



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

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

25 MARCH 2025

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 25 MARCH 2025 at 6.30PM

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PRESENT: Cr Russell Webb (Mayor), Cr Jeff Budd, Cr Mark Rodda, Cr Brendon North, Cr Matt Sharpham, Cr Marc Sutherland, Cr Stephen Mears, Cr Ryan Brooke

IN ATTENDANCE: The General Manager, Director Liveable Communities, Director Regional Services, Director Water and Waste and Executive Manager Creative Communities and Experiences

1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An apology was announced as having been received from Cr Charles Impey who is unable to attend the Meeting due to personal reasons. A further apology was announced by the Mayor Russell Webb who will be on leave from 8 April 2025 to 20 April 2025.

MOTION

Moved Cr Mears/Cr North

That the apologies be accepted and Cr Charles Impey and Mayor Russell Webb be granted leave of absence.

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
Nil	Nil

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

55/25 RESOLVED

2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

9.3 SISTER CITY PROTOCOL VISIT TO GORE NZ

Peter Gill addressed the Council and spoke in opposition of the recommendation

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr Sharpham

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 March 2025, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION
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OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
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1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Brendon North
5. Cr Matthew Sharpham
6. Cr Marc Sutherland
7. Cr Russell Webb

1. Cr Mark Rodda

56/25 RESOLVED

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

NIL

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Nil

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

**8.1 NAMING OF THE BATTING TUNNELS AT THE TAMWORTH BASEBALL FIELDS
THE "DAVID MCMURRAY BASEBALL BATTING TUNNELS"**

**DIRECTORATE:
AUTHOR:**

REGIONAL SERVICES

Paul Kelly, Manager - Sports and Recreation
Richard Willis, Sport and Recreation Development
Officer

MOTION

Moved Cr Rodda/Cr Budd

That in relation to the report "Naming of the Batting Tunnels at the Tamworth Baseball Fields the "David McMurray Baseball Batting Tunnels"" , Council:

- (i) place on public exhibition the proposal to name the batting tunnels at the Tamworth baseball fields after David McMurray for a period of 28 days;
- (ii) in the absence of any formal objection to the proposed naming, agree to adopt the name "David McMurray Batting Tunnels" for the structure; and
- (iii) permit Tamworth Baseball to erect appropriate signage.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST

THE DECISION	THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke	Nil
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd	
3. Cr Stephen Mears	
4. Cr Brendon North	
5. Cr Mark Rodda	
6. Cr Matthew Sharpham	
7. Cr Marc Sutherland	
8. Cr Russell Webb	

57/25 RESOLVED

8.2 2025 JUNE LONG WEEKEND BASEBALL CARNIVAL FEE WAIVER REQUEST - TAMWORTH BASEBALL INCORPORATED

DIRECTORATE:

REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR:

Paul Kelly, Manager - Sports and Recreation

MOTION

Moved Cr Sutherland/Cr North

That in relation to the report “2025 June Long Weekend Baseball Carnival Fee Waiver Request - Tamworth Baseball Incorporated”, Council approve a complete fee waiver for all fees associated with the event.

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

58/25 RESOLVED

8.3 WATER NSW's CUSTOMER ADVISORY GROUP NOMINATIONS 2025-2030

DIRECTORATE:

WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR:

Samantha Ward, Executive Assistant Water and Waste
Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

Reference:

Item 8.3 to Ordinary Council 22 March 2022 - Minute No 82/22
Item 8.3 to Ordinary Council 26 February 2019 - Minute No 36/19

MOTION

Moved Cr Mears/Cr Budd

That in relation to the report “Water NSW’s Customer Advisory Group Nominations 2025-2030”, Council:

- (i) nominate the Director Water and Waste as Council’s representative on the Namoi/Peel Customer Advisory Group for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030; and
- (ii) not nominate an alternative representative.

