

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2025, COMMENCING AT
6.30PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting General Manager (Director of Planning and Environment)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
Chief Financial Officer
Development Services Manager
Communications & Engagement Manager
Help Desk Support Officer
Council Services Team Leader
Senior Business Support Officer Council Services

**ATTENDANCE BY
AV LINK /
APOLOGIES:**

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Lea
Seconded: Councillor Palmowski

162

RESOLVED that Council permit Councillor Madden to attend the 18 June 2025 Ordinary Council meeting by audio-visual link due to work commitments.

FOR

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

Total (10)

AGAINST

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe
 Seconded: Councillor Palmowski
163

RESOLVED that the apologies tendered on behalf of Councillors Grine and Hill, for unavoidable absence, be accepted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea
 Seconded: Councillor Harrington
164

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 May 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI5/2025

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.

PE14/2025 - DA 8/2023/753/1 for a staged Development comprising the Demolition of an Existing Dwelling, Swimming Pool and Shed and the Construction of Tourist and Visitor Accommodation, a Function Room, Swimming Pool, Studio/Workshop for Guest Activities, Managers Residence Ancillary Parking and Landscaping - Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Significant Conflict for the reason that she put in a submission as a resident against the application. Councillor Jurd advised that she would leave the Chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

The Mayor advised that there were no speakers for tonight's meeting and the matter would be addressed later in the meeting.

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

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
165

RESOLVED

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

CC28/2025	Minutes of Grants Advisory Committee Meeting held 21 May 2025	43
CC31/2025	Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029	59
CC34/2025	Investment Policy	68
‡ CC37/2025	Resolutions Tracking Report	80
‡ CC38/2025	Investment Report - May 2025	81

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM3/2025

SUBJECT: VACANCY IN CIVIC OFFICE: RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR JAY SUVAAL

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

166

RESOLVED

That Council note the vacancy in civic office and that the NSW Electoral Commission is currently conducting a countback process to fill the casual vacancy in Ward A.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEAL WITH MATTERS IN CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

NOTICE OF INTENTION NO. NI2/2025

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEAL WITH MATTERS IN
CONFIDENTIAL SESSION -
REPORT CC39/2025 - TENDER T2025-05 EXPRESSION OF
INTEREST - FORMER RICHMOND MAIN COLLIERY SITE - STAGE 2**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
167
RESOLVED

That Council considers in Confidential Session the following matters in accordance with Sections 10A (2) (a) (c) (di) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:

Report CC39/2025 – Tender T2025-05 Former Richmond Main Colliery Site – Stage 2 as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; AND commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Report MM4/2025 – Personnel Matter relating to the General Manager’s contract of employment as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU5/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE14/2025

SUBJECT: DA 8/2023/753/1 FOR A STAGED DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING THE DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING DWELLING, SWIMMING POOL AND SHED AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF TOURIST AND VISITOR ACCOMMODATION, A FUNCTION ROOM, SWIMMING POOL, STUDIO/WORKSHOP FOR GUEST ACTIVITIES, MANAGERS RESIDENCE ANCILLARY PARKING AND LANDSCAPING

Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Significant Conflict for the reason that she put in a submission as a resident against the application. Councillor Jurd left the Chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 6.43pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
168
RESOLVED

That the report be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (9)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE15/2025

SUBJECT: **EXHIBITION OF DRAFT HOUSING THEME REVIEW DISCUSSION PAPER**

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 6.46pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
169

RESOLVED

1. **That Council place the Draft Housing Theme Review Discussion Paper on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
2. **That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the Draft Housing Theme Review Discussion Paper.**
3. **That a workshop be held with Councillors after the feedback from the exhibition period.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE16/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO CESSNOCK DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN CHAPTER - D8, EVENTS

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

170

RESOLVED

1. That Council places the draft “D8 – Events” on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, as required by Council’s Community Participation Plan.
2. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the draft Development Control Plan chapter if unresolved submissions are received or significant amendments are proposed post-exhibition. Where there are no unresolved objections, the draft Development Control Plan chapter be adopted by Council pursuant to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.
3. That Council repeal the current Cessnock Development Control Plan Chapter D8 - Temporary Events, in the event that the amended Draft chapter D8 – Events is adopted.

