

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SINGLETON COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS QUEEN STREET SINGLETON ON TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025, COMMENCING AT 5.30pm.

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

Cr H Jenkins,

45/25 **MOVED** Cr M McLachlan **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that the apologies from for non-attendance at the meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

IN ATTENDANCE

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, General Manager; Dwight Graham, Director Corporate & Commercial Services; Damian Morris, Acting Director Infrastructure and Planning; Melinda Curtis, Executive Manager and Rebecca Bailey, Governance Lead. There were representatives of the media and members of the public present in the gallery.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

46/25 **MOVED** Cr G Adamthwaite **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that the minutes of Meeting of Singleton Council held on Tuesday 15 April 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

DISCLOSURES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

MM3/25 Weed Growth in the Singleton LGA

FILE:25/00006

Mayoral Minutes

MM3/25 Weed Growth in the Singleton LGA

FILE:25/00006

There is an ongoing concern regarding the management of invasive weeds along the rail and highway corridors within the Singleton Local Government Area.

While these transport corridors are vital to our region's connectivity and economic

growth, they have unfortunately become major pathways for the spread of invasive weeds. Council continues to receive numerous reports from landholders and community members about increasing weed infestations along railway lines and highway verges.

These infestations pose a serious threat to local biodiversity and agricultural productivity and undermine the significant efforts of landholders who invest time and resources into managing weeds on their own properties.

Although Council has taken action to manage weeds within areas under our responsibility, the control of weeds on land owned or managed by state agencies, particularly rail and transport authorities, is beyond our direct jurisdiction. However, the impacts of inaction are being felt widely across our community.

Given this, I recommend that Council advocate for a coordinated, properly resourced approach to weed control along these key transport corridors, in partnership with relevant state authorities.

47/25 **MOVED** Cr S Moore, Mayor **SECONDED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor that Council:

1. Write to the Hon Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport, Wayne Johnson, CEO ARTC and Erin Flaherty, Chair Transport Asset Manager and in so doing draw their attention to the unacceptable weed growth in the Great Northern Railway corridor and the New England Highway corridor, both of which bisect this region;
2. Views the risk of weeds spreading from the Rail & Highway corridors to adjacent prime agricultural land as unacceptably high;
3. Requests that the Minister direct the Department to allocate the funds and resources necessary to control, manage and eradicate weeds on land controlled by Transport for NSW, ARTC and Transport Asset Manager and that they liaise with Singleton Council, Upper Hunter County Council and Hunter Local Land Services on the delivery of weed control in the rail and highway corridors in the region.

CARRIED

General Manager's Report (Items Requiring Decision)

GM25/25 Fee Waiver Request - Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service - Upper Hunter Rescue Ball 2025

FILE:19/00106

The purpose of this report was seeking Council's endorsement to waive the hiring fees associated with the 2025 Upper Hunter Rescue Ball, which is being organised by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

The Ball is scheduled to be held at the Singleton Civic Centre on Saturday 16th August 2025 and the quoted hiring fees for the event total \$4,007.

48/25 **MOVED** Cr D Thompson **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that Council waives the quoted hiring fees for the use of Singleton Civic Centre, totalling \$4007, in a show of support for the 2025 Westpac Helicopter Service - Upper Hunter Rescue Ball that will be held

on the 16th August 2025.

CARRIED

Corporate and Commercial Services Report (Items Requiring Decision)

DCCS7/25 March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement **FILE:24/00319**

The purpose of this report was seeking Council's approval for the March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs).

49/25 **MOVED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor **SECONDED** Cr G Adamthwaite that Council:

1. Adopt the recommended budgetary changes presented in the March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement.
2. Note that Council staff will undertake a suite of Commercial Reviews with a view to identifying opportunities for financial improvements and these will be the subject of further Council briefings and reports.

CARRIED

Infrastructure & Planning Report (Items Requiring Decision)

DI&P19/25 Water and Sewer Customer Service Plan **FILE:24/00483/005**

The purpose of this report was seeking Council's endorsement for the public exhibition of the draft revised Customer Service Plan – Water and Sewer and related Levels of Service for the Water and Sewer Business Unit.

50/25 **MOVED** Cr S George, Deputy Mayor **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that Council:

1. Place the draft revised Customer Service Plan – Water and Sewer on public exhibition for 28 days, with public notice of the intention to adopt the draft Plan, subject to consideration of any submissions received.
2. If no negative submissions are received, adopt the revised draft Customer Service Plan – Water and Sewer and rescind the Customer Service Plan – Water and Sewer (2023).
3. Consider a further report should any negative submissions prior to the adoption of the draft revised Customer Service Plan – Water and Sewer with consideration of the submissions received during the public exhibition period.

CARRIED

DI&P15/25 Minutes - Heritage Advisory Committee - 28/02/2025 **FILE:25/00199**

The Heritage Advisory Committee held its ordinary meeting on 28 February 2025. The minutes of the meeting and the Terms of Reference were provided for Councils consideration.

