



# **MINUTES**

**General Meeting**

**22 February 2023**

**MINUTES OF NORTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL  
GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT THE MONTO BOARDROOM  
ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 9.00AM**

**1 WELCOME/HOUSEKEEPING**

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9.00am and welcomed all attendees.

**2 ATTENDEES**

**COUNCILLORS:** Mayor Leslie Hotz, Cr Robert Radel<sup>^</sup>, Cr Melinda Jones, Cr Susan Payne, Cr Dael Giddins, Cr Michael Dingle, Cr Kingsley Mesner

**OFFICERS:** Margot Stork (CEO), Anna Scott (Interim General Manager - Works), Andrew Knight (Interim General Manager – Corporate and Community), Kelly Houston (Media Officer)<sup>^\*</sup>, Owen Jensen (Financial Services Manager)<sup>^\*</sup>, Michael Wallace (Contracts and Leasing Officer)<sup>^\*</sup>, Marlene Carstens (Executive Assistant to the Interim General Manager – Works), Kat Bright (Senior Executive Assistant to the CEO)

<sup>^</sup> attended the meeting via Microsoft Teams    <sup>\*</sup> attended part of the meeting only

**3 APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

**4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

On behalf of Council, the Mayor extended an Acknowledgement of Country.

**5 MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION**

The Mayor called for a moment of silence to pay respects to those who have passed in our region.

<i>Richard Bennett</i>	<i>Biggenden</i>
<i>Stafford Woodrow</i>	<i>Gayndah</i>
<i>Charles Merritt</i>	<i>Gayndah</i>
<i>Winifred Fraser</i>	<i>Gayndah</i>
<i>Thomas Lynn</i>	<i>Monto</i>
<i>Lurline Tebbit</i>	<i>Mundubbera</i>
<i>Barbara Schulz</i>	<i>Mundubbera</i>

**6 DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS**

Nil.

**7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**8.1 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2023**

**OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 25 January 2023 be confirmed.

**RESOLUTION 2023/17**

Moved: Cr Kingsley Mesner  
Seconded: Cr Michael Dingle

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 25 January 2023 be confirmed.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

**8.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2023**

**OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 6 February 2023 be confirmed.

**RESOLUTION 2023/18**

Moved: Cr Michael Dingle  
Seconded: Cr Dael Giddins

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 6 February 2023 be confirmed.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

At 9.07am, Kelly Houston (Media Officer) joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

## 9 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### 9.1 APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION THAT POLL BE CONDUCTED BY POSTAL BALLOT

#### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the contents of the report titled 'Application for direction that poll be conducted by postal ballot'.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a. Pursuant to section 16 of the Local Government Act 2009, provide written notice to the Queensland Electoral Commissioner and the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, advising that the North Burnett Regional Council has finalised it's review of divisional enrolment and that each of the existing 6 Divisions remain within quota.
  - b. Pursuant to section 45AA of the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, make application to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, for a poll to be conducted by postal ballot for all of the Local Government's area, as Council considered that a full postal ballot is the most commercially viable option, and it is the option that presents the least degree of impost on the regions residents.

#### Resolution 2023/19

Moved: Cr Dael Giddins

Seconded: Cr Kingsley Mesner

That Council:

1. Note the contents of the report titled 'Application for direction that poll be conducted by postal ballot'.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a. Pursuant to section 16 of the Local Government Act 2009, provide written notice to the Queensland Electoral Commissioner and the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, advising that the North Burnett Regional Council has finalised it's review of divisional enrolment and that each of the existing 6 Divisions remain within quota.
  - b. Pursuant to section 45AA of the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, make application to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, for a poll to be conducted by postal ballot for all of the Local Government's area, as Council considered that a full postal ballot is the most commercially viable option, and it is the option that presents the least degree of impost on the regions residents.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

## 9.2 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in accordance with Statutory Policy Reimbursement and Provision of Facilities for Mayor and Councillors:

1. Appoint the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO or delegates as representatives to attend the Australian Local Government Association (the 'ALGA') National General Assembly (the 'NGA') 2023 in Canberra 13-15 June 2023.

