

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DARLINGTON POINT  
ON TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023 COMMENCING AT 11.00AM**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Mayor McRae paid respect to the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Murrumbidgee Local Government Area, and to all Aboriginal Elders, past and present and emerging.

**RECORDING & WEBCASTING OF MEETING**

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was not able to be recorded or livestreamed to Facebook.

**PRESENT**

Present were Councillors R McRae (Mayor), F Bryce, C Chirgwin, T Strachan, R Curphey and G Gilbert.

Also present was General Manager, John Scarce, Director of Infrastructure, Tom Dimec (via video link), Director Planning, Community & Development, Garry Stoll and Chief Financial Officer, Kaitlin Salzke.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mauger, Black and Saxvik.

**69/05/23**     **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Strachan that the apologies from Councillors Mauger, Black and Saxvik be received and leave of absence be granted.

**CARRIED**

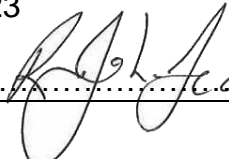
**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**70/05/23**     **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Chirgwin and Curphey that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 April 2023, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

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..........General Manager .....Mayor

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## PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATIONS

A pecuniary interest declaration was received from Councillor McRae in relation to Item Without Notice – Private Use of Mayoral Motor Vehicle.

## NOTICE OF RESCISSION

NIL

## NOTICE OF MOTION

NIL


## MAYORAL MINUTE

### DAMAGING INCREASE IN EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY COSTS SC217; SC166

**71/05/23**      **Resolved** on the motion of Mayor McRae that:

1. Council writes to the Treasurer, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Local Government and local State Member Helen Dalton MP, Member for Murray:
  - a. Expressing Council's strong opposition to the NSW Government's last minute decision to impose an enormous Emergency Services Levy (ESL) cost increase on Councils for 2023/24 by scrapping the ESL subsidy for Councils, and at a time after Council has publicly advertised its Operational Plan and annual budget to the community;
  - b. Noting that, as a consequence of the unannounced 73% increase in the State Emergency Service budget and an 18% increase in the Fire and Rescue NSW budget, Council's 3.7% rate increase to provide essential community services and infrastructure has been significantly eroded;
  - c. Advising that the Government's decision may lead to a reduction in important local services or the cancellation of necessary infrastructure projects;
  - d. Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to:
    - i. restore the ESL subsidy in 2023/24;
    - ii. urgently introduce legislation to decouple the ESL from the rate peg to enable Councils to recover the full cost;
    - iii. develop a fairer, more transparent and financially sustainable method of funding critically important emergency services in consultation with Local Government.

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..........General Manager .....Mayor

2. Council write to the Chair of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) advising that Council's forced emergency services contribution is manifestly disproportionate to the 2023/24 rate cap, which has resulted in additional financial stress.
3. Council writes to the President of LGNSW seeking the Association's ongoing advocacy to bring about a relief in the burden of Councils' emergency services contribution.

**CARRIED**

## **MAYORAL REPORT**

**SC217**

**72/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Strachan and Bryce that the information contained in the Mayoral Report be noted.

**CARRIED**

## **DELEGATES' REPORTS**

NIL

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**


**SC218**

**73/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Strachan and Curphey that the information contained in the General Manager's Monthly Report be noted, and Council:

1. Approve the continuation of the Charles Sturt University Scholarship Agreement for a period of 4 years (2024-2027) with an annual scholarship contribution of \$4,000;
2. Approve the removal of 3 x identified trees to allow the netball change rooms, as designed, to be built at the proposed location;
3. Proceed to detailed design, to enable tendering and construction of the Luke Park precinct project;
4. Approve the date change for the September 2023 Council meeting to Tuesday 19 September 2023.

**CARRIED**

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..........General Manager .....Mayor

**DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023-2024**

**SC132; SC133; SC241**

**74/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Chirgwin and Gilbert that the draft Operational Plan 2023-2024, incorporating budget and the draft Fees & Charges 2023-2024 be placed on exhibition for 28 days, and public submissions be invited.

**CARRIED**

**REMUNERATION FOR COUNCILLORS & MAYORS**

**SC208**

**75/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Bryce that:

1. Pursuant to S248(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council set the annual fee level for Councillors for the financial year 2023/24 at \$13,030;
2. Pursuant to S249(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council set the Mayoral additional fee level for the financial year 2023/24 at \$28,430.

