

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Interim General Manager (Director Planning and Environment)
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Development Services Manager)
Acting Director Corporate and Community Services (Chief Finance Officer)
Director Works and Infrastructure
Acting Development Services Manager (Development Engineering Coordinator)
Acting Strategic Planning Manager
Communications & Engagement Manager
Help Desk Support Officer
Senior Business Support Officer – Council Services

The Prayer was presented by Reverend Nicole Baldwin

**APOLOGY / LEAVE
OF ABSENCE:**

MOTION

Moved:
Seconded:

Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Jurd

278

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

That the leave of Absence previously granted for Councillor Dixon for the period 5 November 2025 to 23 November 2025, and Councillor Harrington for the period 3 November 2025 to 28 November 2025 be noted.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION	Moved:	Councillor Pascoe
	Seconded:	Councillor Jurd

279

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 October 2025 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held 22 October 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI11/2025

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.

PE31/2025 - DA 8/2025/536/1 Proposed Telecommunications Facility (Mobile Telephone Infrastructure) - Councillor Jurd declared a Pecuniary Interest - Significant Conflict for the reason that she has a potential monetary implication. Councillor Jurd advised that she will leave the chamber and will take no part in discussion and voting.

CC71/2025 - Community, Sporting and Environment Grant 2025-26 - Councillor Palmowski declared a Non Pecuniary Interest - Significant Conflict for the reason that she is a committee member of the Greta Branxton Football Club. Councillor Palmowski advised that she will leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

CC73/2025 - Classification of Land _ Lot 6 & 7 DP1308673 1 Chapell Street & 1 Bendeich Drive North Rothbury - Councillor Palmowski declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that she owns property within the estate of Huntlee in North Rothbury. Councillor Palmowski advised she will remain in the chamber and take part in discussion and voting as the conflict will not influence her in carrying out her public duty.

CC71/2025 - Community, Sporting and Environment Grant 2025-26 – Councillor Madden declares a Non Pecuniary - Significant Conflict for the reason that he is the vice president of the Kearsley Community Sporting Association who trade as the Kearsley Crushers who applied for a grant for a new marker. Councillor Madden advised that he will leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

The following people addressed the meeting of Council:

Alex Hardy	Prosperity	Presenting	CC79/2025 - Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025	80	
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CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC79/2025

SUBJECT: ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Madden
280
RESOLVED

That the Annual Financial Statements, incorporating the Auditor's Reports for the year ended 30 June 2025, be received and the information be noted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (9)	Total (1)

CARRIED

Speakers	Company	For / Against	Report	Page No.	Duration
Jessica Jurd		Against	PE31/2025 - DA 8/2025/536/1 Proposed Telecommunications Facility (Mobile Telephone Infrastructure)	40	3 mins

EXTENSION OF TIME

Moved:

Councillor Lea

Seconded:

Councillor Hawkins

281

RESOLVED

That an extension of one minute be granted to Jessica Jurd to complete her presentation

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXTENSION OF TIME

Moved:

Councillor Mason

Seconded:

Councillor Madden

282

RESOLVED

That an extension of one minute be granted to Jessica Jurd to complete her presentation

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Baade	Waveconn Operations	For	PE31/2025 - DA 8/2025/536/1 Proposed Telecommunications Facility (Mobile Telephone Infrastructure)	40	3 mins
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EXTENSION OF TIME

Moved: Councillor Lea
Seconded: Councillor Pascoe

283

RESOLVED

That an extension of one minute be granted to Mark Baade to complete his presentation

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton
Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 6.59pm

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE31/2025

SUBJECT: DA 8/2025/536/1
PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY (MOBILE TELEPHONE INFRASTRUCTURE)

Councillor Jurd declared a Pecuniary Interest - Significant Conflict for the reason that she has a potential monetary implication . Councillor Jurd left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

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

284

RESOLVED

1. That:

- (i) Development Application No. 8/2025/536/1 proposing a Telecommunications Facility (Mobile Telephone Base Station) at 25 Cessnock Street Cessnock be approved pursuant to Sections 4.16 and

4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* subject to the conditions contained in this report.

