



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL held via Zoom and in the Council Chambers, Nellie Hamilton Centre, 257 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan on Wednesday, 9 October 2024 commencing at 5.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

Councillors: Cr Winchester (Chairperson)

Cr Broadbent

Cr Grundy

Cr Livermore

Cr Macdonald

Cr Preston (via Zoom)

Cr Schweikert

Cr Taskovski

Cr Waterhouse

Cr Willis

Cr Wilson

Staff:

R Ryan, General Manager

M Duff, Director Infrastructure Services

J Richards, Director Community, Arts and Recreation

R Ormella, Director Development and Environment

T Sligar, A/Director Corporate Services

Also Present: L Ison (Minute Secretary)

The General Manager chaired the meeting until the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor was completed.

1. OPENING

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm.

2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Dr Matilda House gave a Welcome to Country on behalf of the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which the meeting was held.

3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

There were no apologies.

4. REPORTS TO COUNCIL – ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**4.1 Oath or Affirmation of Office for Councillors**

In accordance with Section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, each Councillor was invited to take either the oath of office or affirmation of office, before the General Manager.

The following affirmation was declared before the General Manager on Tuesday, 1 October 2024:

Cr John Preston

- I, John Preston, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

The following affirmations were declared before the General Manager at the Council meeting on Wednesday, 9 October 2024:

Cr Morgan Broadbent

- I, Morgan Broadbent, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Mareeta Grundy

- I, Mareeta Grundy, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Esma Livermore

- I, Esma Livermore, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Ross Macdonald

- I, Ross Macdonald, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Mark Schweikert

- I, Mark Schweikert, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Steve Taskovski

- I, Steve Taskovski, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Bill Waterhouse

- I, Bill Waterhouse, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Katrina Willis

- I, Katrina Willis, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Bryce Wilson

- I, Bryce Wilson, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

Cr Kenrick Winchester

- I, Kenrick Winchester, solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Queanbeyan-Palerang area and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

454/24 **4.2 Election of Mayor for the 2024 - 2026 Term**
RESOLVED (Winchester/Macdonald)

That:

1. Council elects the Mayor of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council for the 2024-2026 term.
2. The method of ballot be by open voting pursuant to Schedule 7, Part 1(3) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The General Manager, as Returning Officer, called for nominations for the position of Mayor for 2024-2026 term. There were two written nominations received, those of Cr Macdonald and Cr Winchester, both signed by two Councillors and consent accepted by the nominees.

The vote by way of a show of hands resulted in four votes for Cr Macdonald and seven votes for Cr Winchester.

The Returning Officer declared Cr Winchester duly elected as Mayor.

455/24 **4.3 Election of Deputy Mayor**
RESOLVED (Waterhouse/Wilson)

That:

1. Council elects a Deputy Mayor of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council for the same term as the Mayor.
2. The method of ballot be by open voting pursuant to Schedule 7, Part 1(3) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The General Manager, as Returning Officer, called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2024-2026 term. There were two written nominations received, those of Cr Livermore and Cr Grundy, both signed by two Councillors and consent accepted by the nominees.

The vote by way of a show of hands resulted in four votes for Cr Grundy and seven votes for Cr Livermore.

The Returning Officer declared Cr Livermore duly elected as Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor assumed the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned for a short recess at 5.50pm and resumed at 5.57pm.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 September 2024**

456/24

RESOLVED (Winchester/Taskovski)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Queanbeyan Council Chambers on Wednesday 11 September 2024 be confirmed.

The resolution was carried.

For: Crs Broadbent, Grundy, Livermore, Macdonald, Preston, Taskovski, Willis, Wilson, Waterhouse and Winchester

Against: Cr Schweikert

6. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

457/24

RESOLVED (Winchester/Willis)

That Councillors and staff now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

There were no disclosures.

7. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

At this stage of the proceedings, the time being 5.58pm, Cr Winchester advised that the meeting should now adjourn for the Public Forum.

458/24

RESOLVED (Winchester/Willis)

That the meeting be adjourned to conduct the Public Forum.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned for the Public Forum at 5.58pm and resumed at 5.59pm.

