

Minutes

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GUNDAGAI

6:00PM, TUESDAY 24th March, 2026

Administration Centres: 1300 459 689

**MINUTES OF COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GUNDAGAI
ON TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026 AT 6:00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Abb McAlister (Mayor), Cr Rosalind Wight (Deputy Mayor), Cr Logan Collins, Cr Les Cooper, Cr David Graham, Cr Gil Kelly, Cr Penny Nicholson, Cr Danyal Syed

IN ATTENDANCE: Roger Bailey (Interim General Manager), Trevor Dando (Acting Deputy General Manager - Operations), Damian Smith (Acting Manager Finance), Linda Wiles (Manager Business), Teresa Breslin (Executive Assistant)

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson acknowledged the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land at which the meeting was held and paid his respects to Elders, both past and present, of the Wiradjuri Nation and extended that respect to other Aboriginal people who were present.

2 APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, AND AUDIO-VISUAL ATTENDANCE REQUESTS

2.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

2.3 AUDIO-VISUAL ATTENDANCE REQUESTS

Nil

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLUTION 066/2026

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

5 MAYORAL MINUTES**5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENTS - 17 FEBRUARY 2026 - 17 MARCH 2026****RESOLUTION 067/2026**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

- 1. The information in the Councillor Engagements Mayoral Minute be received and noted.**
- 2. Council also note that the Mayor also attended 2 meetings with Steven Head in Cootamundra on 11th March 2026.**

CARRIED**6 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES****6.1 MINUTES OF THE DEMERGER TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026****RESOLUTION 068/2026**

Moved: Cr Danyal Syed

Seconded: Cr Les Cooper

- 1. That the Minutes of the Demerger Transition Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026, attached to the report, be received and noted.**
- 2. In consideration of the Demerger Transition Committee recommendations detailed in the minutes, Council endorses the following:**
 - 2.1. Pertaining to Item 5.1.2 Formal Approval of Software Acquisition, that Council:**
 - 2.1.1. Formally endorses the acquisition and implementation of Civica Altitude ERP and Magiq EDMS software systems for the proposed Cootamundra and Gundagai councils**
 - 2.1.2. Approve exemptions, under section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, to the tendering requirements for the reasons stated in the report.**

CARRIED

7 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**7.1 GENERAL MANAGER OFFICE****7.1.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 10 MARCH MEETING OF THE DEMERGER TRANSITION COMMITTEE****RESOLUTION 069/2026**

Moved: Cr Rosalind Wight

Seconded: Cr Logan Collins

- 1. That Council authorises the Demerger Transition Committee the Authority to appoint the preferred consultant to undertake the review and update of the 2024 Financial Sustainability Plan and prepare new Financial Sustainability Plans, Long Term Financial Plans and Revenue Policies for the proposed successor Councils.**
- 2. That Council:**
 - (a) Note the report.**
 - (b) Source a second-hand lime spreader up to a value of \$175,000 (ex GST) and report to Council for consideration, prior to purchase.**
 - (c) Explore entering into a MOU with the neighbouring Council's to utilise Council's stabiliser at an agreed rate that ensures a commercial arrangement for the benefit of the parties.**
 - (d) Explore a 'shared service' arrangement for the use of plant between the two future 'new councils'.**

CARRIED

7.1.2 RURAL AND REGIONAL SUMMIT 2026**RESOLUTION 070/2026**

Moved: Cr Penny Nicholson

Seconded: Cr Les Cooper

The attendance of the Mayor and the Interim General Manager at the Rural and Regional Summit on 7th May 2026, be endorsed.

CARRIED

7.1.3 OLG REVIEW OF JOINT ORGANISATION (JO) FRAMEWORK**RESOLUTION 071/2026**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

That Council:

- 1. Request the NSW Minister for Local Government to formally dissolve the Riverina Joint Organisation.**
- 2. Re-affirm its commitment to continuing with the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils Inc. (REROC).**
- 3. Thank Wagga Wagga City Council for its offer to continue the Riverina Joint Organisation but decline this request.**

CARRIED**7.2 BUSINESS****7.2.1 SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES****RESOLUTION 072/2026**

Moved: Cr Logan Collins

Seconded: Cr Danyal Syed

The Minutes of the s.355 Committee Meetings, attached to the report, be received and noted.**CARRIED****7.2.2 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE POLICY****RESOLUTION 073/2026**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Gil Kelly

That the reviewed and updated Related Party Disclosure Policy, attached to the report be adopted.**CARRIED**