(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 2011).
- The proposed development is, subject to the recommended conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP 2010); any variations to prescribed standards within this Plan have been adequately addressed.
- The proposed development is considered to be of an appropriate scale and form.
- 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 submissions have been taken into account in the assessment report and where appropriate, conditions of consent have been imposed to reasonably mitigate potential impacts. 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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	Councillor Mason
Councillor Hill	Councillor Watton
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Total (7)	Total (2)

CARRIED

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

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 07.12 PM

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

285

RESOLVED

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

CC72/2025	Cessnock City Library Strategy and Summary 2025-35.....	59
CC75/2025	Schedule of Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2026.....	68
CC80/2025	Financial Hardship Policy	84
CC CC81/2025	Investment Report - October 2025	87
CC83/2025	Placement of the Long Term Financial Plan (2026-2036) on Public Exhibition.....	

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

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM13/2025

**SUBJECT: MULTI GOVERNMENT FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL
HEALTH, AND RELATED SOCIAL ISSUES**

MOTION Moved: Councillor Watton
286
RESOLVED

That Council write to the Member for Cessnock, Mr Clayton Barr MP, the Member for Paterson, Mrs Meryl Swanson MP, the Member for Hunter, Mr Dan Repacholi MP, the Member for Maitland, Jenny Aitchison MP and the Member for Upper Hunter Mr Dave Layzell MP requesting the establishment of a Cessnock Regional Services Forum to address the provision of support services for those less fortunate in our community.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM14/2025

**SUBJECT: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE -
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT -
INVITATION TO MAKE SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO LOCAL
GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton
287

RESOLVED

1. That Council provides a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport in regards to the Committees new inquiry into local government funding and financial sustainability as it affects Cessnock City Council by 3 February 2026.
2. That Council provides a copy of the submission to the Federal Member for Hunter, Dan Repacholi MP and the Federal Member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson MP

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU11/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT NO. GMU4/2025

**SUBJECT: AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
 2024-2025**

MOTION Moved: Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
288
RESOLVED

That Council receives and notes the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Annual Report for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (9)	Total (1)

CARRIED

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT NO. GMU5/2025

SUBJECT: INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
289

RESOLVED

That Council adopts the Internal Audit Charter.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE32/2025

SUBJECT: LAND DEDICATION, PLANNING AGREEMENT AND WORKS IN KIND POLICIES

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
290
RESOLVED

1. That Council place the Draft Land Dedication Policy, Draft Works in Kind Policy, revised Draft Planning Agreement Policy, and associated guidelines on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
2. That Council resolve to remove the requirement for tendering under section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) for all Works in Kind and Planning Agreements.
3. That Council adopt the Draft Land Dedication Policy, Draft Works in Kind Agreement Policy and revised Draft Planning Agreement Policy the day after the public exhibition period concludes, if no unresolved submissions are received.
4. That Council receive a further report after the public exhibition period, if there are unresolved submissions.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC71/2025

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY, SPORTING AND ENVIRONMENT GRANT 2025-26

Councillor Palmowski declared a Non Pecuniary Interest - Significant Conflict for the reason that she is a committee member of the Greta Branxton Football Club. Councillor Palmowski left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Madden declares a Non Pecuniary - Significant Conflict for the reason that he is the vice president of the Kearsley Crushers who trade as the Kearsley Community Sporting Association who applied for a grant for a new marker. Councillor Madden left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Palmowski and Madden left the meeting, the time being 07.45 PM

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
291

RESOLVED

1. That Council provides funds through the Community Facilities Grant Scheme to:
 - Branxton Community Hall Section 355 Committee in the amount of \$9,975
 - Marthaville Section 355 Committee in the amount of \$1,654
 - North Cessnock Community Hall section 355 committee in the amount of \$6,212
 - North Rothbury Tidy Town Committee in the amount of \$2,086
 - Prelude Australia Kurri Kurri (comprising of four projects) in the amount of \$18,527
 - Weston Civic Centre Section 355 Committee in the amount of \$614
2. That Council transfers \$9,068 of unspent funds from the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to allow Council to fund all recommended Community Facilities Grant Scheme applications.
3. That Council provides funds through the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to:
 - Branxton District Netball Club in the amount of \$3,575
 - Coalfields Cross Country Running Club in the amount of \$1,654
 - Greta Branxton Football Club in the amount of \$5,991
 - Kearsley Community Sporting Association in the amount of \$1,814
 - Kurri Kurri Tennis Club in the amount of \$2,600
 - Wollombi Valley Tennis and Sports Association in the amount of \$1,428
4. That Council provides funds through the Community and Cultural Development Grant Scheme to:
 - ArtsNational Hunter in the amount of \$2,821
 - Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre in the amount of \$3,000
 - Branxton Community Hall in the amount of \$1,500
 - Carries Place in the amount of \$2,500
 - Cessnock District Rescue Squad Inc. in the amount of \$3,000
 - Cessnock Family Support Service Inc in the amount of \$1,056
 - Cessnock Senior Citizens Association Incorporated in the amount of \$1,500

- Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation in the amount of \$3,000
- Sculpture in the Vineyards Inc in the amount of \$3,000
- Sunnyfield Disability Services in the amount of \$1,774
- The Rotary Club of Cessnock in the amount of \$1,019
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service in the amount of \$830

5. That Council provides funds through the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Environment Grant Scheme to:
- Native Animal Trust Fund (Hunter Wildlife Rescue) in the amount of \$3,672
 - Cessnock Community Garden Association Inc. in the amount of \$1,000
6. That the General Manager writes to all applicants advising them of the outcome of their application and thanking them for their ongoing support and commitment to the enhancement of Council facilities, community and cultural development and the environment of the local government area.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dunne
 Councillor Hill
 Councillor Jurd
 Councillor Lea
 Councillor Mason
 Councillor Pascoe
 Councillor Hawkins
 Councillor Watton
Total (8)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Palmowski and Madden returned to the meeting, the time being 07:53 PM

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC72/2025

SUBJECT: CESSNOCK CITY LIBRARY STRATEGY AND SUMMARY 2025-35

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
292

RESOLVED

That Council adopts the Cessnock City Library Strategy 2025-35 and the Cessnock City Library Strategy Summary 2025-35.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC73/2025

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION OF LAND _ LOT 6 & 7 DP1308673 1 CHAPELL STREET & 1 BENDEICH DRIVE NORTH ROTHBURY

Councillor Palmowski declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that she owns property within the estate of Huntlee in North Rothbury. Councillor Palmowski remained in the chamber and took part in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
293

RESOLVED

That Council classify Lot 6 & 7 DP1308673 1 Chapell Street & 1 Bendeich Drive, North Rothbury, primarily used as a drainage reserve, as operational land.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC74/2025

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REVISED CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
294

RESOLVED

1. That Council resolves to fix the general order of business in accordance with section 8.1 of the Code of Meeting Practice.
2. That Council authorises the person presiding at a meeting to exercise a power of expulsion, in accordance with section 5.34 of the Code of Meeting Practice.
3. That Council notes that no submissions were received during the public exhibition period of the Code of Meeting Practice.
4. That Council rescinds the Code of Meeting Practice 2024 and adopts the Code of Meeting Practice 2025, with effect from 31 December 2025.
5. That Council note our dissatisfaction with the timing of these new Code of Meeting practice standards and the effect this may have on sitting elected members during this term of Council.

FOR

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (9)

AGAINST

Councillor Madden

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC75/2025

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL FOR 2026

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
295

RESOLVED

That Council adopts the schedule of Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2026:

18 February 2026	18 March 2026	15 April 2026
20 May 2026	17 June 2026	15 July 2026
19 August 2026	16 September 2026	21 October 2026
18 November 2026	9 December 2026	

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton
Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC76/2025

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
296

RESOLVED

1. That Council receives and notes the Annual Report for 2024-25.
2. That Council notes the Annual Report will be posted on Council's website.
3. That Council notes the link to the Annual Report will be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government as required by Section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

FOR

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (9)

AGAINST

Councillor Jurd

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC77/2025

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 2025 REVIEW OF THE 2025-29 DELIVERY PROGRAM

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
297

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the progress in implementing the 2025-29 Delivery Program as at 30 September 2025.
2. That Council approves changes to the Operational Plan actions and targets as outlined in the report.