8. REPORTS TO COUNCIL - ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION**8.1 Utilisation of Countbacks to Fill Casual Vacancies**

459/24

RESOLVED (Wilson/Grundy)

That pursuant to section 291A(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council declares that casual vacancies occurring in the office of a Councillor within 18 months after the last Ordinary election of Councillors for the Council on 14 September 2024 are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at that election in accordance with section 291A of the Act and directs the General Manager to notify the NSW Electoral Commissioner of Council's decision within seven days of the decision.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

460/24 **8.2 Delegations to the General Manager**
RESOLVED (Wilson/Waterhouse)

That:

1. Council delegate to the person holding the position, acting in, or performing the duties of General Manager, the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation to the General Manager subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. The instrument of Delegation to the General Manager comes into force immediately after Council Resolution.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the General Manager are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the above-mentioned instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

461/24 **8.3 Council Meeting Schedule**
RESOLVED (Willis/Wilson)

That Council retain the current meeting schedule for this 2024-2028 term of Council as follows:

1. Ordinary Council meetings are to be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, except for December and January.
2. One Ordinary Council meeting is held in each of December and January, on a Wednesday subject to the timing of public holidays.
3. Pre-meeting briefing schedules to be held on the Tuesday prior to a Council meeting.
4. Council meetings are held primarily in Queanbeyan.
5. Council establish a schedule of meetings to be held in Braidwood and Bungendore after considering an evaluation of the trial of Ordinary Council meetings held in Braidwood during 2023-24.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

462/24 **8.4 LGNSW Annual Conference 2024 - Councillor Delegates**
RESOLVED (Macdonald/Grundy)

That Council:

1. Nominate the Mayor and three Councillors to register as voting delegates to attend the 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference.
2. Register those Councillors wishing to attend as non-voting delegates to the 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Crs Grundy, Livermore, Macdonald, Preston, Schweikert and Taskovski were nominated as voting delegates to attend the conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned for a short recess to enable counting of the ballot at 6.10pm and resumed at 6.14pm.

Following the ballot, Crs Livermore, Preston and Taskovski were elected to attend the 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference as voting delegates.

Cr Schweikert was nominated to attend as a non-voting delegate.

463/24 **8.5 Councillor Member Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee**
(ARIC)
RESOLVED (Waterhouse/Wilson)

That Council appoint a non-voting Councillor (and alternate) to the QPRC Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Cr Broadbent was appointed as delegate and Cr Preston as alternate delegate.

9. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEAL WITH MATTERS IN CLOSED SESSION

At this stage of the proceedings Cr Winchester advised that there were items on the Agenda that should be dealt with in Closed Session.

Cr Winchester then asked if, in accordance with Clause 59.6 of the Council's Code of Meeting Practice, there were any presentations as to why the matters listed below should not be dealt with in Closed Session.

There were no presentations.

10. REPORTS FOR CLOSED SESSION

464/24

RESOLVED (Winchester/Preston)

That pursuant to Section 10A of the *Local Government Act, 1993* the following items on the agenda for the Ordinary Council meeting be dealt with in Closed Session for the reasons specified below:

Item 10.1 QPRC v Minister for Education and Early Learning: Case Numbers 2022/3377152 and 2022/3377095

Item 10.1 is confidential in accordance with s10(A) (g) of the Local Government Act 1993 because it contains advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The meeting then moved into Closed Session at 6.18pm to discuss the matters listed above.

10.1 QPRC v Minister for Education and Early Learning: Case Numbers 2022/3377152 and 2022/3377095

465/24

RESOLVED (Macdonald/Broadbent)

That:

1. Council authorise the General Manager to continue negotiations regarding the compensation claim matters of QPRC v Minister for Education and Early Learning.
2. The General Manager provide an update to Council in Closed Session on a monthly basis.
3. A workshop be held as soon as possible to provide guidance for the General Manager for Heads of Agreement discussions.

The resolution was carried.

For: Crs Broadbent, Grundy, Livermore, Macdonald, Preston, Schweikert, Taskovski, Wilson, Waterhouse and Winchester

Against: Cr Willis

466/24

RESOLVED (Winchester/Macdonald)

That the meeting now return to Open Session.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7.02pm.

The doors of the Chambers were opened to allow the public to enter.

In accordance with Clause 253 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, the Mayor then read out the decisions of Council made in Closed Session.

11. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The time being 7.03pm, the Mayor announced that the Agenda for the meeting had now been completed.

**CR KENRICK WINCHESTER
MAYOR
CHAIRPERSON**