

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2025, COMMENCING
AT 6.30PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Interim General Manager (Director Planning and Environment)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Acting Director Works and Infrastructure (Works & Operations Manager)
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Regulatory Services Manager)
People and Culture Manager
Chief Financial Officer
Communications & Engagement Manager
Principal Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Support Officer
Council Services Team Leader
Senior Business Support Officer – Council Services

The Prayer was presented by Pastor Rachel Main

**ATTENDANCE BY
AV LINK:**

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Hill
Seconded: Councillor Harrington

213

RESOLVED that Council permit Councillor Madden to attend the 20 August 2025 Ordinary Council meeting by audio-visual link due to work commitments.

FOR

AGAINST

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

Total (13)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Harrington
Seconded: Councillor Grine

214

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 July 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton
Total (13)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI8/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

CC50/2025 – Carry Forwards and Revotes – Councillor Madden declared a Non Pecuniary Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is the VP of the Cessnock Hockey Club which had a fence repaired RFR-2025 for \$45,000. Councillor Madden advised that he would remain in the meeting and take part in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced him in carrying out his public duty.

BN11/2025 - Proposal to Remove the Shared Zone and Install Temporary Foot Crossings on Charlton Street, Cessnock - Councillor Pascoe declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that she owns a business within the plaza adjacent to Charlton street. Councillor Pascoe advised she would remain in the chamber and take part in discussion and voting as the temporary foot traffic changes will not affect her or her business directly.

WI8/2025 – Request for Sponsorship & Fee Waiving – Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix - Councillor Hawkins declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member previously stood on the same Council ticket as him. Councillor Hawkins advised he would remain in the chamber and participate in discussion and voting as this has not influenced him in carrying out his public duty because the Conflict does not influence his long standing support for this community event.

WI8/2025 – Request for Sponsorship & Fee Waiving – Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix - Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member may be an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member. Councillor Jurd advised she would remain in the chamber and take part in the discussion and voting.

WI8/2025 – Request for Sponsorship & Fee Waiving – Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix - Councillor Dixon declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that she ran in the election with a candidate who may be an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member. Councillor Dixon advised she would remain in the chamber and take part in the discussion and voting.

WI8/2025 – Request for Sponsorship & Fee Waiving – Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix - Mayor Watton declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that he ran in the election with a candidate who may be an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member . Mayor Watton advised he would remain in the chamber and take 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 Dixon **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
215
RESOLVED

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

CC52/2025 Investment Report - July 2025.....52
CC53/2025 Resolutions Tracking Report57

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM7/2025

SUBJECT: DIGITAL INCLUSION AND MOBILE COVERAGE BLACKSPOTS IN THE CESSNOCK LGA

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

216

RESOLVED

1. That Council writes to the Federal Minister for Communications, the NSW Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, the Federal Member for Hunter and relevant telecommunications providers outlining the urgent need to address mobile coverage blackspots in our LGA, such as Bucketty and surrounding communities.
2. That Council request inclusion of Cessnock LGA in future rounds of the Mobile Black Spot Program and any relevant funding initiatives.
3. That Council advocate for a coordinated approach to mobile service delivery in regional NSW that prioritises public safety and economic participation.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM8/2025

**SUBJECT: NSW GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton
217

RESOLVED

1. That Council write to both the NSW Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, and the State Members for Cessnock, Maitland and the Upper Hunter requesting that the NSW Government begin contributing to telecommunications infrastructure funding in line with other states and territories.
2. That Council seek the support of the Hunter Joint Organisation to lobby collectively for this policy change.
3. That Council request that the NSW Government prioritise high-risk, no-coverage areas such as Bucketty in any future mobile coverage funding programs.
4. That Council raise this as a motion for submission to the LGNSW annual conference.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU8/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Councillor Mason

Motion of Urgency – Council Meeting dated 20 August 2025

Concerning the Draft Amendments to Cessnock Development Control Plan Chapter – D8 Events, that Council resolve to:

1. Extend the period of public exhibition for a further 28 days, to close at 4pm on 24 September 2025; &
2. Consider a further report from Council staff after the period of public exhibition is closed, in respect to feedback received during the exhibition period, before the proposed amendments are adopted.

After advice from the Interim General Manager the Urgency Motion was withdrawn.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE23/2025

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Grine **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
218

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the revised Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2025 to replace the existing policy.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC48/2025

SUBJECT: PROPERTY MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
219

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council adopts the revised Property Management Policy 2025.**
- 2. That Council notes that a lease or licence decision can be brought before the Council for determination by resolution.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC49/2025

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2025-2029

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
220
RESOLVED

That Council adopts the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC50/2025

SUBJECT: CARRY FORWARDS AND REVOTES 2025-26

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
221

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes that there are no revotes proposed.
2. That Council notes that the following carry forward expenditure is automatically carried forward as per Clause 211(3) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*:
 - Carry forward operating expenditure of \$1,641,541.
 - Carry forward capital expenditure of \$8,453,393 for capital projects commenced prior to 30 June 2025.And that General Funds component of the above is \$767,092.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC51/2025

**SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 -
ATTENDANCE, VOTING DELEGATES, AND MOTIONS**

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

1. That Council notes that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hawkins, Hill and Lea have expressed interest in attending the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.
2. That Council supports attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025 of Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hill and Lea with Councillor Hawkins as an alternate delegate.
3. That Council determines that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hill and Lea each exercise one of the four voting entitlements, with Councillor Hawkins as an alternate voting delegate for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.

