

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON 20 AUGUST 2026

PRESENT: Mayor P Culhane (Chairperson), Cr R Cameron, Cr V Flanagan, Cr G Harris, Cr A Meggitt, Cr S Peirce, Cr S Reynolds, Cr J Searl, Cr T Yallouris, Ms A Waldron (Chief Executive Officer), Mr A Croke (Director Finance and Administration), Mr S Arkinstall (Director of Environment & Planning), Mr K Mahmud (Director Infrastructure), Mrs M Selmes (Executive Assistant to Director Finance and Administration) and Mrs K McCarthy (Executive Assistant)

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING OPEN AT 10:02AM

SECTION 1: NOTICE OF WEBCASTING/AUDIO RECORDING OF MEETING

Mayor Culhane read an Acknowledgement of Country and notice of meeting/webcast to the meeting. It was noted that audio may be unable for webcast livestream but a video would be available after the meeting on Councils website.

SECTION 2: APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

SECTION 3: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr S Peirce has made a non-pecuniary, non-significant declaration in Item 10.9 Library services as his partner is employed at the Crookwell and Gunning libraries and will make the declaration, stay in the Chamber, participate in the debate and vote.

Chief Executive Officer has made a non-pecuniary, significant declaration in Item 19.1 CEO Performance review as it relates to her performance appraisal, and will make a declaration, not participate in the debate, leave the chamber, and not return until the matter is resolved.

SECTION 4: CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Nil

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SECTION 5: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ITEM 5.1
133/26

RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 July 2026 be adopted.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

SECTION 6: PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL/PUBLIC

A Presentation on Bannaby BESS project from Ronch Wilner, Head of Development, Australia of BW ESS

SECTION 7: MAYORAL MINUTES

ITEM 7.1
134/26

MAYORAL MINUTE

RESOLVED by Mayor Culhane and Cr Peirce

1. That Council receive and note the activities attended by the Mayor for July and August.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

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ITEM 7.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS FOR HUMELINK HOST COUNCILS

135/26 RESOLVED by Mayor Culhane and Cr Cameron

1. Note that in September 2025, Snowy Valleys Council, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Yass Valley Council, Wagga Wagga City Council and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council resolved to advocate for an annual, indexed community benefit payment of \$10,000 per kilometre of HumeLink transmission infrastructure within each host local government area inline with compensation already granted to adjacent landowners;
2. Note that during the same period, the NSW Government has announced substantial community and legacy funding for communities within declared Renewable Energy Zones, including:
 - a. an initial \$128.4 million for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone;
 - b. an initial \$60 million for the New England Renewable Energy Zone;
 - c. an initial \$60 million for the South West Renewable Energy Zone; and
 - d. ongoing community and employment benefit funding generated through access fees over periods of up to 33 years;
3. Reaffirm its call for the NSW Government to establish a HumeLink Host Council Community Benefit Program providing:
 - a. an annual payment of \$10,000 for every kilometre of HumeLink transmission infrastructure located within each host local government area;
 - b. payments for a period of 33 years, commencing no later than the date HumeLink becomes operational;
 - c. annual indexation in line with the Consumer Price Index; and
 - d. untied funding that allows each council to invest in locally determined infrastructure, services and community priorities;
4. Request that the Mayor write to the Premier and Minister Sharpe seeking a formal written response or meeting regarding this proposal within 30 days;
5. Seek the renewed support of the Australian Energy Regulator, Canberra Region Joint Organisation, Local Government NSW, relevant State and Federal Members of Parliament, Transgrid and regional industry and community organisations; and

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6. Authorise the Mayor to undertake media and community advocacy highlighting the inequity between HumeLink host communities and communities located within declared Renewable Energy Zones.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Mayor Culhane and Cr Peirce moved a motion -

That Council:

1. Welcomes the Federal Government's recent announcement recognising the very real challenge of financial sustainability impacting the Local Government sector and committing to a meaningful, ongoing, annual increases in the level of Financial Assistance Grants;
2. Welcomes the announcement of the Federation Compact with Local Government that commits to:
 - (a) Ongoing annual increases to Financial Assistance Grants to return them to historic levels;
 - (b) Ensure Roads to Recovery funding can be used to purchase plant and equipment to enable councils to carry out their own road maintenance with their own trained workers, to the extent possible;
 - (c) Support and increase the availability of apprenticeships in local government, as well as other employment programs in a local government context;
 - (d) Deliver new capabilities to improve outcomes in housing, planning, emergency management and aged care; and
 - (e) Ensure the Government publishes an annual summary of funding for Local Government.
3. Write to the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister Catherine King welcoming their commitment to address the crisis in local government financial sustainability and urging them to work with the local government sector to urgently progress the Federation Compact with Local Government.

