

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2024, COMMENCING
AT 6.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor D Watton (in the Chair) and Councillors Dixon, Grine, Hill, Jurd, King, Lea, Madden, Mason, Palmowski, Pascoe and Suvaal.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Acting Development Services Manager)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
Strategic Planning Manager
Communications & Engagement Manager
Principal Community Engagement Officer
Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Support Officer
Senior Business Support Officer – Council Services
Council Services Team Leader
Director Planning and Environment (arrived approx. 7.42pm)

Council Prayer presented by Pastor Wayne Kembrey

APOLOGY/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Suvaal
Seconded: Councillor Lea

63

RESOLVED that the apology tendered on behalf of Councillor Harrington, for unavoidable absence, be accepted.

That a Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor Hill for the period 19 December 2024 to 10 January 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Hill
Seconded: Councillor Suvaal

64

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 November 2024, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Watton
Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI10/2024

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

RECOMMENDATION

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

CC73/2024 - Minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee held 7 November 2024

- Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine advised that she would leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

MM10/2024 - Minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee held 2 December 2024

– Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine advised that she would leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

MM11/2024 - Hunter Transmission Project Briefing Request

– Councillor Suvaal declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant conflict for the reason that as part of his employment he is currently working with EnergyCo, so until he seeks further clarity he will leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

WI29/2024 - Minutes of the Local Traffic Committee Meeting held 18 November 2024

- Councillor Lea declared Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that one of the listed matters in the report went to the Local Emergency Management Committee for comment. Through his primary employment he is part of the LEHC. Councillor Lea advised that he would remain in the chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced him in carrying out his public duty because the matter had no effect on his primary employment and he did not comment on the matter.

CC74/2024 - Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 13 November 2024

– Councillor Lea declared a Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a life member of the Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League Football Club. Councillor Lea advised that he would remain in the chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced him in carrying out his public duty because he was awarded Life Membership in 2023 and has had little to no involvement with the club since.

CC74/2024 - Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 13 November 2024

– Councillor Madden declared a Non Pecuniary – Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a Cessnock Hockey Committee member. Councillor Madden advised that he would leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

Nil

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ALL REPORTS BY ENGLOBO OR INDIVIDUALLY WITH NOMINATED EXCEPTIONS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
65
RESOLVED

that having read and considered the reports in the agenda related to items

OFFICERS REPORTS

‡ GMU11/2024	Appointment of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Independent Chairperson	41
‡ CC77/2024	Disclosures of Interests in Written Returns	65
‡ CC78/2024	Resolutions Tracking Report	68
‡ CC79/2024	Investment Report - November 2024.....	69

Council adopt the recommendations as printed in the business papers for those items.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM9/2024

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE ORGANISATIONAL AND GENERAL MANAGERS
REVIEW PANEL MEETING HELD 25 NOVEMBER 2024**

MOTION *Moved:* Councillor Watton

66

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Organisational and General Manager's Performance Review Committee of 25 November 2024 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Grine	Councillor King
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM10/2024

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL INITIATED AWARDS COMMITTEE HELD
2 DECEMBER 2024**

Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Grine left the meeting, the time being 6.38pm

MOTION Moved: Councillor Watton

67

RESOLVED

That Council endorse the recommendations of the Council Initiated Awards Committee for Cessnock City Council Australia Day Awards

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Grine returned to the meeting, the time being 6.40pm

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM11/2024

SUBJECT: HUNTER TRANSMISSION PROJECT BRIEFING REQUEST

Councillor Suvaal declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant conflict for the reason that as part of his employment he is currently working with EnergyCo so until he seeks further clarity, Councillor Suvaal left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Suvaal left the meeting, the time being 6.40pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton
68

RESOLVED

1. **That Council endorse a formal request to EnergyCo for a detailed briefing before the Environmental Impact Statement goes on public exhibition in regards to the Hunter Transmission Project.**
2. **That Council invite Councillors, and NSW State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr to actively participate in the briefing.**
3. **That Council note the importance of maintaining open lines of communication with EnergyCo and other stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Suvaal returned to the meeting, the time being 6.49pm

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU9/2024

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT NO. GMU11/2024

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
69
RESOLVED

1. That Council appoints Shane Hubble as the Independent Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028 in accordance with section 5.3 of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter.
2. That Council thanks Jenni Hayes, retiring Independent Chairperson for her leadership and dedicated service to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE27/2024

**SUBJECT: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN -
PUBLIC EXHIBITION REPORT AND ADOPTION**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
70
RESOLVED

That Council adopt the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Jurd
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC72/2024

SUBJECT: REVISED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
71

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council places the revised Community Engagement Strategy (incorporating the Community Participation Plan) on public exhibition for a minimum period of 60 days and invite public submissions.**
- 2. That a report on the outcomes of the exhibition be provided to Council prior to Council considering adopting the revised Community Engagement Strategy.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC73/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL INITIATED AWARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 7 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Grine left the meeting, the time being 7.12pm