That Council:

2. Move the following motions at the Australian Local Government Association (the 'ALGA') National General Assembly (the 'NGA') 2023 in Canberra 13-15 June 2023:
  - a. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide local government communities classified as regional, rural, or remote which have limited capacity to raise or increase own source revenue outside current rating streams to have access to federal grant funding with a co- contribution of 10% or less for capital works projects to renew or replace essential water, wastewater, roads and waste management infrastructure.

OR

- b. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding increases towards the construction of new and augmented water infrastructure projects across regional Australia to improve water security and deliver long-term, bulk water sources for regional communities.

OR

- c. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support increased investment in skills training, supply chain improvements, and initiatives that further fortify the economy and improve Australia's self-sufficiency in treatment and delivery of potable water, wastewater collection and treatment, and other essential services.

OR

- d. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with local councils to assist with the identification of existing skill shortages and the types of on-the-job training in water and wastewater treatment that might meet micro-credentialing requirements and assist local councils to take up these options to fortify these essential services.

OR

- e. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop innovative programs to attract and incentivise professional, skilled and unskilled Local Government workers to regional and remote areas.
  - f. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with rural and remote local governments to reimplement the rural and remote area television program to ensure the provision of the necessary infrastructure to rural and remote communities to guarantee the provision of free to air television services to all communities.
  - g. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore

untied Local Government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and distribute funds more equitably across Local Government communities who have limited capacity to raise or increase own source revenue outside current rating streams.

- h. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to expand the Mobile Black Spot Program funding for regional and remote communities, and create an equitable distribution of funding across States.

**RESOLUTION 2023/20**

Moved: Cr Kingsley Mesner

Seconded: Cr Michael Dingle

That Council, in accordance with Statutory Policy Reimbursement and Provision of Facilities for Mayor and Councillors:

1. Appoint the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO or delegates as representatives to attend the Australian Local Government Association (the 'ALGA') National General Assembly (the 'NGA') 2023 in Canberra 13-15 June 2023.

That Council:

2. Move the following motions at the Australian Local Government Association (the 'ALGA') National General Assembly (the 'NGA') 2023 in Canberra 13-15 June 2023:
  - a. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide local government communities classified as regional, rural, or remote which have limited capacity to raise or increase own source revenue outside current rating streams to have access to federal grant funding with a co- contribution of 10% or less for capital works projects to renew or replace essential water, wastewater, roads and waste management infrastructure.
  - b. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding increases towards the construction of new and augmented water infrastructure projects across regional Australia to improve water security and deliver long-term, bulk water sources for regional communities.
  - c. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support increased investment in skills training, supply chain improvements, and initiatives that further fortify the economy and improve Australia's self-sufficiency in treatment and delivery of potable water, wastewater collection and treatment, and other essential services.
  - d. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with local councils to assist with the identification of existing skill shortages and the types of on-the-job training in water and wastewater treatment that might meet micro-credentialing requirements and assist local councils to take up these options to fortify these essential services.
  - e. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop innovative programs to attract and incentivise professional, skilled and unskilled Local Government workers to regional and remote areas.
  - f. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with rural and remote local governments to reimplement the rural and remote area television program to ensure the provision of the necessary infrastructure to rural and remote communities to guarantee the provision of free to air television services

to all communities.

- g. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore untied Local Government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and distribute funds more equitably across Local Government communities who have limited capacity to raise or increase own source revenue outside current rating streams.
- h. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to expand the Mobile Black Spot Telecommunications Program funding for regional and remote communities, and create an equitable distribution of funding across States.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

**10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY****10.1 FINANCE REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2023****OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION**

That in accordance with section 204 *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*, Council receives the Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 2023.

At 9.27am, Owen Jensen (Financial Services Manager) joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

**RESOLUTION 2023/21**

Moved: Cr Dael Giddins

Seconded: Cr Kingsley Mesner

That in accordance with section 204 *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*, Council receives the Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 2023.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

At 9.29am, Owen Jensen (Financial Services Manager) left the meeting.



**11 WORKS****11.1 MONTO ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - FUTURE PLAN****OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Resolves to undertake repairs to the Monto Administration Building at 51A Newton Street, Monto Queensland 4630, to the Design Specifications dated 16 March 2022 and Engineering and Architectural Drawings dated 06 April 2022 and 25 March 2022 respectively prepared by Council's consultant structural engineer.
2. Allocate an additional budget of \$137,277 for the stabilising works for the Monto Administration Building.

