

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SINGLETON COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS QUEEN STREET SINGLETON ON TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2024, COMMENCING AT 5.49pm.**

**PRESENT:**

Crs S Moore (Mayor and Chairperson), G Adamthwaite, S George, P Thompson, A McGowan, M McLachlan, P Watson, S Yeomans and D Thompson.

**APOLOGIES**

H Jenkins

170/24 **MOVED** Cr D Thompson **SECONDED** Cr P Thompson that the apologies from for non-attendance at the meeting be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, General Manager; Vicki Brereton, Director Organisation & Community Capacity; Dwight Graham, Director Corporate & Commercial Services; Mary-Anne Crawford, Acting Director Infrastructure and Planning; Erika Wagstaff, Governance Lead, Samantha Calleja, Executive Assistant, Kellie Jordan, Integrated Planning and Reporting Specialist, Briony O'Hara, Coordinator Communications, Jake Cherry, IT Support and Rebecca Bailey, Governance Lead. There were representatives of the media and members of the public present in the gallery.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

171/24 **MOVED** Cr M McLachlan **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that the minutes of Meeting of Singleton Council held on Tuesday 26 November 2024, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**DISCLOSURES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cr Peree Watson declared a significant non-pecuniary interest regarding CC26/24 Waterworks Lane Land Acquisition as she is a senior electorate officer in the electorate office of Jenny Aitchison, the Member for Maitland who is the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite declared a pecuniary interest regarding DCCS50/24. Draft Pensioner Concession Policy as he and wife are aged pensioners and are in receipt of the pensioners rebate under the NSW Government Act 1993 "Chapter 15, Part 8 Concessions" of the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

Cr Patrick Thompson declared a non-significant non-pecuniary interest regarding DI&P57/24 Budget allocation for horse related activities associated with Star Club Equestrian as he works in the industry.

**WITHDRAWAL OF ITEMS AND LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Nil.

- 172/24 **MOVED** Cr G Adamthwaite **SECONDED** Cr P Thompson That the following item be brought forward for consideration - DI&P57/24 Budget allocation for horse related activities associated with Star Club Equestrian.

**CARRIED****DI&P57/24 Budget allocation for horse related activities associated with Star Club Equestrian****FILE:24/00051**

The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider approving a budget allocation in the 2024/25 capital works program for the development of infrastructure to support Star Club Equestrian operations at Lot 1921 DP 818767, located at 54 Dyrning Road. The proposed infrastructure will include facilities to ensure the successful establishment and ongoing functionality of Star Club Equestrian.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council considers the 5 options below and determines the future action by endorsement of 1 of the 5 options:

1. Council authorises the expenditure of \$299,000 for the capital works which support the essential development of Star Club Equestrian at the designated site;
2. Council authorises the expenditure of \$385,000 for the capital works which support the partial development of Star Club Equestrian at the designated site;
3. Council authorises the expenditure of \$722,500 for the capital works which support the full development of Star Club Equestrian at the designated site;
4. Council does not allocate any funding for the development of Star Club Equestrian at the designated site and will explore potential grant funding options for the project; or
5. Council does not allocate any funding to support the development of Star Club Equestrian at the designated site.

- 173/24 **MOVED** Cr S Moore, Mayor **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor

1. Council does not allocate any funding to support the development of Star Club Equestrian at the designated site.
2. Investigate the site or an alternate site for the establishment of a Council owned equestrian facility in which all community organisations have access to and consider the allocation of funds in 25/26 budget.
3. Rescind the resolution 21 May 2024 regarding the Star Club lease negotiations.

**CARRIED**

## Notices Of Motion

**NM2/24 Notice of Motion - Investigate Electric Vehicle Charging Stations****FILE:21/00177**

Councillor D Thompson has given notice of his intention to move the following motion:

1. That Council staff look at the feasibility and potential costs of providing 2-3 EV fast charging stations at the Visitor Information Centre.
2. That Council staff investigate additional funding opportunities, including state and federal grants and any schemes offered by the private sector to support installation of the 2-3 EV fast charging stations.
3. Provide a briefing to Councillor's within 4 months.

