant

prepared by NSW Public Works.

2. That grant funding be sought to undertake the preconstruction activities, acknowledging that a co-contribution is required.
3. That an application be made to acquire the identified Crown land adjacent to the proposed site.

CARRIED

13.2 FIXING LOCAL ROADS 4 - OLD WAGGA ROAD UPGRADE

RESOLUTION 25/022

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Braden Lyons

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the environmental constraints found on Old Wagga Road and supports the reduced scope of works to be restricted to the 1.7km section of road east from Elizabeth Street.

CARRIED

13.3 SECTION 7.12 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION PLAN 2025

RESOLUTION 25/023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Section 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2025 and approves it for public consultation for a minimum 28-day period.

CARRIED

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION 25/024

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

A motion was moved that Council suspend standing orders to provide open discussion on Item 13.4 – Narrandera Entrance Statement Signage and Bearded Dragon Sculpture.

CARRIED

13.4 NARRANDERA ENTRANCE STATEMENT AND LIZARD SCULPTURE

MOTION

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

That Council:

1. Considers the entrance statement signage to be placed on the vacant block on the corner of Larmer and Cadell Streets, Narrandera and, if supportive
 - a. nominates the preferred base design for sign
 - b. endorses the allocation of funding within the upcoming 2025-26 budget deliberations.
2. Considers the installation of a Bearded Dragon sculpture in front of the Destination & Discovery Hub and, if supportive
 - a. endorses the allocation of funding within the upcoming 2025-26 budget deliberations.

RESOLUTION 25/025

Moved: Cr Tracey Lewis

Seconded: Cr Bob Manning

That:

1. Item 13.4 Lay on the Table with a further report returned to council post community feedback.
2. Council place on exhibition for public consultation on usage options (signage, resale, structures) for this land at the Corner Larmer and Cadell Streets.
3. Council place on exhibition for public consultation for the placement of a Lizard Sculpture at the Destination Discovery Hub (DDH).

CARRIED

The Amendment then became the Motion and when put was **Carried**

13.5 DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES - DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION 25/026

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Sue Ruffles

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Development Services Activities Report for December 2024 and January 2025.

CARRIED

14 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 25/027

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Jenny Clarke OAM

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:

14.1 Mayor Report - General Manager Annual Review 2024-25

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - a of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

CARRIED

At 3.57 pm, all staff vacated the meeting for discussion and voting on Item 14.1

14.1 MAYOR REPORT - GENERAL MANAGER ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25

RESOLUTION 25/028

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Cameron Lander

That Council:

1. Notes the General Manager Performance Review Committee's Annual Performance Appraisal as "*Exceeds Expectations*".
2. Endorses a 4% increase to the General Manager's existing Total Remuneration Package, in recognition of a positive performance review outcome.

CARRIED

At this point, time being 4.02pm, all staff returned to the meeting.

14.2 OPEN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 25/029

Moved: Cr Bob Manning

Seconded: Cr Tracey Lewis

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

CARRIED

15 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

The meeting resumed into open session and the Mayor read the recommendation of the Confidential item.

16 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 4.04pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 March 2025.

.....
GENERAL MANAGER

.....
CHAIRPERSON

Unconfirmed