MOTION Moved: Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill

72

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee Meeting held on 7 November 2024 include recommendations to offer opportunities for induction into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame and Freeman of the City.
2. That Council adopts the minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee Meeting held on 7 November 2024.
3. That the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame Guidelines be amended with the following changes:
 - a. Removal of reference to ‘Nominations to the Hall of Fame will be called for every two years’ and replace with ‘Nominations can be submitted at any time’.
 - b. Removal of reference to ‘Community Engagement Awards and Grants Committee’ and replace with ‘Council Initiated Awards Committee’.
4. That the amended City of Cessnock Hall of Fame Guidelines be adopted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Grine returned to the meeting, the time being 7.13pm

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC74/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillor Lea declared a Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a life member of the Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League Football Club. Councillor Lea remained in the chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

Councillor Madden declared a Non Pecuniary – Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a Cessnock Hockey Committee member. Councillor Madden left chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Madden left the meeting, the time being 7.14pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
73

RESOLVED

1. That the Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee Meeting of 13 November 2024 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.
2. That Council provides funds through the Community and Cultural Development Grant Scheme to:
 - ArtsNational Hunter in the amount of \$2,910
 - Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre in the amount of \$7,018
 - Branxton Community Hall in the amount of \$2,500
 - Carries Place Domestic Violence and Homelessness Services in the amount of \$2,436
 - Cessnock Family Support Service in the amount of \$1,676
 - Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation in the amount of \$500
 - Lions Club of Branxton Inc. in the amount of \$1,480
 - Prelude Australia in the amount of \$2,536
 - Sunnyfield Disability Services in the amount of \$1,800
 - Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc. in the amount of \$3,000.
3. That the \$856 shortfall in funding be allocated from the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Scheme and be used to assist in funding Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre's project.
4. That Council provides funds through the Community Facilities Grant Scheme to:
 - Branxton Pre-School in the amount of \$7,167
 - Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre in the amount of \$21,309
 - Hunter Prelude Ltd in the amount of \$1,649
 - Wollombi Community Hall section 355 committee in the amount of \$2,114
 - Wollombi Valley Community Association in the amount of \$1,091
5. That Council transfers \$3,330 from the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to fund all Community Facilities Grant Scheme applications.

6. That Council provides funds through the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to:
 - Branxton District Netball Club in the amount of \$2,413
 - Cessnock District Hockey Association in the amount of \$2,700
 - Cessnock District Netball Association in the amount of \$1,778
 - Cessnock Dog Club in the amount of \$4,045
 - Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League Football Club in the amount of \$2,717
 - Kurri Kurri Rugby League Football Club in the amount of \$2,399
 - Wollombi Valley Tennis Club in the amount of \$512
7. That Council transfers \$3,330 from the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to the Community Facilities Grant Scheme to fund all applications.
8. That Council advertises a Round 2 of the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme in February 2025 to expend the remaining \$10,106.
9. That Council provides funds through the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Environment Grant Program to:
 - Cessnock Community Garden in the amount of \$2,792
 - North Rothbury Bushcare in the amount of \$3,058.11
 - Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre in the amount of \$856
10. That Greta Sustainable Communities/Tidy Towns be informed that their application for funding is not supported in this round.
11. That the General Manager writes to all applicants advising the outcome of their application and thanking them for their ongoing support and commitment to the enhancement of Council's sporting facilities.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Grine	Councillor King
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (1)

CARRIED

Procedural note: While two Councillors expressed a preference to abstain from voting, clause 11.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice requires the a Councillor who is present and fails to vote is taken to have voted against the motion.

Councillor Madden returned to the meeting, the time being 7.22pm

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC75/2024

SUBJECT: ANNUAL CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
74

RESOLVED

That Council notes the Annual Code of Conduct Complaints Report for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC76/2024

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON UNREASONABLE CONDUCT BY CUSTOMERS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
75
RESOLVED

That Council notes the Annual Report of Unreasonable Conduct by Customers report for the period 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC77/2024

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN WRITTEN RETURNS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
76
RESOLVED

That Council notes the tabling of the disclosures of interests written returns for the period 1 August 2024 to 31 October 2024 in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC78/2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
77
RESOLVED

That Council receives the report and notes the information in the Resolutions Tracking Report.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC79/2024

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
78
RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for November 2024 and notes that:

- **Investments are held in accordance with Council’s Investment Policy, which is in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order.**
- **Council’s month end cash and investments balance was \$64,246,979.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI27/2024

SUBJECT: NAMING OF AVERYS RISE PARK

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
79

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council endorses naming the new park and playground Averys Rise Park.**
- 2. That Council supports a naming proposal be submitted to the NSW Geographical Names Board for consideration and gazettal.**
- 3. That signage be updated following the gazettal of the Place Naming Proposal by the NSW Geographical Names Board (subject to approval).**

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 7.27pm

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 7.29pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI28/2024

SUBJECT: KURRI KURRI NOSTALGIA FESTIVAL - MARCH 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
80

RESOLVED

That Council endorse the in-kind support valued at \$11,825, for the following services: waste management, park management and amenity management at Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival on 28, 29 and 30 March 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI29/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillor Lea declared Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that one of the listed matters in the report went to the Local emergency Management Committee for comment. Through his primary employment he is part of the LEHC. Councillor Lea remained in the chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor King
81