51/25 **MOVED** Cr G Adamthwaite **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that Council

1. Notes the minutes of the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on 28 February 2025.
2. Rescind the previous Terms of Reference for the Heritage Advisory Committee.
3. Adopt the updated Terms of Reference for the Heritage Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

**DI&P16/25 Minutes - Sustainability Advisory Committee -
13/03/2025**

FILE:19/00046/003

The Sustainability Advisory Committee held its ordinary meeting on 13 March 2025. The minutes of the meeting and the Terms of Reference were provided for Councils consideration.

52/25 **MOVED** Cr M McLachlan **SECONDED** Cr G Adamthwaite that Council

1. Note the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2025.
2. Rescind the previous Terms of Reference for the Sustainability Advisory Committee.
3. Adopt the updated Terms of Reference for the Sustainability Advisory Committee.
4. Adopt the following recommendation made by the Sustainability Advisory Committee:

5.1 Proposal to Investigate Smart Flower for Singleton

That the Singleton Sustainability Advisory Committee seek a further report from staff detailing, amongst other things, management response to the risks, as well as how council would fund the installation, maintenance, depreciation, insurance and disposal of a Smart Flower.

CARRIED

**DI&P21/25 Offer to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement -
Terrain Solar**

FILE:25/00308

The purpose of this report was to advise Council that a report has been prepared for Council's consideration in Closed Council on the grounds that the report contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council; or (iii) reveal a trade secret.

53/25 **MOVED** Cr G Adamthwaite **SECONDED** Cr M McLachlan that the report on Offer to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement with Terrain Solar be considered in Closed Council with the press and public excluded in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act, 1993* on the grounds that the report contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council; or (iii) reveal a trade secret.

CARRIED

General Manager's Report (Items for Information)

**GM21/25 Minutes - Singleton Legacy Fund Governance Panel
and Fund Progress Report - March 2025 FILE:22/00153/001**

The Singleton Legacy Fund Governance Panel held a meeting on Wednesday 26 March 2025. The minutes of the meeting are shown as were provided for Council's information.

NOTED

GM22/25 Minutes - Upper Hunter County Council - 6 March 2025 FILE:25/00006

The Upper Hunter County Council held its meeting on 6 March 2025. The minutes of the meeting are shown as were provided for Council's information.

NOTED

GM23/25 IP+R - Operational Plan 2024/2025 - Six Month Update FILE:23/00559/00

The report was provided to Council and the community with a six-monthly status report on the 2024/2025 Operational Plan for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

NOTED

GM24/25 Service Reviews FILE:17/00820

As part of the NSW Office of Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, Council is required to identify a minimum of two services for the annual Service Review program in the Operational Plan. The list of completed service reviews was provided for Council's information.

NOTED

Corporate and Commercial Services Report (Items for Information)

**DCCS8/25 Minutes - Singleton and District Disability Advisory
Committee - 01/04/2025 FILE:25/00032**

The Singleton and District Disability Advisory Committee held its ordinary meeting on 1 April 2025. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

NOTED

DCCS9/25 Investment Report - April 2025

FILE:24/00325

In accordance with clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021* the following funds are invested under section 625 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* as at 30 April 2025.

NOTED

**DCCS10/25 Response to Notice of Motion NM1/25 - Councillor
and Staff Remuneration and Contractor Costs**

FILE:24/00319

A response was provided to councillors Notice of Motion regarding the Councillor fees, Staff costs and the Contractor Costs.

NOTED

Infrastructure & Planning Report (Items for Information)

**DI&P23/25 Minutes - Sports Council Committee Meeting -
10/04/2025**

FILE:25/00185

The Singleton Sports Council Committee held its ordinary meeting on 10 April 2025. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

NOTED

**DI&P24/25 Minutes - Extraordinary Meeting - Local Traffic
Committee - 17/04/2025**

FILE:25/00195

The Singleton Local Traffic Committee held its extraordinary meeting on 17 April 2025. The minutes of the meeting were provided for Council's information.

NOTED

54/25 **MOVED** Cr P Watson **SECONDED** Cr G Adamthwaite that Council **MOVE** to Closed Council (Confidential Section of Ordinary Meeting – Closed to the Public) at **5.48PM**

CARRIED

OPEN COUNCIL RESUMED AT 6.01.

*Closed Council***CC1/25 Offer to enter into a Planning Agreement with Terrain Solar****FILE:145.2024.3/04**

The Committee RECOMMENDED to Council that Council continue to negotiate the terms of the VPA, with in principle support to accept the value of the Developer's offer.

Upon being put to the meeting, the motion was declared carried.

For the Motion were Crs S Moore, Mayor, G G Adamthwaite, S George, Deputy Mayor, M M McLachlan, A A McGowan, P P Thompson, D D Thompson, P P Watson and S S Yeomans Total (9).

Against the Motion was Nil Total (0).

55/25 **MOVED** Cr M McLachlan **SECONDED** Cr G Adamthwaite that the recommendations of Closed Council be adopted.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 6.03pm and the minutes pages 1 to 7 were confirmed on 17 June 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 20 May 2025.

.....
Mayor/Chairperson

.....
General Manager