FOR

AGAINST

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

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC28/2025

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 21 MAY 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
171
RESOLVED

1. That the Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee Meeting held 21 May 2025 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.
2. That Council approve funding in accordance with the Schools Environment Grants Program for the following projects:
 - Hunter Mobile Preschool - Kitchener Venue in the amount of \$149
 - Lower Hunter Children's Activity Van Association Incorporated in the amount of \$197
 - Weston Community Preschool in the amount of \$200
 - Little Treasures Childcare in the amount of \$200
 - Holy Spirit Primary School in the amount of \$500
 - Nulkaba Public School in the amount of \$500
 - Cessnock East Public School in the amount of \$500
 - Cessnock High School in the amount of \$1000
 - St Philip's Christian College, Cessnock - Senior School in the amount of \$1000
 - Kurri Kurri High School in the amount of \$1000
 - Kurri Kurri & District Preschool Kindergarten Inc. in the amount of \$175
3. That Council adopts the amended Community, Sporting and Environment Grant Guidelines.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC29/2025

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 MAY 2025**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Palmowski **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
172

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee meeting held on 2 May 2025 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

FOR

Councillor Harrington
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (9)

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC30/2025

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2025-2029**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
173

RESOLVED

**That Council adopts the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Action Plan
2025-2029.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Lea	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Madden	Councillor King
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (7)	Total (3)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC31/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2025-2029

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
174

RESOLVED

That Council place the draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029 on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton
Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC32/2025

**SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION OF LAND - LOT 900 DP 1278224, 46
WILDFLOWER CIRCUIT BELLBIRD**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Harrington **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
175

RESOLVED

That Council classify Lot 900 DP1278224 46 Wildflower Circuit Bellbird, primarily used as a drainage reserve, as operational land.

FOR

AGAINST

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

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC33/2025

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL - ANNUAL FEES PAYABLE TO MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS 1 JULY 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2026

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
176
RESOLVED

1. That Council acknowledges the 2025 determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for the Regional Rural category, which permits an increase to Councillor and Mayoral fees for the 2025–26 financial year.
2. That Council declines to adopt the maximum permissible increase and instead resolves to retain Councillor and Mayoral fees at the 2024–25 levels, being:
 - Mayor: \$66,800 per annum
 - Councillors: \$27,050 per annum
 - Deputy Mayor's additional fee: \$1,200 (deducted from the Mayoral allowance)
3. That Council notes that this decision reflects Council's commitment to fiscal restraint in light of ongoing cost-of-living pressures affecting the Cessnock community.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton
Total (10)

AGAINST

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC34/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
177

RESOLVED

That the Council adopts the revised Investment Policy.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC35/2025

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE IPR FRAMEWORK SUITE OF DOCUMENTS COMPRISING OF:

- **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN: TOGETHER CESSNOCK 2040**
- **2025-29 DELIVERY PROGRAM INCORPORATING THE 2025-26 OPERATIONAL PLAN, BUDGET AND REVENUE POLICY**
- **RESOURCING STRATEGY INCORPORATING THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN, WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**
- **2025-26 FEES & CHARGES**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
178
RESOLVED

That Council having considered all submissions received from the community following public exhibition of the draft documents adopts the:

- **Community Strategic Plan: Together Cessnock 2040 with the addition of the following objectiveS under 'Outcome 2 - Thrive':**
 - **2.3.3 Explore opportunities for the construction of the Richmond Vale Rail Trail and additional Shiraz to Shore connections (Hunter Regional Plan 2041)**
 - **Explore opportunities for the construction of the Bellbird North Bypass from Mount View Road to Wine Country Drive.**
- **2025-29 Delivery Program 2025-2029 incorporating the**
 - **2025-26 Operational Plan**
 - **Budget and Revenue Policy**
- **Resourcing Strategy incorporating the**
 - **Long Term Financial Plan**
 - **Workforce Management Strategy**
 - **Asset Management Strategy**
- **2025-26 Fees and Charges**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (9)	Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC36/2025

SUBJECT: MAKING THE RATE 2025-26

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
179
RESOLVED

That Council make the following rates and charges for the year commencing 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026:

1. Ordinary Rates

The following Ordinary Rates now be made for the year commencing 1 July 2025.

Category	Sub Category	Ad-valorem Amount Cents in \$	Base Amount \$	Base Yield % of Total Rate
Residential		0.260060	430.00	30.09%
Residential	Rural	0.192352	430.00	18.01%
Farmland		0.150931	430.00	13.82%
Farmland	Mixed Use	0.402952	535.00	5.69%
Farmland	Business Rural	0.392005	535.00	8.09%
Business		1.182532	535.00	10.40%
Mining		4.717039	1,500.00	0.45%

2. Waste Charges

Council do hereby prescribe and order under Section 496 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for rateable land categorised for rating purposes as residential or farmland and situated within the area in which a Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided, that the following waste charges be now made for the year commencing 1 July 2025.

Domestic Waste Management Service Charge

Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge ¹	\$88.00
Domestic Waste Management Service Charge ²	\$767.00
Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge ³	\$767.00
Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge – Recycling	\$98.00
Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge – Organics	\$196.00

1. Charge applies to vacant rateable land situated within the area in which a Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided.
2. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week, one fortnightly collection of recyclable material and one weekly collection of organic material for each Domestic Waste Management Service Charge.
3. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week for each Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge.