7.3 FINANCE**7.3.1 FINANCE UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2026****RESOLUTION 074/2026**

Moved: Cr Les Cooper

Seconded: Cr Rosalind Wight

That the Finance Update report for the month of February 2026, be noted.**CARRIED****7.3.2 RESTRICTED CASH RECONCILIATION - FEBRUARY 2026****RESOLUTION 075/2026**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

The Restricted Cash Reconciliation report for the period ending 28 February 2026, be received and noted.**CARRIED****7.3.3 INVESTMENT REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026****RESOLUTION 076/2026**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Rosalind Wight

The report detailing Council Cash and Investments as at 28th February 2026, be noted.**CARRIED****7.4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT****7.4.1 OPPORTUNITY TO OPT INTO PART 13 ACCOMMODATION FOR RELEVANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (HOUSING) 2021****RESOLUTION 077/2026**

Moved: Cr Danyal Syed

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

That Council resolve to opt into Part 13 Accommodation for relevant construction workers of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.**CARRIED**

7.5 ENGINEERING COOTAMUNDRA

7.5.1 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND MOBILITY PLANS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 078/2026

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Logan Collins

That Council:

- 1. Note that the updated township and villages Pedestrian and Mobility Plans (PAMP's) for both the Cootamundra and Gundagai areas were placed on exhibition for 28 days;**
- 2. Note that Council received 23 submissions during the community consultation period and that these submissions have been considered, investigated and added where appropriate to the Updated 2023 – 2033 PAMP documents; and**
- 3. Endorse the revised Cootamundra & Villages Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2023 –2033 and the Gundagai & Villages Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2023 – 2033, as attached to the report.**

CARRIED

7.5.2 COOTAMUNDRA ENGINEERING REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLUTION 079/2026

Moved: Cr Danyal Syed

Seconded: Cr Les Cooper

That the Cootamundra Engineering Report for the month of February 2026 be noted.

CARRIED

7.5.3 COOTAMUNDRA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 080/2026

Moved: Cr Rosalind Wight

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

- 1. Council adopt the Cootamundra Flood Warning System Review report.**
- 2. Council accept the 2025-26 grant offer to prepare a flood study for Wallendbeen and Muttama and allocate 20% Council funding of \$39,600, from the 26/27 capital expenditure budget.**
- 3. Council approve the lodgement of grant applications under the 2026-27 NSW Floodplain Management Program for Implementation of recommendations from the Cootamundra Flood Warning System Review report and preparation of a flood study for Stockinbingal.**

CARRIED

7.6 ENGINEERING GUNDAGAI

7.6.1 GUNDAGAI ENGINEERING REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLUTION 081/2026

Moved: Cr Ethan Ryan

Seconded: Cr Logan Collins

That the Gundagai Engineering Report for the month of February 2026 be noted.

CARRIED

7.7 REGIONAL SERVICES GUNDAGAI

7.7.1 GUNDAGAI REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLUTION 082/2026

Moved: Cr Ethan Ryan

Seconded: Cr Logan Collins

That the Gundagai Regional Services report for the month of February 2026 be noted.

CARRIED

7.8 REGIONAL SERVICES COOTAMUNDRA

7.8.1 COOTAMUNDRA REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLUTION 083/2026

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Danyal Syed

The Cootamundra Regional Services February Report be noted.

CARRIED

8 MOTION OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

9 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**9.1 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - CR WIGHT - USAGE OF OLD COOTAMUNDRA HOSPITAL****RESOLUTION 084/2026**

Moved: Cr Rosalind Wight

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

The response to the Question with Notice on the usage of the old Cootamundra Hospital be noted.

CARRIED

9.2 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - CR WIGHT - TRAVELLING STOCK PERMITS**RESOLUTION 085/2026**

Moved: Cr Rosalind Wight

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

That:

- 1. The response to the Question with Notice on Travelling Stock Permits, be noted.**
- 2. Council provide Travelling Stock Permits (Slow Grazing Permits) for a maximum of three months.**
- 3. Council include a clause that the permit may be revoked should conditions change, including for planned or unplanned works.**

CARRIED

9.3 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - CR WIGHT - REQUEST FOR LIST OF COUNCIL'S LAND ASSETS, AND DISCUSSION**RESOLUTION 086/2026**

Moved: Cr Rosalind Wight

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

The response to the Question with Notice on Request for list of Council's Land Assets, and discussion be noted.

CARRIED

9.4 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - CR WIGHT - EFFLUENT WATER USE**RESOLUTION 087/2026**

Moved: Cr Rosalind Wight

Seconded: Cr Les Cooper

That the response to the Question with Notice on Effluent Water Use, be noted.