On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

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MAYORAL MINUTE – FEDERATION COMPACT

RESOLVED By Mayor Culhane and Cr Peirce

That Council:

1. Welcomes the Federal Government's recent announcement recognising the very real challenge of financial sustainability impacting the Local Government sector and committing to a meaningful, ongoing, annual increases in the level of Financial Assistance Grants;
2. Welcomes the announcement of the Federation Compact with Local Government that commits to:
 - (a) Ongoing annual increases to Financial Assistance Grants to return them to historic levels;
 - (b) Ensure Roads to Recovery funding can be used to purchase plant and equipment to enable councils to carry out their own road maintenance with their own trained workers, to the extent possible;
 - (c) Support and increase the availability of apprenticeships in local government, as well as other employment programs in a local government context;
 - (d) Deliver new capabilities to improve outcomes in housing, planning, emergency management and aged care; and
 - (e) Ensure the Government publishes an annual summary of funding for Local Government.
3. Write to the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister Catherine King welcoming their commitment to address the crisis in local government financial sustainability and urging them to work with the local government sector to urgently progress the Federation Compact with Local Government

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl, and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:-

Nil

Councillors who abstained: -

Cr A Meggitt

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Cr Simon Peirce left the meeting, the time being 11:04am

Cr Simon Peirce returned to the meeting, the time being 11:06am

Mayor Culhane offered condolences for Jo Agostino, who passed away recently and her contribution to the region in particular small business.

The Mayor also mentioned Garry Kadwell, and congratulated him on his recent national accolade (From the Earth, Produce Award) and contribution to the region.

Cr Terry Yallouris left the meeting, the time being 11:13am

Cr Gregory Harris left the meeting, the time being 11:15am

Cr Terry Yallouris returned to the meeting, the time being 11:16am

Cr Alexandra Meggitt left the meeting, the time being 11:17am

Cr Gregory Harris returned to the meeting, the time being 11:19am

SECTION 8: CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM 8.1 CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST
137/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

That Item 8.1 - Correspondence/Information listed below be received:

1. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-10 - End of Year Reporting Requirements.
2. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-11 – Procurement guidance for local government.
3. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-12 - Annual CPI adjustment - Filming Application Fees and Companion Animal Fees for 2026/2027.
4. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-13 - Annual Reporting of Labour Statistics.
5. Office of Local Government – Circular 26-14 - Local Government asset valuation discussion paper.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

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SECTION 9: LATE CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

SECTION 10: INFORMATION ONLY

Cr Alexandra Meggitt returned to the meeting, the time being 11:20am

ITEM 10.1 DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS REPORT

138/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Reynolds

1. Council receives and notes the report as information.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

ITEM 10.2-10.11 INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

139/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Flanagan and Cr Peirce

1. Council receive and notes Items 10.2-10.11 in the reports as information.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Cr Simon Peirce left the meeting, the time being 11:46am

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REPORTS FROM STAFF AND STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 11: ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Nil

SECTION 12: INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

ITEM 12.1 ROAD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT - INTERSECTION HANWORTH & BANNABY ROADS

140/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Resolve to proceed with the road closure and road opening process required to realign the road reserve associated with Brayton Road.
2. Resolve to transfer the closed road corridor to the adjoining landowner, at no cost, in recognition that the landowner will dedicate a greater area of land to Council for the creation of the new road reserve.
3. Require all costs associated with surveying, legal documentation, registration, gazettal and any other costs associated with the road closure and road opening process to be borne by the landowner.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

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SECTION 13: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

ITEM 13.1 REVIEW OF PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES POLICY

141/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Council in accordance with Sections 252-254, of the Local Government Act 1993 adopts the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy as publicly exhibited.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

<https://upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/policies/>

ITEM 13.2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURNS BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

