

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2025, COMMENCING
AT 6.30PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting General Manager (Director Planning and Environment)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
Chief Financial Officer
Acting Development Services Manager (Development Services Coordinator)
Senior Planning Assessment Officer
Principal Development Engineer
Principal Community Engagement Officer
Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Support Officer
Acting Governance Advisor (Senior Governance Officer)
Acting Council Services Team Leader (Senior Business Support Officer – Council Services)

The Mayor on behalf of Council extended his condolences to the Fagg family for the loss of their husband and father, John Fagg who passed away last month. John was a past Councillor of Cessnock City Council between 2016 and 2021. John was the husband of former Cessnock City Councillor Karen Jackson.

A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect.

Council Prayer presented by Pastor Courtney Watton

**ATTENDANCE BY
AV LINK**

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Suvaal
Seconded: Councillor Harrington

84

RESOLVED that Council permit Councillor Madden to attend the 19 February 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting by audio-visual link due to work commitments.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Watton

Total (11)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APOLOGY:

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill
 Seconded: Councillor Suvaal

85

RESOLVED that the apology tendered on behalf of Councillor Grine, for unavoidable absence, be accepted and leave of absence granted.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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 Lea
 Seconded: Councillor Suvaal

86

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 December 2024, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record with the correction to the disclosure from Councillor Lea, amending the date from 2023 to 2003

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. DI1/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

PETITIONS

Nil

,

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

The following people addressed the meeting of Council:

| Speakers | Company | For / Against | Report | Page No. | Duration |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Daniel Brugman | | Against | PE1/2025 - Development Application No. 8/2023/298/1 for a food and drink premises comprising a pub and ancillary brewery, restaurant / café and associated car parking and on-site effluent disposal 5439 George Downes Drive Bucketty | 54 | 3 mins |

EXTENSION OF TIME **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
87

RESOLVED that an extension of time of one minute be granted to Daniel Brugman to complete his presentation.

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| FOR | AGAINST |
|------------|----------------|

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
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

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|---|----|--------|
| Nicholas McDonald | For | PE1/2025 - Development Application No. 8/2023/298/1 for a food and drink premises comprising a pub and ancillary brewery, restaurant / café and associated car parking and on-site effluent disposal 5439 George Downes Drive Bucketty | 54 | 3 mins |
|-------------------|-----|---|----|--------|

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE1/2025

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO. 8/2023/298/1 FOR A FOOD AND DRINK PREMISES COMPRISING A PUB AND ANCILLARY BREWERY, RESTAURANT / CAFÉ AND ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING AND ON-SITE EFFLUENT DISPOSAL

5439 GEORGE DOWNES DRIVE BUCKETTY

RECOMMENDATION

1. That:

- (i) Development Application No. 8/2023/298/1 for the construction of a food and drink premises comprising a pub and ancillary brewery, a restaurant / café and associated parking and on-site effluent disposal area on Lot 30 DP 574492 – 5439 George Downes Drive Bucketty, be approved pursuant to Sections 4.16 and 4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, subject to the conditions contained in Enclosure 2.
- (ii) The reasons for the decision (having regard to any statutory requirements applying to the decision) and consideration of community views are as follows:
- The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, is consistent with the objectives of the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP)*.
 - The proposed development is, subject to the recommended conditions, consistent with the objectives of the *Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP)*.
 - Subject to the recommended conditions, the proposed development will be provided with adequate essential services required under the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP)*.
 - The proposed development is considered to be of an appropriate scale and form for the site and is consistent and sympathetic with the character of the locality.
 - The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, will not result in unacceptable adverse impacts upon the natural or built environments.
 - Any issues raised in submission/s have been taken into account in the assessment report and where appropriate, conditions of consent have been imposed on the determination. Council has given due

consideration to community views when making the decision to determine the application.

- (iii) The details contained above be publicly notified pursuant to Section 2.22 and Clause 20(2) of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

2. That Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the proposed development, of Council's decision

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

88

RESOLVED that the report be deferred until the next Council meeting.