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

1. That Council notes that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hawkins, Hill and Lea have expressed interest in attending the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.
2. That Council supports attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025 of Mayor Watton.
3. That Council determines that Mayor Watton exercise all four voting entitlements for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King

Total (3)

AGAINST

Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (10)

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

AMENDMENT Moved: Councillor Hawkins **Seconded:** Councillor Grine

1. That Council notes that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hawkins, Hill and Lea have expressed interest in attending the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.
2. That Council supports attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025 of Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hill and Lea.
3. That Council determines that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hill and Lea each exercise one of the four voting entitlements for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.
4. That in the event of non-attendance, the Mayor is to exercise the voting right of the absent Councillor and should the Mayor be absent, Deputy Mayor exercises the voting right of the absent Councillor.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor King
Councillor Grine	Councillor Madden
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Mason
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (3)

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

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

MOTION Moved: Councillor Hawkins **Seconded:** Councillor Grine

222

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hawkins, Hill and Lea have expressed interest in attending the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.
2. That Council supports attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025 of Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hill and Lea.
3. That Council determines that Mayor Watton and Councillors Palmowski, Hill and Lea each exercise one of the four voting entitlements for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025.
4. That in the event of non-attendance, the Mayor is to exercise the voting right of the absent Councillor and should the Mayor be absent, Deputy Mayor exercises the voting right of the absent Councillor.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton

Total (11)**AGAINST**

Councillor King
Councillor Madden

Total (2)***CARRIED***

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC52/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - JULY 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dixon **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
223
RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for July 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 \$88,860,580.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC53/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dixon **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
224
RESOLVED

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI8/2025

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP & FEE WAIVING - AUSTRALIAN POSTIE BIKE GRAND PRIX

Councillor Hawkins declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member previously stood on the same Council ticket as him. Councillor Hawkins remained in the chamber and took part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member may be an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member. Councillor Jurd remained in the chamber and took part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Dixon declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that she ran in the election with a candidate who may be an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member. Councillor Dixon remained in the chamber and took part in discussion and voting.

Mayor Watton declared a Non Pecuniary Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that he ran in the election with a candidate who may be an Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix Committee Member. Mayor Watton remained in the chamber and took part in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
225

RESOLVED

That Council supports the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix on the weekend of 25 and 26 October 2025, by providing the following in-kind support:

- a) **Waive all Council application fees require to run the 2025 event by way of transfer from the Tourism Related Projects Reserve;**
- b) **Erection and removal of relevant variable message boards and road closure/detour signage as required by Council and Transport for NSW, under the approved Traffic Management Plan and Traffic Control Plan; and**
- c) **Install banner pole and waste receptacle promotional signs; provide additional general waste bins throughout the designated event area of the circuit; and removal of collected waste at the conclusion of the event.**

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (1)

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN11/2025

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE SHARED ZONE AND INSTALL TEMPORARY FOOT CROSSINGS ON CHARLTON STREET, CESSNOCK

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor King
226
RESOLVED

- a. That the General Manager investigate options to remove the shared zone at the Cooper and Charlton Streets intersection and reinstate marked foot crossings to enhance pedestrian safety in the area.
- b. That Councillors be provided a briefing on the draft CBD Public Domain Plan and how it proposes to address the pedestrian safety concerns before going on public exhibition.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd	Councillor Hawkins
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (3)

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

MAYORAL SUMMARY

16 July 2025 to 20 August 2025

- 16 July – Anglican Church meeting re: Youth Event
- 21 July – Mini Woollies Cessnock TAFE Campus Visit
- 26 July – VRA NSW Cessnock & Kurri Kurri, formal launch of new Heavy Rescue Vehicle.
- 29 July – Mt View High School – Student Leader Induction
- 30 July – Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast Planning meeting
- 30 July – Meeting with Mayor Penfold – Maitland
- 31 July – Hunter Correctional Centre NAIDOC Day event
- 4 August – Hunter Central Coast Regional Reference Group meeting in Singleton
- 5 August – Regional Leaders Summit & Dinner – Newcastle
- 7 August – School Leaders Morning Tea & Youth Engagement Forum, PACC
- 7 August – Prison Fellowship in Cessnock Region
- 7 August – Motorcycling Cessnock LGA meeting
- 9 August – Cessnock Community Garden – Blue Tree Unveiling meeting
- 10 August – Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Memorial Service, Aberdare
- 12 August – Telstra Regional team – engagement
- 12 August – Youth Key Stakeholder meeting
- 13 August – HV Tours, Pilot Job Shuttle program
- 13 August – Mayor & GM catch up
- 14 August – Hunter JO Board Meeting, Glendale
- 18 August - Vietnam Veterans (Long Tan) Day Service
- 20 August – Speaking at the Cessnock Mens Probus Group

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8:01pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 17 September 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**