174/24 **MOVED** Cr D Thompson **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan

1. That Council staff look at the feasibility and potential costs of providing 2-3 EV fast charging stations at the Visitor Information Centre.
2. That Council staff investigate additional funding opportunities, including state and federal grants and any schemes offered by the private sector to support installation of the 2-3 EV fast charging stations.
3. Provide a briefing to Councillor's within 4 months and report to Council.
4. Should external funding opportunities become available before the report is presented to Council, the officers are able to make application.

**CARRIED***General Manager's Report (Items Requiring Decision)***GM73/24 Minutes - Mount Thorley Warkworth Voluntary Planning Agreement Community Committee 07/11/2024****FILE:24/00031/001-04**

The Mount Thorley Warkworth Voluntary Planning Agreement (MTW VPA) Community Committee held its meeting on 7 November 2024. The minutes were provided for Council's information.

At the meeting 7 November 2024 an amended Terms of Reference was adopted. A copy of the new Terms of Reference were provided for Council's consideration.

175/24 **MOVED** Cr G Adamthwaite **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that Council:

1. Notes the minutes of the Mount Thorley Warkworth Voluntary Planning Agreement Community Committee meeting held on the 7 November 2024 at Attachment 1.
2. Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Mount Thorley Warkworth Voluntary Planning Agreement Community Committee at Attachment 2.

**CARRIED**

**GM74/24 Minutes - United Wambo Voluntary Planning Agreement Community Committee 14/11/2024 FILE:24/00070/003-05**

The United Wambo Voluntary Planning Agreement (UW VPA) Community Committee held its meeting on 14 November 2024. The minutes were provided for Council's information.

At the meeting 14 November 2024 an amended Terms of Reference was adopted. A copy of the new Terms of Reference were provided for Council's consideration.

176/24 **MOVED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that Council:

1. Notes the minutes of the United Wambo Voluntary Planning Agreement Community Committee meeting held on the 14 November 2024 at Attachment 1.
2. Adopts the Terms of Reference for the United Wambo Voluntary Planning Agreement Community Committee at Attachment 2.

**CARRIED**

**GM69/24 Community Engagement Strategy Review FILE:23/00559**

A report was provided to Council to with the results of a recent review undertaken of the Create Singleton – Community Engagement Strategy, following the recent election.

Councils are required to undertake a review of the Community Engagement Strategy within three months of the election. The Create Singleton Community Engagement Strategy was reviewed as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

177/24 **MOVED** Cr D Thompson **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that Council

1. Place the reviewed Create Singleton Community Engagement Strategy on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days and provide public notice of its intention to adopt the reviewed strategy subject to consideration of submissions received.
2. Reviewed Create Singleton Community Engagement Strategy be adopted following the public exhibition period subject to submissions received and provided there are no alterations to the document because of objections or feedback.
3. Should objections or feedback be received, a further report be presented to Council for the adoption of the reviewed Create Singleton Community Engagement Strategy with consideration of the submissions received during the public exhibition period.

**CARRIED**

*Corporate and Commercial Services Report (Items Requiring Decision)***DCCS49/24 Minutes - Singleton Property Advisory Panel 14 November 2024 and appoint a third Councillor Delegate until September 2026****FILE:20/00126/002**

A report was provided to note the minutes of the Singleton Property Advisory Panel (PAP) meeting of 14 November and to appoint a third Councillor Delegate for the until September 2026.

178/24 **MOVED** Cr G Adamthwaite **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that Council, in relation to the Singleton Property Advisory Panel:

1. Note the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2024;
2. Councillor M McLachlan has been elected by show of hands to be the Councillor Delegate to meet the quota for Property Advisory Panel for the period until September 2026

**CARRIED**

Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite left the meeting, the time being 06:32 PM

**DCCS50/24 Draft Pensioner Concession Policy** **FILE:POL/6008**

A report was provided to consider the revised draft Pensioner Concession Policy, which ensures a consistent approach in dealing with ratepayers and debtors.