Council do hereby prescribe and order under Section 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, for land not categorised for rating purposes as residential or farmland and situated within the area in which a Waste Management Service is able to be provided, that the following waste charges be now made for the year commencing 1 July 2025.

Waste Management Service Charge

Commercial Waste Management Service Charge ¹	\$909.00
Additional Waste Management Service Charge ²	\$909.00
Additional Waste Management Service Charge - Recycling	\$98.00
Additional Waste Management Service Charge - Organics	\$196.00

1. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week and one fortnightly collection of recyclable material for each Waste Management Service Charge. Each premise is also entitled to one weekly collection of organic material for each Waste Management Service Charge upon request and justification of needs.
2. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week for each Additional Waste Management Service Charge.

3. Stormwater Management Services Charges

Council do hereby prescribe and order under Section 496A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, for land situated within the designated stormwater area, that the following stormwater charges be now made for the year commencing 1 July 2025.

Stormwater Management Service Charge - Residential	\$25.00
Stormwater Management Service Charge - Residential Strata	\$12.50
Stormwater Management Service Charge - Business	\$25.00 per 350m ² (or part thereof) to a maximum \$500

4. Interest on Overdue rates and Charges

Council do hereby determine and order, in accordance with Section 566 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, that if rates and charges are unpaid at the due date, the amount shall be increased by a sum calculated at:

- Ten and a half per cent (10.5%) per annum, simple interest, calculated daily for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

5. Hunter Local Land Services

Council, in accordance with Clauses 36 and 40, Part 4, of the *Local Land Services Regulation 2014*, prescribes that the rate for the year commencing 1 July 2025 shall be the rate gazetted by the Minister for the Hunter Catchment Contribution for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. The Minister has determined the rate for 2025/2026 is 0.00657 of a cent in the dollar (land value) (Government Gazette No 210 – 30 May 2025).

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (9)**AGAINST**

Councillor Jurd

Total (1)***CARRIED***

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC37/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
180
RESOLVED

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

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC38/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - MAY 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
181

RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for May 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 \$85,166,828.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI7/2025

SUBJECT: **LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 17 MARCH 2025 -
ITEMS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Harrington **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
182

RESOLVED

That the following item from the Cessnock Local Traffic Committee Meeting of 17 March 2025 be adopted as a resolution of Council.

- **TC3/2025 That Council authorises the installation of regulatory controls on Wollombi Road - Bellbird to Cessnock, in accordance with the Wollombi Road Upgrade Project – Signage and Line Marking Plan Package – Stage 1 Revision D.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Dixon
Councillor King	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (8)	Total (2)

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Madden

June Blackhill Quarry Report

On Friday 23rd May the Black Hill Quarry Community Liaison Group met. The meeting was to be held in Kurri as per the normal meeting practice but due to the significant rain that we experienced during this time it was instead held online. There was no subsequent site visit associated with this meeting.

Just briefly, some of the agenda items included (complete minutes have been sent through to CCC):

- There was an error in the 2020/2021 data and in the 2022/2023 data which has been resolved.
- The tonnage calculation for 2023/2024 was incorrect due to two figures being reported incorrectly, 129K to CCC V's 116K in the annual report. Woodbury Civil advised that the coal extraction was not included in the annual report, this has now been amended.
- Most of the material is for the M1 Heatherbrae/Black Hill Road project. Material is also being supplied to the Belmont Desalination project.
- The quarry is due for closure in June 2026.
- Residents asked for a plan of how rehabilitation will proceed once the waste facility starts operating.

MAYORAL SUMMARY – 22 May 2025 to 18 June 2025

WEATHER EVENT - 18 May

23 May – 2CHR Interview – Post Ordinary Meeting

23 May - Mount View High School Yarning Circle - Official Opening

24 May – Greta Rural Fire Brigade 60th Anniversary

27 May – 100yrs of Service morning tea - Cessnock Salvation Army Store - 5 of wonderful Volunteers celebrated reaching 20 years of Service, Volunteering at our local Cessnock Salvos Store. Such an amazing accomplishment giving their time and commitment to serving our community.

Celebrating the amazing combined 100 years of service with a lovely morning tea.

27 May - Cessnock Business Chamber Networking Event

28 May - Reconciliation Week Event “Bridging Now to Next”

30 May – Hunter Region Business Awards - Award presentation - Celebrate the achievements of our local businesses and was honoured to present the Professional Services awards to 1st - Heart HR, 2nd - Dynamize Chartered Accountants and 3rd The Marketing GP

31 May - Cessnock Community Garden Official Opening

31 May - SES Hunter Award Presentation- Maitland Town Hall

3 June - BH Signage project launch (Cessnock Tidy Towns) Cessnock Tidy Towns, with support from CCC, have installed diverse flora within Bridges Hill Park. With support from Councils' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee and the Wonnarua Language Reference group, the Wonnarua names and traditional uses of the plants were sourced and incorporated in the signage.