CARRIED

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**10.1 CLOSED COUNCIL REPORT****RESOLUTION 088/2026**

Moved: Cr Logan Collins

Seconded: Cr Gil Kelly

- 1. Council entered Closed Council at 6.48pm.**
- 2. Items 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7 be considered in closed Council at which the press and public are excluded in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and related public interest reasons detailed.**
- 3. In accordance with section 11 (2) and (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the reports, correspondence and other documentation relating to Items 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7 be withheld from the press and public.**

CARRIED

10.2 HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**RESOLUTION 089/2026**

Moved: Cr Danyal Syed

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

That the confidential information in the Human Resources report be noted.

CARRIED

10.3 ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR ZONE SUBSTATION UPGRADE**RESOLUTION 090/2026**

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

- 1. Council offers the sale of Lot 23 in DP 866100, at a cost outlined in the financial section of the report, to Essential Energy.**
- 2. Council delegate the authority to the Interim General Manager to negotiate the sale of the land, including legal costs associated with the sale to be borne by Essential Energy.**
- 3. Funds from the sale be allocated to the Property Reserve.**

CARRIED

10.4 TENDER - ANNIE PYERS PRECINCT WATERMAIN EXTENSION - RFT 2026/5**RESOLUTION 091/2026**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

That Council awards P&TS Group Pty Ltd (ABN 42 610 955 425) the tender for the construction of the Annie Pyers Precinct Water Main Extension for a lump sum price of \$2,089,500.00 (exc. GST).

CARRIED

10.5 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF COUNCIL'S GUNDAGAI SWIMMING POOL AND GYMNASIUM FACILITY TENDER**RESOLUTION 092/2026**

Moved: Cr Les Cooper

Seconded: Cr Logan Collins

That Council:

- 1. Award Leisuresafe Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 55 688 001 069) the Management and Operation of the Gundagai War Memorial Swimming Pool and Gymnasium Facilities contract for a three year period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029 for \$280,863.00 (ex GST).**
- 2. Note that the contract is for a three year period with an option for a further two year period at Council's discretion.**

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Danyal Syed

Seconded: Cr Les Cooper

That Council consider and bring forward late item 10.7 on the agenda for consideration at this stage of the meeting.

CARRIED

10.7 PROCUREMENT OF SECOND HAND LIME SPREADER

RESOLUTION 093/2026

Moved: Cr Les Cooper

Seconded: Cr Rosalind Wight

That Council:

- 1. Approve the purchase of a second-hand lime spreader through Public Auction up to the value listed in the Financial Section of this report.**
- 2. Authorise the Interim General Manager (or Delegate), to bid at public auction up to the value listed in the Financial Section of this report.**

VOTING RECORD	
FOR RESOLUTION	AGAINST RESOLUTION
Cr Abb McAlister (Mayor) Cr Rosalind Wight Cr Logan Collins Cr Les Cooper Cr David Graham Cr Penny Nicholson Cr Danyal Syed	Cr Gil Kelly Cr Ethan Ryan
ABSENT	DECLARED INTEREST
Nil	Nil

CARRIED

10.6 MAYORAL MINUTE - INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR 2025 AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT FOR 2026**RESOLUTION 094/2026**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

That Council:

- 1. Establish a General Manager Performance Review Panel for the purpose of undertaking the annual performance review of the General Manager in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and relevant Office of Local Government guidelines.**
- 2. Appoint the following councillors to the Performance Review Panel:**
 - o The Mayor (Chair)**
 - o The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Wight**
 - o Councillors Ryan and Graham**
- 3. Authorise the Performance Review Panel to:**
 - o Conduct the annual performance review of the General Manager for the 2025 year.**
 - o Seek feedback from councillors in relation to the performance of the General Manager for the 2025 year against his position description, performance criteria and key performance indicators.**
 - o Delegate the Mayor to engage, following consultation with the Interim General Manager, an independent advisor to assist with the performance review process.**
 - o Develop a performance agreement for the 2026 year following a workshop with the full Council to ensure broad input into the agreement.**
- 4. Request the Performance Review Panel to**
 - o Report the outcome of the performance review for 2025 to Council, including any recommendations regarding performance objectives, development priorities, or contractual matters.**
 - o Report the performance agreement for 2026.**
- 5. Note that the performance review process will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance issued by the NSW Office of Local Government.**

CARRIED

Item - 10.7 Procurement of Second Hand Lime Spreader - has been moved to another part of the document.

RESUMPTION OF OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION 095/2026

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Ethan Ryan

That the Open Council meeting resume at 7:17pm.

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Note: The Interim General Manager announced the resolutions made in Closed Council.

The Meeting closed at 7:22pm.

CHAIRPERSON

GENERAL MANAGER