



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

of the Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held in the Council Chambers,
Lands Building, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth

24 FEBRUARY 2026

PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER

ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held in the Council Chambers, Lands Building,
Nemingha Room, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth
TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026 at 6PM

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PRESENT: Cr Russell Webb (Mayor), Cr Charles Impey, Cr Mark Rodda, Cr Brendon North, Cr Matt Sharpham, Cr Marc Sutherland (via Audio Visual Link), Cr Stephen Mears, Cr Ryan Brooke

IN ATTENDANCE: The General Manager, Acting Director Liveable Communities, Director Regional Services, Director Water and Waste and Acting Executive Manager Strategy and Performance.

1 **APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

An apology was announced as having been received from Cr Jeff Budd who is unable to attend the Meeting due to being on leave.

MOTION

Moved Cr Brooke/Cr Impey

That the apology be accepted and Cr Jeff Budd be granted leave of absence from the Meeting.

16/26 RESOLVED

MOTION

Moved Cr Mears/Cr Brooke

That Cr Marc Sutherland be approved to attend the Meeting via Audio Visual Link in accordance with Section 5.18 of the Code of Meeting Practice due to unexpected carers leave.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Mark Rodda
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham
7. Cr Marc Sutherland
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

17/26 RESOLVED

2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

MOTION

Moved Cr Impey/Cr Brooke

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the

proceedings of the Meeting, save an except for the title of Item 9.1 which had Yarraman listed with two A's.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Mark Rodda
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham
7. Cr Marc Sutherland
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

18/26 RESOLVED

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

5 NOTICE OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR STEPHEN MEARS - STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NOTICE OF MOTION WITHDRAWN

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

6 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Nil

7 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

7.1 PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE NEW ENGLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE TRANSMISSION LINES - IMPACT ON COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTIES

DIRECTORATE:

WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR:

Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

MOTION

Moved Cr Brooke/Cr Impey

That in relation to the report “Proposed Route of the New England Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Lines - Impact on Council Owned Properties”, Council agree to allow Energy Co entry to Council owned land affected by the proposed route of the New England Renewable Energy Zone Transmission lines.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Charles Impey 3. Cr Stephen Mears 4. Cr Brendon North 5. Cr Mark Rodda 6. Cr Matthew Sharpham 7. Cr Marc Sutherland 8. Cr Russell Webb	Nil

19/26 RESOLVED

7.2 ORGANICS RECYCLING FACILITY - RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING STAGE 1 OF D&C CONTRACT

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Naomi Schipanski, Manager - Projects, Strategy and Infrastructure

MOTION

Moved Cr North/Cr Sharpham

That in relation to the report “Organics Recycling Facility - Recommendation Following Stage 1 of D&C Contract”, Council:

- (i) not proceed with the construction of an Organics Recycling facility at this time;
- (ii) finalise the contract with Orex Solutions Pty Ltd and not seek a stage 2 proposal;
- (iii) approve the allocation of \$1,602,350.81 from the waste reserve to repay grant funding already paid to Council by the NSW EPA Trust to assist Council in the investigation and construction of an Organics Recycling Facility; and
- (iv) request the Director of Water and Waste prepare a further report with options for Council in relation to the NSW Government’s FOGO mandate, the possible roll out of a FOGO service and the processing of any FOGO collected.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Charles Impey 3. Cr Stephen Mears 4. Cr Brendon North 5. Cr Mark Rodda 6. Cr Matthew Sharpham 7. Cr Marc Sutherland 8. Cr Russell Webb	Nil

20/26 RESOLVED

8 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

8.1 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/2026 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
Reference: Item to Ordinary Council 30 June 2025 - Minute No 147/25
Item to Ordinary Council 23 September 2025 - Minute No 229/25

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report “Annual Operational Plan 2025/2026 Budget Variation Report - December 2025 and January 2026”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in the ANNEXURES attached to the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Charles Impey 3. Cr Stephen Mears 4. Cr Brendon North 5. Cr Mark Rodda 6. Cr Matthew Sharpham 7. Cr Marc Sutherland 8. Cr Russell Webb	Nil

21/26 RESOLVED

8.2 SKYWALK LEGAL CASE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Acting Executive Manager Strategy & Performance

MOTION

Moved Cr North/Cr Sharpham

That in relation to the report “Skywalk Legal Case”, Council received and note the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Charles Impey 3. Cr Stephen Mears 4. Cr Brendon North 5. Cr Mark Rodda 6. Cr Matthew Sharpham 7. Cr Marc Sutherland	Nil

8. Cr Russell Webb

22/26 RESOLVED

8.3 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
Hannah Allwood, Accountant

MOTION

Moved Cr Brooke/Cr Impey

That in relation to the report “**Error! No document variable supplied.**”, Council receive and note the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Mark Rodda
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham
7. Cr Marc Sutherland
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

23/26 RESOLVED

8.4 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL DRAFT NIGHT TIME ECONOMY STRATEGY 2026-2031

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES
AUTHOR: Peter Ross, Executive Manager Creative Communities and Experiences

MOTION

Moved Cr Brooke/Cr Sharpham

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Council Draft Night Time Economy Strategy 2026-2031”, Council:

- (i) endorse the Tamworth Regional Council Draft Night Time Economy Strategy 2026-2031 for the purpose of public exhibition;
- (ii) place the Draft Strategy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days; and
- (iii) following the public exhibition period receive a further report on community feedback and any amendments to the Strategy for consideration and adoption.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears

Nil

4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Mark Rodda
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham
7. Cr Marc Sutherland
8. Cr Russell Webb