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

59/25 RESOLVED

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 2025 ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICES WITHIN THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA

**DIRECTORATE:
AUTHOR:**

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services**

MOTION

Moved Cr Mears/Cr Budd

That in relation to the report “2025 ANZAC Day Memorial Services Within the Tamworth Regional Council Area”, nominate Councillor Representation at the following locations:

Attunga	Cr Brendon North
Barbaba	Cr Brendon North
Bendemeer	Cr Jeff Budd/Cr Matt Sharpham
Duri	Cr Mark Rodda
Kootingal	Cr Matt Sharpham
Moonbi Masonic Village RFBI	Mayor Russell Webb, Cr Matt Sharpham
Manilla	Cr Marc Sutherland
Manilla Central School	TBA
Moonbi Public School	TBA

Nundle	Cr Jeff Budd
Somerton	Cr Ryan Brooke
Tamworth Dawn Service	Mayor Russell Webb
Tamworth Service	Mayor Russell Webb
Gipps Street Memorial	Cr Charles Impey
COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

60/25 RESOLVED

**9.2 2025 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MOTIONS
FOR SUBMISSION**

**DIRECTORATE:
AUTHOR:**

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive
Services**

Reference:

**Item 9.1 to Ordinary Council 11 February 2025 - Minute
No 7/25**

MOTION:

Moved Cr North/Cr Brooke

That in relation to the report “2025 National General Assembly of Local Government - Motions for Submission”, Council authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to immediately apply resources to investigate and thwart the increases in cigarette and vape stores establishing in the regions around Australia selling illegal foreign products harmful to the health of Australians and detrimental to the Commonwealth’s taxation revenues and established businesses that currently sell legal products.

**COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR
THE DECISION**

**COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST
THE DECISION**

1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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
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61/25 RESOLVED

9.3 SISTER CITY PROTOCOL VISIT TO GORE, NEW ZEALAND

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report “Sister City Protocol Visit to Gore, New Zealand”, Council authorise the Mayor, General Manager and Councillor Matt Sharpham to visit Gore for the 50th Country Music Festival from 28 May to 1 June.

**OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR
THE DECISION**

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Brendon North
4. Cr Matthew Sharpham
5. Cr Marc Sutherland
6. Cr Russell Webb

**OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST
THE DECISION**

1. Cr Stephen Mears
2. Cr Mark Rodda

AMENDMENT

Cr Rodda/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report “Sister City Protocol Visit to Gore, New Zealand”, Council authorise the Mayor to visit Gore for the 50th Country Music Festival from 28 May to 1 June.

AMENDMENT LOST

**OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR
THE DECISION**

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Stephen Mears
3. Cr Mark Rodda

**OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST
THE DECISION**

1. Cr Jeffrey Budd
2. Cr Brendon North
3. Cr Matthew Sharpham
4. Cr Marc Sutherland
5. Cr Russell Webb

THE ORIGINAL MOTION STANDS

62/25 RESOLVED

63/25 RESOLVED

**9.4 INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING JULY TO DECEMBER 2024
PROGRESS REPORT**

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor

MOTION

Moved Cr Sutherland/Cr Brooke

That in relation to the report “Integrated Planning & Reporting July to December 2024 Progress Report”, Council receive and adopt the report.

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

64/25 RESOLVED

9.5 REVIEW OF FINANCE GENERAL POLICIES

DIRECTORATE: **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**
AUTHOR: **Hannah Allwood, Accountant**

MOTION

Moved Cr North/Cr Sharpham

That in relation to the report “Review of Finance General Policies”, Council note that the following finance policies have been reviewed by Financial Services and endorse the minor recommended amendments. The amendments are insignificant in nature and do not warrant a public exhibition period. The policies reviewed are the:

- (i) Investment Policy;
- (ii) Debt Recovery for Property-Related Debts (including rates and water) Policy;
- (iii) Ratepayers Hardship Policy; and
- (iv) Pensioner Policy

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

65/25 RESOLVED

9.6 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025

DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: Laura Mills, Corporate Accountant
Reference: Item to Ordinary Council 25 June 2024 - Minute No 148/24

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report “Annual Operational Plan 2024/2025 Budget Variation Report - February 2025”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in ATTACHED refer ANNEXURE 1 to the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

66/25 RESOLVED

9.7 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS FEBRUARY 2025

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

MOTION

Moved Cr North/Cr Sharpham

That in relation to the report “Council Investments February 2025”, Council receive and note the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

67/25 RESOLVED

9.8 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor

MOTION

Moved Cr Sutherland/Cr Sharpham

That in relation to the report “Community Strategic Plan”, Council:

- (i) place the proposed Draft Community Strategic Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with section 402 of the Local Government Act 1993; and
- (ii) require a further report to be submitted at the completion of the formal exhibition period detailing any submissions received during exhibition for Council’s consideration and final adoption of the Community Strategic Plan.