179/24 **MOVED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor **SECONDED** Cr D Thompson that Council:

1. Adopt Draft Policy POL/6008.6 Pensioner Concession Policy.
2. Rescind Policy POL/6008.5 Pensioner Concession Policy.

**CARRIED**

Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite returned to the meeting, the time being 06:33 PM

**DCCS52/24 Draft Investment Policy** **FILE:POL/6004**

A report was provided to consider the revised draft Investment Policy

180/24 **MOVED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor **SECONDED** Cr P Thompson that Council:

1. Adopt draft POL/6004.10 - Investment Policy.
2. Rescind POL/6004.9 - Investment Policy.

**CARRIED**

*Infrastructure & Planning Report (Items Requiring Decision)***DI&P63/24 Draft Walking and Cycling Plan****FILE:23/00290/004**

A report was provided to consider placing the draft Walking and Cycling Plan on public exhibition for 28 days in February 2025.

181/24 **MOVED** Cr S Moore, Mayor **SECONDED** Cr P Watson that:

1. Prior to the draft Walking and Cycling Plan being placed on public exhibition, include McMullins Road Branxton as a key link route and review the pictures in the draft document and remove those that are located on private property.
2. Following this, place the draft Walking and Cycling Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 3 February 2025 to 3 March 2025 and public notice be given of Council's intention to adopt the draft document subject to consideration of submissions received.
3. The draft Walking and Cycling Plan be adopted following the public exhibition period, provided that no submissions or objections are received and that no alterations are required to the draft document.
4. Should any objections or submissions be received or any alterations be required to the draft document, a further report be presented to Council prior to adopting the draft Walking and Cycling Plan.

**CARRIED****DI&P64/24 Adoption of the draft Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground  
Plan of Management****FILE:22/00230/005**

A report was provided to consider the adoption of the draft Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground Plan of Management, which was provided with this report. The adoption of the Plan of Management (PoM) will guide the use, development, and management of the Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the community.

182/24 **MOVED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that Council adopts the Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground Plan of Management in accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

**CARRIED****DI&P57/24 Budget allocation for horse related activities  
associated with Star Club Equestrian****FILE:24/00051**

*This item was considered earlier in the meeting.*

**DI&P65/24 Huntlee Draft Submission****FILE:150.2024.18**

A report was provided to Councillors with a draft submission for endorsement (The draft submission is in regard to State Significant Development Application 70748466 (SSD-70748466) – Huntlee New Town Stage 2 – 1771 Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury).

The draft submission identifies matters of concern raised by Council staff and seeks further clarification from the Applicant on a range of issues. A preliminary holding submission in the form of an objection was provided to the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 19 August 2024. This was during the public exhibition period and was subject to the endorsement of this submission by Council.

183/24 **MOVED** Cr S Moore, Mayor **SECONDED** Cr P Watson that Council includes in the draft submission the importance of connectivity with Branxton Railway Station on the Huntlee New Town Stage 2 State Significant Development Application 70748466 and delegates authority to the General Manager to lodge the submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

**CARRIED****DI&P66/24 Hunter Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone -  
Ausgrid Network Infrastructure Consultation****FILE:19/00046**

A report was provided with a draft submission regarding the Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure (Project) and Ausgrid's proposal to build, operate and maintain the infrastructure between Muswellbrook and Kurri Kurri.

184/24 **MOVED** Cr D Thompson **SECONDED** Cr G Adamthwaite that Council:

1. Considers the draft submission on the Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure Project, as proposed in accordance with the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*; and
2. Delegate to the General Manager to forward the submission to Ausgrid.