142/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

1. Council receives the report on the tabling of the Disclosure of Interests Returns by Councillors and Designated Persons for year ending 30 June 2026 and notes they are made publicly available to view on Council's website.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

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Cr Simon Peirce returned to the meeting, the time being 11:53am

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**ITEM 13.3 2025/2026 BUDGET REVOTES TO CARRY FORWARD TO
INTERNAL RESTRICTED RESERVE**

143/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Reynolds

1. Council approves the 2025/2026 transfers to the Council internal restricted reserve fund totalling \$7,740,320 including revote of uncompleted works projects and prepayment of the 2026/2027 Financial Assistance Grants.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V
Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S
Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and
T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

ITEM 13.4 REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT POLICY

144/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Peirce

1. Council adopts the reviewed Investment Policy.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V
Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S
Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and
T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

<https://upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/policies/>

SECTION 14: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nil

SECTION 15: LATE REPORTS

Nil

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**SECTION 16: REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES, SECTION 355
COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES**

**ITEM 16.1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND
AUGUST**

145/26 RESOLVED by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

That Items - Minutes of Committee/Information listed below be received:

1. Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes – Upper Lachlan Shire Council – 30 June 2026.
2. Collector Oval Committee – General Meeting – 1 July 2026.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

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SECTION 17: NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEM 17.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CROOKWELL AQUATIC AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE FUNDING

MOVED by Mayor Culhane and Cr Peirce

1. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to seek grants to complete the Crookwell Aquatic and Visitor Information Centre or stages thereof incorporating up to \$2.5m in loan funding.
2. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council allocate \$50k from the building reserve to fund amended architectural plans to decouple the amenities block and indoor pool building.

- LOST

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, S Peirce and J Searl

Councillors who voted against:- Crs R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Reynolds and T Yallouris

A foreshadowed motion was moved by Cr Cameron and Cr Yallouris that

1. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to seek grants to complete the Crookwell Aquatic and Visitor Information Centre or stages thereof incorporating up to \$2.5m in loan funding.
2. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council allocate up to \$50k from the building reserve to fund a quantity surveyor to provide updated advice on the costs to final completion and commissioning of the amenities block and the heated pool.

On being put to the meeting the foreshadowed motion was carried therefore becoming the recommendation.

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**FORESHADOWED MOTION - CROOKWELL AQUATIC AND
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE FUNDING**

146/26

RESOLVED by Cr Cameron and Cr Yallouris

1. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to seek grants to complete the Crookwell Aquatic and Visitor Information Centre or stages thereof incorporating up to \$2.5m in loan funding.
2. That Upper Lachlan Shire Council allocate up to \$50k from the building reserve to fund a quantity surveyor to provide updated advice on the costs to final completion and commissioning of the amenities block and the indoor heated pool.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:-

Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, , A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- G Harris

Council took a short break for lunch the time being 12:52pm

Council returned to Chambers and resumed recording the time being 13:31pm

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**ITEM 17.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONSIDERATION OF SENATE INQUIRY
REPORT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IMPACTS**

147/26 RESOLVED by Cr Meggitt and Cr Reynolds

That Council -

1. Receive and note the final report of the NSW Parliament Inquiry into the Impacts of Renewable Energy Projects on Rural and Regional Communities.
2. Have regard to the findings and recommendations of the NSW Parliament inquiry in the preparation and consider as part of the submission in the SEARS process, where relevant to renewable energy and transmission developments.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Crs V Flanagan and J Searl

ITEM 17.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - MINUTES FOR DEVELOPER MEETINGS

MOVED by Cr Meggitt and Cr Harris

That Council in regards to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer; –

1. Reaffirms its commitment to good governance, transparency and informed decision-making in relation to renewable energy and transmission projects within the Upper Lachlan Shire.
2. Notes that a previous Council resolution (142/25) requires meetings held with developers to be advised to councillors and acknowledges that recent notifications have been provided in general terms.
3. Requests that, to support councillors in carrying out their statutory responsibilities, a brief written record be prepared for all meetings held with renewable energy or transmission developers, including:
 - the date and location of the meeting;
 - the names of attendees;
 - a clear statement of the purpose of the meeting;
 - a short summary of matters discussed; and

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- any follow-up actions identified.
- 4. Requests that such records be retained as official Council records in accordance with Council's record-keeping obligations.
- 5. Clarifies that this information is sought to ensure councillors have consistent access to relevant background material and to strengthen Council's governance practices, rather than to revisit or question past actions.
- 6. Requests that future meeting records be circulated to councillors within 10 business days of the meeting.

