

# Minutes

## DEMERGER TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING

**ALBY SCHULTZ MEETING CENTRE, COOTAMUNDRA**

**10AM, WEDNESDAY 15th April, 2026**

**Administration Centres: 1300 459 689**

**MINUTES OF COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL  
DEMERGER TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE ALBY SCHULTZ MEETING CENTRE, COOTAMUNDRA  
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2026 AT 10AM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Abb McAlister (Mayor), Cr Rosalind Wight (Deputy Mayor), Cr Penny Nicholson, Cr Ethan Ryan, Cr Gil Kelly, Cr Les Cooper.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Peter Bascomb (Demerger Transition Manager), Roger Bailey (Interim General Manager)

**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**

**That the apology received from Cr Graham be accepted.**

**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 DEMERGER TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2026**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Penny Nicholson

Seconded: Cr Rosalind Wight

**That the Minutes of the Demerger Transition Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**5 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT****5.1 GENERAL MANAGER OFFICE****5.1.1 SELECTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PANEL CHAIR AND MEMBERS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

**The Committee recommends that Council endorses Candidate A as Chair of the Demerger Transition Dispute resolution Panel.**

**CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

**The Committee recommends that Council endorses Candidate A and Candidate F as members of the Demerger Transition Dispute Resolution Panel.**

**CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

**The Committee recommends that Council endorses Candidate C as an alternative member of the Demerger Transition Dispute Resolution Panel should one of the other members not be available for any reason.**

**CARRIED**

**5.1.2 APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL MANAGERS DESIGNATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Ethan Ryan

Seconded: Cr Rosalind Wight

**1. The Committee recommends that Council:****a. Establish the positions of:**

- i. General Manager Designate Cootamundra**
- ii. General Manager Designate Gundagai**

- b. Seek to employ both GMs-Designate by 30 April 2027 at the latest, initially as an award-based employee with remuneration package equivalent to that of the relevant GM position.
  - c. Seek to have the Proclamation refer to the appointment of the GMs-Designate as the Interim General Manager of the Council for which they were recruited.
  - d. Determine that the GMs-Designate's role will include:
    - i. Review the draft structure of the organisation for which they are recruited.
    - ii. Recruit as many vacant positions as possible by 1 July 2027.
    - iii. Working with the other GM-Designate and the Interim General Manager, ensure that all new staff are properly inducted and trained.
    - iv. Progress the Demerger Transition Project to ensure that both successor Councils are fully operational on 1 July 2027.
    - v. Working with the other GM-Designate and the Interim General Manager, finalise the draft IP&R and other plans and policies for the Council for which they are recruited.
    - vi. Assist the CGRC Interim GM as required to ensure the continued operation of CGRC and the smooth transition to the new organisations.
2. The Committee recommends that Council, to facilitate the recruitment of the two GMs-Designate:
- a. Establish two Committees of Council, being:
    - i. GM Cootamundra Recruitment Committee, comprising Councillors Wight, Kelly, Ryan, Collins, Cooper and Syed.
    - ii. GM Gundagai Recruitment Committee, comprising Councillors McAllister, Graham and Nicholson.
  - b. Require the Committees to follow the *Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers* issued under Section 23a of the Local Government Act 1993
  - c. Authorise each Committee to:
    - i. Elect the Committee Chair.
    - ii. Appoint a recruitment agency to assist with the recruitment process for each successor Council.
    - iii. Select the preferred candidate for each successor Council for referral to Council for formal appointment.

**CARRIED**

### 5.1.3 PROCESS TO SPLIT RESERVES

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Penny Nicholson

Seconded: Cr Gil Kelly

**The Committee recommends that Council:**

1. **Approves the methodology for allocating Council's reserves detailed in this report.**
2. **Authorises the engagement of a contractor, selected by the Interim General Manager and the Demerger Transition Manager, to undertake the work of splitting the reserves according to the approved methodology so that the successor council reserves can be provided to the consultant engaged to prepare the updated Financial Sustainability Plan.**
3. **Consistent with Council's adopted Restricted Assets Policy, establish a reserve to retain the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) paid in advance with the reserve plus interest to carry forward to the actual year for which the FAGs were paid.**
4. **Acknowledge that the reserve established in part (c) above will further reduce the cash available for Council's internally restricted reserves.**
5. **Acknowledge that it is possible that the division of an Externally Restricted Reserves may result in one of the proposed successor Councils having a negative balance requiring that Council to borrow to repay the other successor Council.**
6. **Acknowledge that Council's Internally Restricted Reserves are not fully cash backed and require the balances of all such reserves to be reduced on a pro rata basis to the reserves are fully cash backed.**
7. **Require that the organisation record all future reserve transactions so that the successor council reserve balances are accurately known on 30 June 2027.**

**CARRIED**

#### **5.1.4 UPDATE ON FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TENDER SCHEDULE**

##### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Ethan Ryan

Seconded: Cr Rosalind Wight

**That the committee endorses the changed schedule for the appointment of contractors to undertake the review and update of the Financial Sustainability Plan.**

**CARRIED**

**The Meeting closed at 10:24.**

**CHAIRPERSON**

**GENERAL MANAGER**