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

CARRIED

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

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
89

RESOLVED

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

| | | |
|------------|---|----|
| CC3/2025 | Credit Card Policy | 12 |
| ‡ CC5/2025 | Disclosures of Interests in Written Returns | 14 |
| ‡ CC8/2025 | Resolutions Tracking Report | 17 |

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

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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

Nil

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU1/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE2/2025

SUBJECT: 2025 HUNTER VALLEY AIRSHOW SPONSORSHIP

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
90
RESOLVED

That Council approves \$8,500 in sponsorship for the 2025 Hunter Valley Airshow with the following conditions:

- 1. 2025 Hunter Valley Airshow event development approval must be obtained,**
- 2. Any damage to Cessnock Airport as a result of the event is deducted from the sponsorship amount, and**
- 3. Sponsorship payment will occur after the event is held.**

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC1/2025

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - QUARTER 2, 31 DECEMBER 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
91

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council receives the December 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement in accordance with Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.**
- 2. That Council approves proposed changes to the 2024-25 operating and capital budgets as presented in the Quarterly Business Report December 2024.**

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | Councillor Jurd |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. CC2/2025

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE 2022-26 DELIVERY PROGRAM

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Suvaal
92

RESOLVED

That Council notes the progress in implementing the 2022-26 Delivery Program, for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 7.51pm

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 7.52pm

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. CC3/2025

SUBJECT: CREDIT CARD POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
93

RESOLVED

That Council adopts the reviewed Corporate Credit Card Policy.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. CC4/2025

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Suvaal

That Council endorses the submission to the Office of Local Government outlining Council's response to the proposed amendments to the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

That Council endorses the submission to the Office of Local Government, with the second paragraph removed from section 6 in relation to the agenda review sessions, page 269 of the attachment.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor Harrington | Councillor Dixon |
| Councillor Jurd | Councillor Hill |
| Councillor King | Councillor Lea |
| Councillor Watton | Councillor Madden |
| | Councillor Mason |
| | Councillor Palmowski |
| | Councillor Pascoe |
| | Councillor Suvaal |
| Total (4) | Total (8) |

The Amendment was **PUT** and **LOST**.

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

] **MOTION** **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Suvaal

94

RESOLVED

That Council endorses the submission to the Office of Local Government outlining Council's response to the proposed amendments to the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | Councillor Harrington |
| Councillor Hill | Councillor Jurd |
| Councillor Lea | Councillor King |
| Councillor Madden | |
| Councillor Mason | |
| Councillor Palmowski | |
| Councillor Pascoe | |
| Councillor Suvaal | |
| Councillor Watton | |
| Total (9) | Total (3) |

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC5/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN WRITTEN RETURNS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
95

RESOLVED

That Council notes the tabling of the disclosures of interests written returns for the period 1 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. CC6/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
96

RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for December 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 \$66,290,975.**

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. CC7/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
97

RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for January 2025 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 \$61,373,326.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. CC8/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
98

RESOLVED

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

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. WI1/2025

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 16 DECEMBER 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
99
RESOLVED

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

- **TC40/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Paynes Crossing Road, Wollombi for the Wollombi Public Holiday Markets events in accordance with the Paynes Crossing Road Wollombi _ Wollombi Markets Traffic Guidance Schemes.**
- **TC41/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic for the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival event in accordance with the Various Roads Kurri Kurri _ Nostalgia Festival Traffic Guidance Schemes.**
- **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:**
 - **TC42/2024**
 - **TC43/2024**
 - **TC44/2024**

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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. BN1/2025

SUBJECT: MAYORAL REPORTING TO COUNCIL ON STATE AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY

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

That the Mayor bring a quarterly report to Council to inform on his attendance at or absence from meetings or events that provide advocacy opportunities for representing the interests of Cessnock City Council and our community.

Councillor King left the meeting, the time being 8.34pm

Councillor King returned to the meeting, the time being 8.36pm

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor King

That the Mayor and all Councillors bring a quarterly report to Council to report on their opportunities of meetings or events that provide them access to members of Parliament or major companies where they are representing the interest of Cessnock City Council in their role as Councillor.

Councillor Pascoe left the meeting, the time being 8.51pm

Councillor Pascoe returned to the meeting, the time being 8.52pm

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

The Amendment was PUT and LOST.

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 9.08pm

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 9.10pm

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

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

That the Mayor bring a quarterly report to Council to inform on his attendance at or absence from meetings or events that provide advocacy opportunities for representing the interests of Cessnock City Council and our community.