**CARRIED**

Cr Peree Watson left the meeting, the time being 06:44 PM

**DI&P67/24 Waterworks Lane Land Acquisition - Land and Environment Court Appeal****FILE:23/00708**

A report was provided for Council's consideration in Closed Council on the grounds that the report contains advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

- 185/24 **MOVED** Cr G Adamthwaite **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that the report on Waterworks Lane Land Acquisition - Land and Environment Court Appeal be considered in Closed Council with the press and public excluded in accordance with Section 10A(2) (g) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds that the report contains advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

**CARRIED**

Cr Peree Watson returned to the meeting, the time being 06:44 PM

*General Manager's Report (Items for Information)***GM76/24 Minutes - Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame Committee - 31/10/2024****FILE:24/00153**

The Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame Committee held its meeting on 31 October 2024. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

**NOTED****GM75/24 Minutes - Combined Rural Halls - 31 October 2024 - Hall Reports October 2024****FILE:01/0301**

The Combined Rural Halls Committee held its ordinary meeting on 31 October 2024. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

**NOTED**



*Corporate and Commercial Services Report (Items for Information)***DCCS51/24 Investment Report - November 2024****FILE:24/00325**

A report was provided advising invested funds as of 30 November 2024.

**NOTED***Organisation and Community Capacity Report (Items for Information)***DOCC40/24 Minutes - Singleton & District Disability  
Advisory Committee - 12/11/2024****FILE:24/00036**

The Singleton & District Disability Advisory Committee held its ordinary meeting on 12 November 2024. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

**NOTED****DOCC41/24 Minutes - Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee -  
12/11/2024 FILE:24/00361**

The Singleton Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee held its ordinary meeting on 12 November 2024. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

**NOTED****DOCC42/24 Annual Chairpersons Report December 2024 – Audit  
Risk and Improvement Committee FILE:23/00689**

The Annual Chairpersons Report for Councils Audit Risk and Improvement Committee was provided for Council's information.

**NOTED***Infrastructure & Planning Report (Items for Information)***DI&P68/24 Minutes - Singleton Heritage Advisory Committee -  
15/11/2024****FILE:20/00035**

The Singleton Heritage Advisory Committee held its ordinary meeting on 15 November 2024. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

**NOTED***Questions Given***QG9/24 Questions of Which Notice Has Been Given - 26**

**November 2024**

**FILE:24/00037**

Responses were provided following Councillor questions the 26 November 2024 Council meeting:

- 1. Cr Daniel Thompson – Signage – Singleton Bypass

**NOTED**

186/24 **MOVED** Cr M McLachlan **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that Council **MOVE** to Closed Council (Confidential Section of Ordinary Meeting – Closed to the Public) at **06.47PM**

**CARRIED**

**OPEN COUNCIL RESUMED AT 06.58PM.**

*Closed Council*

**CC26/24 Waterworks Lane Land Acquisition - Land and Environment Court Appeal**

**FILE:23/00708**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council that:

- a) Provides delegation to the General Manager, or their delegate to accept a compensation amount detailed under Option One in this report, following receipt of further advice from Council’s Barrister, in the current Singleton Council v Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) Class 3 Land and Environment Court proceedings.
- b) Delegate authority to the General Manager and Mayor to execute all documents under seal as required for the Court appeal process.

187/24 **MOVED** Cr M McLachlan **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that the recommendations of Closed Council be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**The meeting closed at 07.00PM and the minutes pages 1 to 10 were confirmed on 18 February 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 10 December 2024.**

.....  
Mayor/Chairperson

.....  
General Manager

**PUBLIC FORUMLIST**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – 10 December 2024**  
**PAGE 1 OF 1**

**Item Details**

DI&P57/24 – Budget allocation for horse related activities associated with Star Club  
 Equestrian

**Page No's**

131

**Speakers**

| Speakers <b>For</b> the recommendation |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Name and address                       | Representing self/organisation |
|  |                                |
|  |                                |

| Speakers <b>Against</b> the recommendation |  |
|--|--|
| Mr Arne Redemski                           | Self   |
| Mrs Jessica Lindsay                        | Self and Equestrian organizations                              |
| Mrs Denise Geelan                          | Organisation -<br>Singleton ponyclub, Singleton Gymkhana club. |