**CARRIED**

**QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW – MARCH 2023**

**SC133**

**76/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Strachan and Chirgwin that the Quarterly Budget Review be noted and variances to the budget, as outlined therein, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**DARLINGTON POINT SPRING FESTIVAL**

**SC26**

**77/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Gilbert that Council endorse the Darlington Point Town Life Spring Festival on Saturday 16 September 2023.

**CARRIED**

Senior Planner Steve Parisotto joined the meeting.

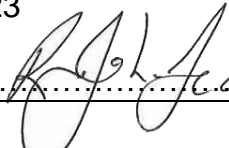
**DRAFT MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR COUNCIL-RELATED DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

**SC210/SC49**

**78/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Strachan and Chirgwin that the draft Managing Conflicts of Interest for Council-Related Development Policy be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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..........General Manager .....Mayor

**DRAFT PLANS OF MANAGEMENT FOR LIONS PARK AND  
JERILDERIE RACECOURSE & SHOWGROUND SC34/SC49**

**79/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Gilbert that the draft Plans of Management be adopted for:

1. Lions Park Darlington Point; and
2. Jerilderie Racecourse and Showground.

**CARRIED**

**DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN FOR THE YOUNG STREET  
PRECINCT SC98/SC88/SC210-004**

**80/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Gilbert that Council adopt the Development Control Plan for the Young Street Precinct.

**CARRIED**

Steve Parisotto departed the meeting.

**REVISED PLACE NAMING POLICY SC49**

**81/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Chirgwin and Bryce that:

1. The revised Place Naming Policy be endorsed by Council, and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, seeking public comment.
2. At the completion of the exhibition period, the revised Place Naming Policy be presented for adoption.

**CARRIED**

**DRAFT COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT POLICY SC49**

**82/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Strachan and Chirgwin that the draft Companion Animal Management Policy be adopted.

**CARRIED**

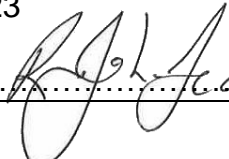
**REPORTS/MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**JERILDERIE TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE MEETING SC21**

**83/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Bryce and Curphey that the information contained in the Jerilderie Tidy Towns Committee Meeting Minutes be noted.

**CARRIED**

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..........General Manager .....Mayor

## **DARLINGTON POINT TOWNLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**SC23**

**84/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Strachan that the information contained in the Darlington Point Townlife Committee Meeting Minutes be noted.

**CARRIED**

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR NOTING**

### **MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - APRIL 2023**

**SC133**

**85/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Chirgwin that Council note the monthly Investment Report identifying all money Council has invested under Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**CARRIED**

### **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION, APRIL 2023**

**SC210**

**86/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Chirgwin and Bryce that the information contained in the Development Application Approved Under Delegation, April 2023, be noted.

**CARRIED**

## **ITEM WITHOUT NOTICE**

### **USE OF MAYORAL MOTOR VEHICLE**

**SC218**

Councillor McRae declared her pecuniary interest and departed the meeting.

Councillor Chirgwin assumed the chair.

**87/05/23** **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Gilbert that this item without notice be accepted as it requires resolution before the next scheduled meeting.

**CARRIED**

**88/05/23**     **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Bryce that:

1. Council approve Dr Des McRae as an authorised person to drive the Mayoral vehicle while accompanying Mayor Ruth McRae to the National General Assembly in Canberra, 12-16 June 2023, and that the fee for use be set at \$0.30km.
2. The General Manager be directed to develop a policy on this matter.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Chirgwin vacated the chair.

Councillor McRae returned to the meeting.

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

### **NSW GOVERNMENT REGIONAL NSW – BUSINESS CASE AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**SC135**

**89/05/23**     **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Bryce that this item be referred to the CONFIDENTIAL section of the Ordinary Council Meeting which is closed to the public. This item is classified as confidential in accordance with Section 10A (2) (d) i) and iii) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
- i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it;
- iii) reveal a trade secret

**CARRIED**


Council closed its meeting to the public at 12.20pm.

### **NSW GOVERNMENT REGIONAL NSW – BUSINESS CASE AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**SC135**

**90/05/23**     **Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Curphey and Gilbert that Council, under Section 55 (3) (n) (i) of the Local Government Act 1993, appoint Australasian Agriculture Equities Holdings Pty Ltd to undertake a business case study to the value of \$110,000 (GST inclusive), as detailed within the

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..........General Manager .....Mayor

report, as the contract involves an estimated expenditure or receipt of an amount of less than \$250,000 or another amount as may be prescribed by the regulations.

**CARRIED**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.26pm.

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Cr R E McRae  
**MAYOR**