FOR

Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Suvaal

Total (5)

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Mason
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (7)

LOST

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN2/2025

SUBJECT: STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS - COMMUNITY CONCERNS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
100

RESOLVED

1. That Council make submissions to the State Significant Developments for Weston Aluminium (SSD-79012238) and Recycle Central (SSD-71547218) noting community concern surrounding the expansion of these existing developments and the possible impacts.
2. The submissions should note concerns surrounding the expansion of waste disposal and possible environmental contamination close to residential properties, as well as the impact of increased heavy vehicle movements on the local road network.
3. That Council calls on both proponents to conduct meaningful community consultation alongside the relevant regulatory agencies to ensure community confidence in the proposals.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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 WITH NOTICE NO. BN3/2025

SUBJECT: CHRONIC UNDERSTAFFING AT CESSNOCK POLICE STATION AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington

1. That Council acknowledge the ongoing issue of chronic understaffing at Cessnock Police Station and its impact on community safety.
2. That Council write to the Minister for Police to request support to address staffing shortages and ensure sufficient police resources are allocated to the Cessnock region.
3. That Council write to our State member to advocate for better staffing levels at the Cessnock Police Station to effectively address rising crime and improve response times for non-critical incidents.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor LeaThat

1. That Council notes the great work our local Police do in challenging circumstances to keep our community safe.
2. That Council writes to Clayton Barr MP, the Minister for Police and the NSW Police Hunter Area Local Area Commander requesting a meeting with Council to discuss ways we can all work together to improve safety, reduce crime and eradicate domestic violence in our community, including through things like town planning, community education campaigns, CCTV and an increased police presence.
3. That Council write to the Minister for Police to request support to address staffing shortages and ensure sufficient police resources are allocated to the Cessnock region.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Watton

Total (12)

AGAINST

Total (0)

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

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

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
101
RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the great work our local Police do in challenging circumstances to keep our community safe.

2. That Council writes to Clayton Barr MP, the Minister for Police and the NSW Police Hunter Area Local Area Commander requesting a meeting with Council to discuss ways we can all work together to improve safety, reduce crime and eradicate domestic violence in our community, including through things like town planning, community education campaigns, CCTV and an increased police presence.

3. That Council write to the Minister for Police to request support to address staffing shortages and ensure sufficient police resources are allocated to the Cessnock region.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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 WITH NOTICE NO. BN4/2025

SUBJECT: RUGBY UNION WORLD CUP 2027

MOTION
102

Moved: Councillor Lea

Seconded: Councillor King

MOTION

That Council, in acknowledgment of Australia hosting the 2027 Rugby Union World Cup and Newcastle hosting four (4) pool matches, formally submit an Expression of Interest to New South Wales Rugby Union, Rugby Australia, World Rugby, Mr Clayton Barr MP State Member for Cessnock, Mr Dan Repacholi MP Federal Member for Hunter, NSW Minister for Sport the Hon. Steve Kamper and Federal Minister for Sport the Hon. Anika Wells nominating our location as a potential host for participating nations, both during the tournament and for pre-tournament training camps.

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Councillor Dixon | |
| Councillor Harrington | |
| 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

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Mayor Watton

Canberra Federal Election Advocacy Trip - 5 -6 February 2025

Mayor Watton advised of his attendance at the Hunter JO's Canberra Federal Election advocacy trip, on the 5 and 6 February 2025. The group included:

- Cr Leah Anderson – Port Stephens Council Mayor
- Cr Jeff Drayton – Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor
- Cr Sue Moore – Singleton Council Mayor
- Cr Philip Penfold – Maitland City Council Mayor
- Cr Digby Rayward – Dungog Shire Mayor
- Steve Wilson – Director Hunter JO
- Kim Carland – Advocacy & Government Relations Lead Hunter JO

Focus of the trip

To communicate and advocate shared federal election priorities;

- Post mining land use
- Housing

Road funding

- International tourism and air freight terminal
- Circular economy

Breakdown of meetings – Who did we meet with?

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| Government Ministers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Catherine King – Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Gov • Hon Josh Wilson - Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy • Hon Kristy McBain - Minister for Regional Development & Local Government and Territories • Hon Clare O’Neil - Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness |
| Shadow Ministers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon David Littleproud - Leader of the Nationals (& Ross Cadell) • Hon Darren Chester - Shadow Minister for Regional Development & Local Gov • |
| Government Advisors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister, Hon Anthony Albanese • Hon Madelaine King, Minister for Resources • Hon Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for Trade & Future Made in Australia • Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism |
| Shadow Advisors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Peter Dutton, Leader of the Opposition |
| Hunter MP’s | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Pat Conroy (Shortland) • Dan Repacholi (Hunter)• • Sharon Claydon (Newcastle) • Meryl Swanson (Paterson)• • Hon Barnaby Joyce MP (New England)• • Hon Dr David Gillespie MP (Lyne) |
| Agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Zero Economy Authority |

A selection of advocacy documents were prepared and distributed as part of this advocacy week with key representatives from the Hunter JO. A copy of advocacy documents can be supplied at any stage from the mayor's office.,

Councillor Palmowski left the meeting, the time being 9.46pm

Councillor Palmowski returned to the meeting, the time being 93.47pm

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 9.47pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 19 March 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**