**RESOLUTION 2023/22**

Moved: Cr Melinda Jones

Seconded: Cr Robert Radel

That Council:

1. Resolves to undertake repairs to the Monto Administration Building at 51A Newton Street, Monto Queensland 4630, to the Design Specifications dated 16 March 2022 and Engineering and Architectural Drawings dated 06 April 2022 and 25 March 2022 respectively prepared by Council's consultant structural engineer.
2. Allocate an additional budget of \$137,277 for the stabilising works for the Monto Administration Building.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Cr Susan Payne

**CARRIED 6/1**

**12 COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**12.1 MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

**OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION**

That the Councillor Reports be received for the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 January 2023.

**RESOLUTION 2023/23**

Moved: Cr Melinda Jones

Seconded: Cr Dael Giddins

That the Councillor Reports be received for the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 January 2023.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Cr Susan Payne

**CARRIED 6/1**

**13 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

## 14 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

#### 14.1 Update on Sale of Council Property

This matter is considered to be confidential under 254J - 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

#### 14.2 Procurement Exemption and Consultant Appointment

This matter is considered to be confidential under 254J - 254J(3)(b) of the Local Government Regulation, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with industrial matters affecting employees.

### RESOLUTION 2023/24

Moved: Cr Dael Giddins  
Seconded: Cr Robert Radel

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

#### 14.1 Update on Sale of Council Property

This matter is considered to be confidential under 254J - 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

#### 14.2 Procurement Exemption and Consultant Appointment

This matter is considered to be confidential under 254J - 254J(3)(b) of the Local Government Regulation, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with industrial matters affecting employees.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

### THE MEETING MOVED INTO A CLOSED SESSION AT 9.46AM.

At 9.46am, Kelly Houston (Media Officer) left the meeting.

**NOTE:** During the confidential closed session, Councillors discussed the content in the confidential reports listed above.

At 9.48am, Michael Wallace (Contracts and Leasing Officer) joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

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At 10.10am, Michael Wallace (Contracts and Leasing Officer) left the meeting.

At 10.15am, Michael Wallace (Contracts and Leasing Officer) returned to the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

**RESOLUTION 2023/25**

Moved: Cr Dael Giddins

Seconded: Cr Michael Dingle

That Council moves out of Closed Session into Open Session.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

**THE MEETING MOVED BACK INTO AN OPEN SESSION AT 10.23AM.**

#### 14.1 UPDATE ON SALE OF COUNCIL PROPERTY

##### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive the Update on Sale of Council Property Report.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept any offer for 9 Augustus Street, Mount Perry; that they consider to be in Council's best interests.

At 10.25am, Owen Jensen (Financial Services Manager) and Kelly Houston (Media Officer) returned to the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

##### RESOLUTION 2023/26

Moved: Cr Susan Payne

Seconded: Cr Robert Radel

That Council:

1. Receive the Update on Sale of Council Property Report.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept any offer for 9 Augustus Street, Mount Perry; on such terms and conditions that they consider to be in Councils best interests.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne and Dael Giddins

Against: Crs Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

**CARRIED 5/2**

At 10.26am, Michael Wallace (Contracts and Leasing Officer) and Owen Jensen (Financial Services Manager) left the meeting.

#### 14.2 PROCUREMENT EXEMPTION AND CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT

##### OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse exemption from procurement policy requirements, enabling the Chief Executive Officer to appoint Peak as an independent contractor, to support the enterprise bargaining negotiations and concurrent Enterprise Agreement development.

##### RESOLUTION 2023/27

Moved: Cr Dael Giddins

Seconded: Cr Kingsley Mesner

That Council endorse exemption from procurement policy requirements, enabling the Chief Executive Officer to appoint Peak as an independent contractor, to support the enterprise bargaining negotiations and concurrent Enterprise Agreement development.

In Favour: Crs Leslie Hotz, Robert Radel, Melinda Jones, Susan Payne, Dael Giddins, Michael Dingle and Kingsley Mesner

Against: Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

**15 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**The Meeting closed at 10.28am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the General Meeting held on 22 March 2023.**

  
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**CHAIRPERSON**