4 June - Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Alliance Meeting

10 June - Cessnock Day Night Pharmacy Artwork Unveiling

Official unveiling of a meaningful artwork created by local elder, Lesley Salem.

11 June - Cessnock Correction Centre Visit –

Governor Wayne Bywater has arranged a visit to the Hunter Correctional Centre to see the unique and successful way they manage inmates in dormitory style accommodation whilst addressing recidivism by providing innovating programs, education and employment opportunities.

12 June – Hunter JO Board meeting day (Muswellbrook) The day included a presentation by our General Manager, and a Hunter JO Strategic Plan update, workshop regarding shared regional advocacy priorities and activities. We also received updates on Newcastle Airport, High speed rail and the Hunter global Tourism and NSW visitor economy strategy.

12 June - Cessnock Rotary Club - 88th Changeover Dinner Celebrating the achievements of President Helen and warmly welcoming President Elect Vicki at our annual Changeover Dinner

13 June - Motion of Urgency - Homelessness TAFE Park Cessnock meeting _ Dan Repacholi MP & Clayton Barr MP

13 June – Hall of Fame This year, Ellena Morris OAM will be inducted into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame for contribution to Sport.

16 June - Greta Tidy Towns Seniors morning tea - visit our newly re-established monthly Seniors Morning Tea

16 June - Media Event - 3 Council Mayors – Fogo

17 June - Media /Photo Event - Weston Bears Park (start of construction)

17 June - Quarterly Meeting - Policing Cessnock LGA - As an outcome of the meeting held 14 March 2025, at Cessnock Police Station regarding staffing and crime the scheduling of a quarterly meetings was to be arranged. This is the second meeting.

17 June - Cessnock High School Interact Dinner

7.38PM

Confidential reports (closed session)

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
183

RESOLVED that the meeting move into closed session in order to consider confidential items.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8:26PM

Open Session

That the meeting moved back into open session and the Mayor and Director Corporate & Community Services reported on the outcomes.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC39/2025

SUBJECT: TENDER T2025-05 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORMER RICHMOND MAIN COLLIERY SITE - STAGE 2

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; AND commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
184

RESOLVED

1. That Council endorses direct sale of Lot 31 DP 594396 and Lot 2 DP 716009 to Australian International Motor Museum or nominee for the tendered offer amount.
2. That Council authorises the General Manager or delegated officer to execute all relevant documentation to affect the transaction.
3. That Council notes that confidentiality is to remain on this item until after the sale contract has been settled.
4. That Council organise a briefing for Councillors on the proposed plans for the site.

FOR

AGAINST

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

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM4/2025

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL MATTER RELATING TO THE GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (a) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

185

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the confidential correspondence from Ken Liddell (General Manager) to Councillor Watton (Mayor) dated 17 June 2025 and accepts their resignation as General Manager of Cessnock City Council with effect on and from 17 July 2025.
2. That Council conveys its sincere thanks to Ken Liddell, for their leadership and achievements during his tenure with Cessnock City Council.
3. That Council pursuant to sections 336 and 351 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, appoints Mr Peter Chrystal to be the Council's Acting General Manager when Ken Liddell is on leave and for such person to remain the Council's Acting General Manager until the commencement of a new General Manager (for a maximum period of up to 12 months) or until further resolution of the Council, whichever occurs first. Provided that if Peter Chrystal is on leave prior to Council appointing a new General Manager or appointing a different Acting General Manager, the Mayor, following consultation with the Deputy Mayor, may temporarily appoint one of Council's Directors as Interim General Manager for the period of such leave.
4. That Council authorise the Mayor, following consultation with the Deputy Mayor:
 - a. to invite Local Government NSW and other suitably experienced external recruitment consultants to submit proposals to assist the Council with the recruitment process to recruit a new General Manager for the Council, and
 - b. to appoint a suitably experienced external recruitment consultant to assist the Council with the recruitment process to recruit a new General Manager for the Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and consistent with the Office of Local Government's [Guidelines for the appointment and oversight of general managers](#) ("Guidelines").
5. That Council, in furtherance of the above, and consistent with page 7 of the Guidelines, the Council delegates to the Mayor the task of ensuring:
 - the selection panel is established,
 - the general manager's position description is current and evaluated in terms of salary to reflect the responsibilities of the position,

- the proposed salary range reflects the responsibilities and duties of the position,
 - the position is advertised according to the requirements of the Act,
 - information packages are prepared, and
 - applicants selected for interview are notified.
6. That Council have the selection panel (referred to above) prepare a selection panel report addressing the matters referred to on page 8 of the Guidelines, which is to be presented to a future meeting of the Council for consideration.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8.31pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 16 July 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**