- LOST

Councillors who voted for:- Cr A Meggitt

Councillors who voted against:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, S Peirce and J Searl

Abstained:- Crs G Harris, S Reynolds and T Yallouris

148/26

RESOLVED by Cr Culhane and Cr Flanagan that –

1. Council extend the meeting by 30 minutes in line with Council's Code of Meeting Practice in accordance with time limits.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

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**ITEM 17.4 NOTICE OF MOTION - INFRASOUND ACOUSTIC REPORT BE
REQUIRED AS PART OF SEARS FOR ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY
PROJECTS**

MOVED by Cr Reynolds and Cr Meggitt

That -

1. Upper Lachlan Shire Council require from all proposed renewable energy projects, as part of their SEARS application, an independent acoustic report for infrasound and low frequency noise, to identify local levels of infrasound and to determine an infrasound baseline, prior to approval.

- LOST

Councillors who voted for:- Crs R Cameron, A Meggitt, S
Reynolds and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Crs P Culhane, V Flanagan, G
Harris, S Peirce and J Searl

A foreshowed motion was moved by Cr Harris and Cr Culhane

1. That Council notes community concerns regarding infrasound and low frequency noise from renewable energy projects.
2. When invited at the SEARS stage or EIS for renewable energy project Council will request the Department of Planning consider whether an independent infrasound baseline or low frequency noise assessment is warranted and any such assessment be made publicly available.

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ITEM 17.4 **NOTICE OF MOTION - INFRASOUND ACOUSTIC REPORT BE REQUIRED AS PART OF SEARS FOR ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

149/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Reynolds and Cr Meggitt
That -

1. That Council notes community concerns regarding infrasound and low frequency noise from renewable energy projects.
2. When invited at the SEARS stage or EIS for renewable energy project Council will request the Department of Planning consider whether an independent infrasound baseline or low frequency noise assessment is warranted and any such assessment be made publicly available.

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris.

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Abstained:- Cr S Reynolds

SECTION 18: QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

ITEM 18.1 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - WATER SECURITY

Refer to the business paper 20 August 2026 Council Meeting for the CEO's comments.

ITEM 18.2 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - WEED EDUCATION

Refer to the business paper 20 August 2026 Council Meeting for the CEO's comments.

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CLOSED COUNCIL ITEMS

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in 10A (2) of the Act and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the public and the media.

Note: Pursuant to Clause 25(1) of the Local Government (Meetings) Regulation, Council invites verbal representation by members of the public about whether the items listed below should not be considered by Council in a Closed Meeting. The items are:

150/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Peirce

1. That Council move into closed Council to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. That pursuant to of the Local Government Act 1993: the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A (2)(2a) as outlined above.
3. That the report relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

In line with Chief Executive Officer declaration A Waldron and Directors A Croke, S Arkinstall left the meeting at 14:30pm and did not return to the meeting.

Council closed its meeting at 14:30pm and the public, staff and press left the chambers and live streaming ceased.

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151/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Culhane and Cr Cameron that –

1. Council extend the meeting by 30 minutes in line with Council's Code of Meeting Practice in accordance with time limits.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

152/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Searl and Cr Flanagan

That Council move out of closed Council and into open Council.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

Open Council resumed at 14:50pm live streaming returned to the public prior to the meeting closing.

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Resolutions from the Closed Council Meeting

The following resolutions of Council, while the meeting was closed to the public, were read to the meeting by the Mayor.

SECTION 19: CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

153/26 **RESOLVED** by Cr Culhane and Cr Cameron that –

1. Council extend the meeting by 30 minutes in line with Council's Code of Meeting Practice in accordance with time limits.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

ITEM 19.1 CEO PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2025/2026

154/26 **RESOLVED** by Mayor Culhane and Cr Searl

1. Council receive and note the report as information.

- CARRIED

Councillors who voted for:- Crs P Culhane, R Cameron, V Flanagan, G Harris, A Meggitt, S Peirce, S Reynolds, J Searl and T Yallouris

Councillors who voted against:- Nil

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 14:55pm

Minutes confirmed 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Mayor