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

68/25 RESOLVED

**9.9 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL - PROPOSED 2025/2026 AIRPORT FEES
AND CHARGES**

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Billy Gleeson-Barker, Manager Aviation Precinct

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Budd

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Council - Proposed 2025/2026 Airport Fees and Charges”, Council approves in principle the fees and charges proposed for the 2025/2026 financial year as per the attached document for inclusion in the draft 2025/2026 Annual Operational Plan.

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd	Nil

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

69/25 RESOLVED

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 RSL NSW REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP

DIRECTORATE: **CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES**
AUTHOR: **Linda Bridges, Coordinator Visitor Economy**

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr North

That in relation to the report “RSL NSW Request for Sponsorship”, Council approves the three-year support request of \$20,000 per year as noted in the body of this report.

**OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR
THE DECISION**

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

**OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST
THE DECISION**

Nil

70/25 RESOLVED

10.2 PROPOSED LICENCE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF SHIPPING CONTAINER - ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

DIRECTORATE: **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**
AUTHOR: **Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer**

MOTION

Moved Cr Sutherland/Cr Brooke

That in relation to the report “Proposed Licence Agreement for Use of Shipping Container - Animal Welfare League”, Council:

- (i) authorise the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate and enter into a licence agreement with the Animal Welfare League on the terms set out in the body of this report; and
- (ii) authorise the affixing of the Seal of Council to the licence agreement and any

other associated documentation in order to give effect to Council's Resolution.

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

71/25 RESOLVED

10.3 REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

DIRECTORATE:

LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR:

Gina Vereker, Director Liveable Communities

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report "Review of the Terms of Reference for Council Community Committees and Working Groups", Council:

- (i) adopts the revised Terms of Reference for the following Committees and Working Groups:
Tamworth Region Inclusive Culture Advisory Committee;
Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group;
Tamworth Regional Heritage Working Group;
Disability Access Working Group;
Tamworth City Centre Working Group; and
Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee; and
- (ii) delegate under Section 377 of Local Government Act 1993 the financial delegation of \$20,000 to the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee for the purpose of Public Artwork.

OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	OUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 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

72/25 RESOLVED



11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

At 7.25pm, 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 Budd/Cr Mears

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

73/25 RESOLVED

11.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - E055-2025 - PROPOSED LEASE OR AGISTMENT AGREEMENT OF RURAL LAND AT 226 OXLEY LANE, WESTDALE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer
Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental
Operations

Reference: Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 10 December 2024 - Minute No.
355/24

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

12 CLOSED COUNCIL REPORTS

12.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - E055-2025 - PROPOSED LEASE OR AGISTMENT AGREEMENT OF RURAL LAND AT 226 OXLEY LANE, WESTDALE

DIRECTORATE:

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR:

Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer
Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental
Operations

Reference:

Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 10 December 2024 - Minute
No. 355/24

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr North

That in relation to the report “Expression of Interest - E055-2025 - Proposed Lease or Agistment Agreement of Rural Land at 226 Oxley Lane, Westdale”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the outcome of Expression of Interest E055-2025 – Proposed Lease or Agistment Agreement of Rural Land at 226 Oxley Lane, Westdale;
- (ii) notify the proponents of the outcome of the Expression of Interest; and
- (iii) authorise the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate and enter into a licence agreement on the terms set out in the body of this report; and
- (iv) authorise the affixing of the Seal of Council to the licence agreement and any other associated documentation in order to give effect to Council's Resolution.

**COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR
THE DECISION**

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
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

74/25 RESOLVED

13 **RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN CLOSED COUNCIL**

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr North

That Council move into Open Council.

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

75/25 RESOLVED

At 7.32pm the meeting moved back into Open Council.

In accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice, Section 14.21, 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 7.33pm

Cr Russell Webb, Chairperson

Tuesday, 8 April 2025

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