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Cessnock Local Traffic Committee Meeting of 18 November 2024 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

- **TC35/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Wine Country Drive, Broke Road, Lovedale Road, De Beyers Road, Col Turnbull Parade and Grady Road, Pokolbin, Lomas Lane Nulkaba, Averys Lane Heddon Greta, and Mount View Road Cessnock for the Hunter Valley Airshow from 7am to 7pm, Saturday 8 February 2025 & Sunday 9 February 2025, in accordance with the Various Roads Pokolbin _ Hunter Valley Airshow Traffic Guidance Schemes.**
- **TC36/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Broke Road, McDonalds Road, Palmers Lane and Wine Country Drive, Pokolbin for A Day on the Green multiple events in accordance with Various Roads Pokolbin _ A Day on the Green Traffic Guidance Scheme.**
- **That Council note the General Manager or the General Managers sub-delegate authorised the following Local Traffic Committee reports in accordance with Division 2 of Part 8 of the Roads Act 1993:**
 - **TC37/2024**
 - **TC38/2024**
 - **TC39/2024**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI30/2024

SUBJECT: TENDER T2024-14 KURRI KURRI NETBALL FACILITY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Grine **Seconded:** Councillor King
82

RESOLVED

That Council accepts the tender (T2024-14) from Glascott Landscape & Civil Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$6,700,795.65 (including GST) for the Kurri Kurri Netball Facility.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN10/2024

SUBJECT: OPENING OF BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR PUBLIC OBSERVATION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

1. That Council amend the Code of Meeting Practice, clause 3.34 to allow pre meeting briefing sessions to be open to the public except for those items allowed under clause 14.1 (grounds on which meetings can be closed to the public).
2. That Council place the revised Code of Meeting Practice on public exhibition.
3. That Council adopts the revised Code of Meeting Practice the day after the public submission period of 42 days concludes, if no unresolved submissions are received.
4. That Council rescinds the Code of Meeting Practice 2024 from the date the revised Code of Meeting Practice 2025 is adopted.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill

That the report be deferred to coincide with the outcomes of the review by the Office of Local Government into the Councillor Conduct Framework.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea	Councillor King
Councillor Madden	Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski	Councillor Watton
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (7)	Total (5)

The Amendment was **PUT** and **CARRIED** and as such became the **MOTION**.

The Motion was then **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Pascoe

Seconded: Councillor Hill

83

RESOLVED

That the report be deferred to coincide with the outcomes of the review by the Office of Local Government into the Councillor Conduct Framework.

FOR

Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Suvaal

Total (8)

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Mason
Councillor Watton

Total (4)

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Hill

LGNSW Conference 2024

Councillor Hill advised of his attendance at the LGNSW Annual Conference and reported as follows:-

This year, the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference was held in Tamworth across 3 days, Sunday 17th – Tuesday 19th November. This conference meets annually to debate and vote on motions which determine the advocacy focus of LGNSW for the following 12 months. This means that important issues relevant to the state and federal governments can be focused on by Local Government's peak advocacy body.

Councillor Mitchell Hill, Councillor Sophie Palmowski and Councillor Chris Madden attended the event representing Cessnock Council. There were over 110 primary motions included in the business papers for the conference, submitted by Council's across NSW. Cessnock did not have any motions included this year, but many of the debates included issues that are prevalent in our LGA.

Some of these issues debated included:

- Advocating for a reduction in cost shifting from the NSW Government to local councils.
- Increasing the maximum developer contributions able to be levied by councils.
- Requesting the ability for councils to apply additional conditions or fees to 'Short Term Rental Accommodations' (AirBnB).
- Advocacy towards the NSW re-opening the transfer of regional roads to state roads.
- Increased funding from the Government to support upgrades to regional airports.
- Several motions regarding improvements to public transport across the state.

Throughout the conference, delegates also heard from special guest speakers such as the Minister for Local Government Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Regional Roads and Transport Jenny Aitchison MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Gaming, and Racing Kevin Anderson MP, and the Auditor General of NSW Bola Oyetunji.

The conference was successful in working through all the motions across the main debate day of Monday, and delegates were invited to attend the Conference Dinner that evening where several awards were given out to long-standing Councillors. Anyone interested in further information can access it on the LGNSW website: <https://lgnswconference.org.au/>

Pokolbin Mountains Road HTP Group Meeting

Councillor advised of his attendance at the Residents, Landholder and Utilisers of Pokolbin Mounts Road meeting held on 3 December 2024 and advised that the minutes would be made available to all Councillors.

Black Hill Quarry CLG Meeting

Councillor advised of his attendance at the Black Hill Quarry Community Liaison Group meeting held on 5 December 2024 and advised that the minutes would be made available to all Councillors.

Buttai Quarry CCC Meeting

Councillor advised of his attendance at the Buttai quarry Community Consultative Committee meeting held on 15 November 2024 and advised that the minutes would be made available to all Councillors.

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8.00pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 19 February 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**