



# **MINUTES**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, 17 June 2025**

**I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on:**

**Date: Tuesday, 17 June 2025**  
**Time: 10:00 AM**  
**Location: Council Chambers, Estates Building Cressy Street Deniliquin**

**Jack Bond**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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## 1. OPENING MEETING

Meeting opened at 10.02am

## 2. ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Mayor Cr Ashley Hall, Deputy Mayor Cr Kellie Crossley, Cr Craig Druitt, Cr Ken Bates, Cr Shirlee Burge, Cr Linda Fawns, Cr Frank Schofield, Cr Leanne Mulham, Cr Shannon Sampson, Chief Executive Officer

**Apologies:** Nil

**In attendance:** Director Infrastructure, Manager Finance, Executive Assistant

**Via Teams:** Nil

**Gallery Members:** 15

## 3. LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Edward River Council wishes to advise members of the public that Council Meetings will be recorded and will be available after each meeting on Council's website [Councils Website](#). All care will be taken to maintain the privacy of those in attendance, however As a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded. By remaining In the public gallery, it is assumed your consent is given in the event your image is broadcast. This includes any filming by television cameras if attendance is approved by the Chief Executive Officer or Mayor.

## 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Edward River Council acknowledges and embraces the Traditional Owners of the Lands within the Edward River Council area - the Wamba Wamba/Perrepa Perrepa Peoples - and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging. The Edward River Council also recognises the diversity of different cultures within our community and their contribution.

## 5. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

Moved: Cr Shirlee Burge

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Kellie Crossley

That the leave of absence requested by

1. Cr Craig Druitt for both July and August Council meetings be accepted
2. That the leave of absence requested by Cr Linda Fawns for the July 15 Council meeting be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**6. ITEM 12.1 - END STREET TREES REMOVAL**

Moved: Cr Craig Druitt

Seconded: Cr Shirlee Burge

**RESOLUTION 2025/1806/6**

That Council resolve to bring forward Item 12.1 - End Street trees removal to be considered immediately. This item is of significant public interest and we have members of the public present specially for this matter. I now move that the order of business be altered accordingly.

**CARRIED**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Cr Craig Druitt

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/12.1**

That Council engage further independent technical expertise to provide further information regarding the trees located at 142-144 End Street, Deniliquin and bring this report back to Council prior to any decision being made.

**CARRIED**

14 Members of the Gallery left the Chambers at 10.14am

**7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****7.1. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20 MAY 2025**

Moved: Cr Craig Druitt

Seconded: Cr Ken Bates

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/7.1**

That Council receive and note the draft minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held Tuesday 20 May 2025.

**CARRIED**

**8. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Mayor Cr Ashley Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary - Significant Conflict of Interest in Item 11.6 Proposed Road Naming Kurrajong Estate.

**9. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)**

That Council note the determination of the Office of Local Government to close the Performance Improvement Order.

Dear Cr Hall and Mr Bond,

I am writing regarding the performance improvement order (PIO) issued to Edward River Council (Council) under section 438A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) on 22 July 2024.

As you are aware, the PIO was issued following multiple complaints concerning conduct issues within Council, alongside the ineffectiveness of previous informal interventions to address these concerns. It is encouraging to note that, following receipt of Council's third and final compliance report on 26 February 2025, Council has successfully complied with the required actions outlined in the PIO.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Temporary Advisor, Mr Mark Ferguson, Interim CEO, Mr Gary Arnold, and the Mayor, for ensuring that these actions were completed within the prescribed timeframes. I also note Mr Ferguson's confidence that Mr Jack Bond's appointment as CEO, coupled with his confidence in the leadership of both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, will maintain the positive momentum achieved during the PIO. I am pleased to hear that Council has engaged Mr Ferguson to provide coaching and mentorship to Mr Bond over the next 12 months, which I am confident will further strengthen and build upon the existing structures.

Given the significant progress Council has made during the PIO period, I do not believe there is a reason for the PIO to be extended or varied. As such, under section 438E of the LG Act, I am satisfied that the council is compliant with the conditions of the PIO, and the PIO can be closed. OLG will continue to monitor Council's progress and trust that the current trajectory of council will be sustained. Please be advised that I have written to Mr Ferguson to advise him of my decision.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact Mr Brad Wade, Director, Investigations and Interventions, on 02 4428 4100 or via [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



**The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP**  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly  
Vice-President of the Executive Council  
Minister for Local Government

16 JUN 2025

**CARRIED**

**10. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Nil

**11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Nil

**12. REPORTS TO COUNCIL****12.1. END STREET TREES REMOVAL**

Resolved at 10.14am as per Item number 6.