24/26 RESOLVED

8.5 NSW CLOSING THE GAP GATHERING: YAMBAMANJANG - SYDNEY - 26 FEBRUARY 2026

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Acting Executive Manager Strategy & Performance

MOTION

Moved Cr North/Cr Impey

That in relation to the report “NSW Closing the Gap Gathering: Yambamanjang - Sydney - 26 February 2026”, Council approve the attendance of Cr Sutherland to the Forum as a panelist.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Mark Rodda
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham
7. Cr Marc Sutherland
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

25/26 RESOLVED

8.6 2025/2026 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2026

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

Reference: Item 9.5 to Ordinary Council 30 June 2025 - Minute No 147/25

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Mears

In relation to the report “2025/2026 Quarterly Budget Review Statements to 31 December 2026”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the report and related ANNEXURES;
- (ii) note that whilst Council’s General Fund financial position is currently sound in the short term it needs to ensure that it has a sufficient cash buffer and

prioritised options for better liquidity management. Cost reduction will be required should whole of life cycle asset costs and operational expenditure demands exceed future income streams and forecast discretionary cash reserves. This is essential to ensure that budgets providing a clear financial direction are able to be reliably prepared by the statutory deadlines;

- (iii) note that current budget forecasts indicate Council's General Fund, without untapped funding from future grants and / or monetising asset holdings, is not financially able to resource the planned but unbudgeted projects relating to:
- remediation or replacement of Ray Walsh House
 - development of future stages at the TGGP
 - expansion of entertainment venues;
- (iv) note that projects like those above are not included in current budgets or Long Term Financial Plans for Council's General Fund. Council needs to ensure that it is comfortable with the prioritisation of all major budgeted projects (in its one, four and ten year budgets) where it has not entered into a contractual arrangement to ensure that there is sufficient financial capacity to undertake those projects deemed to be of the highest priority;
- (v) note that income streams and amounts with regards to land sales and payment of grant funds are unpredictable. With declining cash reserves Council is reminded that it must at all times have sufficient discretionary cash buffers to prevent the inadvertent use of funds classified as externally restricted cash; and
- (vi) note that General Fund discretionary cash reserves are in this second quarterly budget review forecast to decline by \$7.3M which is more than double the original decrease of \$3.5M. It is likely that wage savings not yet realised will offset some of this but unplanned savings such as these should not be relied on as a strategy to fund future major projects

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Mark Rodda
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham
7. Cr Marc Sutherland
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

26/26 RESOLVED

9 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil

10 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

At 6.35pm, the Chairperson offered the opportunity to members of the public to make representations as to whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

The General Manager advised the Chairperson that no written public submissions or representations had been received as to whether or not part of the Meeting should be closed to the public. The Chairperson asked any members of the Council whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

MOTION

Moved Cr Mears/Cr North

That the confidential reports as listed be considered in a Meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST
THE DECISION	THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke	Nil
2. Cr Charles Impey	
3. Cr Stephen Mears	
4. Cr Brendon North	
5. Cr Mark Rodda	
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham	
7. Cr Marc Sutherland	
8. Cr Russell Webb	

27/26 RESOLVED

10.1 WESTDALE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF AERATION BLOWERS

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

Reference: Item 12.5 to Ordinary Council Meeting 26 August 2025 - Minute No 214/25

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)i of the Local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

11 CLOSED COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1 WESTDALE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF AERATION BLOWERS

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

Reference: Item 12.5 to Ordinary Council Meeting 26 August 2025 - Minute No 214/25

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Brooke

That in relation to the report "Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant - Procurement and Installation of Aeration Blowers", Council:

- (i) bring forward the scheduled replacement of the remaining four blowers at Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant to ensure reliable plant operation and compliance with environmental licence conditions;
- (ii) resolve not to tender for the supply of four replacement aeration blowers for the Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant under s.55 (3) (i) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) as Council believes a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders because of the limited numbers of specialist suppliers and associated procurement recommendation from specialist consultants;
- (iii) engage Sulzer Australia Pty Limited for the supply of a further four HST20-6000 aeration blowers to be installed at Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- (iv) resolve not to tender for the installation of a further four replacement aeration blowers for the Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant under s.55 (3) (i) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) as Council believes a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders because of the limited numbers of specialist contractors and associated installation delivery recommendation from the equipment supplier;
- (v) engage TEW Solutions Pty Limited to undertake the installation of a further four HST20-6000 aeration blowers to be installed at Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant; and
- (vi) bring forward the \$600,000 budget funding currently allocated to the project delivery in 2027/2028 financial year to the current financial year for blower procurement, with further funding for installation to be included in the 2026-27 financial year.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Mark Rodda
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham
7. Cr Marc Sutherland
8. Cr Russell Webb

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

Nil

28/26 RESOLVED

12 RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

MOTION

Moved Cr Mears/Cr Brooke

That Council move into Open Council.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
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- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Cr Ryan Brooke | Nil |
| 2. Cr Charles Impey | |
| 3. Cr Stephen Mears | |
| 4. Cr Brendon North | |
| 5. Cr Mark Rodda | |
| 6. Cr Matthew Sharpham | |
| 7. Cr Marc Sutherland | |
| 8. Cr Russell Webb | |

29/26 RESOLVED

At 6.38pm the Meeting moved back into Open Council.

In accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice, Section 14.17, the Chairperson provided a summary of the resolutions passed in Closed Council.

Closure: There being no further business the Ordinary Meeting of Council concluded at 6.39pm.

Mayor Russell Webb, Chairperson

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

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