FOR

Councillor Dunne
Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (9)

AGAINST

Councillor Jurd

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC78/2025

**SUBJECT: QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - QUARTER 1, 30
SEPTEMBER 2025**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
298

RESOLVED

1. That Council receives the September 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement in accordance with Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
2. That Council approves proposed changes to the 2025-26 operating and capital budgets as presented in the Quarterly Business Report September 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC80/2025

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
299

RESOLVED

That Council adopts the updated Financial Hardship Policy.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC81/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - OCTOBER 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
300

RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for October 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 \$80,026,811.**

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne

Councillor Hill

Councillor Jurd

Councillor Lea

Councillor Madden

Councillor Mason

Councillor Palmowski

Councillor Pascoe

Councillor Hawkins

Councillor Watton

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC82/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
301

RESOLVED

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC83/2025

**SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (2026-2036)
ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
302

RESOLVED

1. That Council place the Updated Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 on public exhibition for a minimum 28 days
2. That Council note that the LTFP must be adopted prior to lodging a Special Variation application with IPART;
3. That Council receive a post-exhibition report summarising submissions and proposed amendments prior to adoption.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI12/2025

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF DRAFT WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hawkins
303

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the Waste Management Policy.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI13/2025

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
304

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee meeting held 11 September 2025 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN17/2025

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF REGIONAL ROADS TO STATE GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
305
RESOLVED

1. That Council notes that Buchanan Road is currently classified as a Regional Road managed by Cessnock City Council/Maitland City Council, which now carries significantly increased volumes of traffic most notably of heavy and emergency vehicles, as it forms a critical connector between the Hunter Expressway and Maitland Hospital, as well as surrounding industrial and residential growth areas.
2. That Council notes that the continuous route of Hart Road, Gingers Lane, Frame Drive and Orange Street is currently classified as a Regional Road managed by Cessnock City Council, which now carries significantly increased volumes of commuter and freight traffic, as it provides a key connection between the Hunter Expressway and Cessnock via Cessnock Road at Abermain.
3. That Council notes that the former NSW Liberal–National Government made a commitment in 2019 to transfer up to 15,000 kilometres of regional roads, including Buchanan Road, to state ownership, but failed to deliver on this commitment, with zero kilometres transferred by the change of government in 2023.
4. That Council recognises that the management of these roads by Council imposes unsustainable financial, maintenance and safety burden on Cessnock City Council and local ratepayers.
5. That Council writes to the NSW Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport and the Minister for Local Government seeking:
 - a. The immediate re-assessment of these roads for reclassification to State Road status under the Transport for NSW Road Recategorisation Framework announced in August 2025; and
 - b. A commitment that the NSW Government assume ongoing maintenance and renewal responsibility for these critical connector routes.
6. That Council provides a copy of this resolution to the Member for Cessnock and the Member for Maitland to seek their support.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dunne	
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Councillor Hill	
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Councillor Jurd	
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Councillor Lea	
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Councillor Madden	
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Councillor Mason	
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Councillor Palmowski	
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Councillor Pascoe	
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Councillor Hawkins	
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Councillor Watton	
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Total (10)	
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	Total (0)
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CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

MAYORAL SUMMARY – 16 October to 19 November 2025

DATE	ACTIVITIES
16 October	Advocacy NSW Parliament
17 October	2CHR post Ordinary Meeting Interview
21 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA Hunter River Group - 99th Annual Meeting & conference • Hunter Jobs Alliance - Hunter Coal Dialog Project
22 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Sustainability Workshop • Extra Ordinary Meeting of Council
23 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation – Meeting • ABC Interview • PCYC Volunteers Afternoon Tea
25 October	Postie Bike Grand Prix - Opening Ceremony
26 October	Postie Bike Grand Prix Activities
27 October	Korreil Wonnai Meeting
29 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the Mayor – Ward B • Energy Ombudsman + Cessnock Council
30 October	Weston Bears – Site Visit
31 October	Kurri Kurri Gymnastics Club 40th Year Celebrations
3 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter Transmission Project – Hunter Central Coast Regional Reference Group • Resident Visit
5 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAFE Kurri Kurri Campus tour • Audit & Risk & Improvement Committee
7 November	Kurri Kurri Public School - Assembly & Mural Unveiling
10 November	Quarterly Police, Mayor & MP Catch up
11 November	Greta RSL Remembrance Day Service
12 November	Councillor Briefing
19 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Alliance Meeting • Council Initiated Awards Committee • Ordinary Meeting

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8.26 pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 10 December 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**