**12.2. DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-2029**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Kellie Crossley

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/12.2**

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the community feedback;
2. Approve the drafted responses to community submissions and enable the Executive Assistant Corporate Services, with Chief Executive Officer review, to provide formal responses to each submission;
3. Adopts the updated Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 as amended based on community consultation; and
4. Reference to be included Item 1.2.3 Reinstate the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

**CARRIED**

**12.3. 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Cr Craig Druitt

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/12.3**

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the community feedback;
2. Approve the drafted responses to community submissions and enable the Executive Assistant Corporate Services, with Chief Executive Officer review, to provide formal responses to each submission;
3. Adopts the updated Operational Plan and Budget 2025-2026 (including Fees and Charges and Statement of Revenue Policy) along with the Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 (LTFP), as amended based on community consultation; and
4. Reinstate the Aboriginal Liaison Committee

**CARRIED**

**12.4. WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025 - 2029**

Manager Finance left the Chambers at 10.27am

Moved: Cr Shirlee Burge

Seconded: Cr Craig Druitt

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/12.4**

That Council endorse and adopt the Workforce Management Strategy 2025-2029, which outlines the key workforce priorities, strategies, and actions to ensure Edward River Council continues to build a capable, future-ready, and high-performing workforce aligned to community needs and organisational objectives.

**CARRIED**

**12.5. COUNCILLOR AND MAYORAL FEES 2025-26**

Moved: Cr Linda Fawns

Seconded: Cr Shirlee Burge

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/12.5**

That Council:

1. Set the Mayoral annual fee for 2025-26 at \$30,390, the maximum amount allowable, being a 3% increase from the previous year's maximum, in line with the annual determination by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal dated 17 April 2025;
2. Set the Councillor's annual fee for 2025-26 at \$13,930, the maximum amount allowable, being a 3% increase from the previous year's maximum, in line with the annual determination by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal dated 17 April 2025; and
3. Notes that the total 2025-26 Councillor and Mayoral fees, should Council adopt the maximum fees, will be \$155,760, an increase of \$4,580 from the 2024-25 actual fees.

**CARRIED**

**12.6. PROPOSED ROAD NAME - KURRAJONG SUBDIVISION DA65/18A (MOD2023/0005)**

Mayor Cr Ashley Hall left the Chambers at 10.34am in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice after declaring a conflict of interest and will not be present during consideration or voting on the matter.

Deputy Mayor Cr Kellie Crossley took the Chair.

Moved: Cr Craig Druitt

Seconded: Cr Ken Bates

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/12.6**

That Council endorse the road name "Yallambee Court", within the 30 Lot Subdivision (Kurrajong Subdivision) approved under DA65/18A (MOD2023/0005), on Lot 403 DP 756325 - 142-144 Napier Street, Deniliquin.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Cr Ashley Hall returned to the Chambers at 10.40am and resumed the Chair

**12.7. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT 14.1 MAKING OF THE RATES**

Moved: Cr Leanne Mulham

Seconded: Mayor Cr Ashley Hall

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/12.7**

That Council consider the Supplementary Report 14.1 Making of the Rates

**CARRIED**

**13. REPORTS FOR NOTING**

**13.1. INVESTMENT REPORT - MAY 2025**

13.1. Investment Report - May 2025

Moved: Cr Ken Bates

Seconded: Cr Linda Fawns

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/13.1**

That Council receive and note the Investment Report for May 2025

**CARRIED**

**13.2. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT**

Moved: Cr Ken Bates

Seconded: Cr Linda Fawns

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/13.2**

That Council receive and note the Development Services Report for May 2025.

**CARRIED**

**13.3. RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL AS AT 10 JUNE 2025**

Moved: Cr Ken Bates

Seconded: Cr Linda Fawns

**RESOLUTION 2025/1706/13.3**

That Council note the information in the Resolutions of Council as at 10 June 2025.

**CARRIED**



## **14. SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

### **14.1. MAKING OF THE RATES 2025-26**

Moved: Cr Shirlee Burge

Seconded: Cr Frank Schofield

#### **RESOLUTION 2025/1706/14.1**

That Council;

1. Make the Rates and Charges for the 2025/26 rating year as outlined in this report using the land values with a base date valuation of 1 July 2024;
2. Make three (3) ordinary rates, being Business, Farmland and Residential;
3. Continue with the minimum rate / ad-valorem for Business rates and the base rate / ad-valorem basis for Farmland and Residential Rates;
4. Approves an increase to overall rates by 4.6%, being the maximum amount allowable as determined by the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART); and
5. Adopts the overdue Rates & Charges maximum interest rate of 10.5% on all overdue interest rate, in accordance with section 566 (3) of the Act.

**CARRIED**

## **15. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

## **16. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil

## **17. CLOSE OF MEETING**

Meeting closed 10.50am