

**MINUTES OF YARRABAH ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE YARRABAH ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON WEDNESDAY, 23 JULY 2025 AT 9.00AM**

PRESENT: Cr Daryl Sexton (Mayor), Cr Michael Sands, Cr Amy Neal (Deputy Mayor), Cr Brian Underwood, Cr Hezron Murgha, Director -

IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Wright (CEO), Corporate Services Mike Mair, Director - People and Communities Richard Fitowski, Director - Infrastructure Sam Bann, Director - Building Services Wayne Douglas, Executive Assistant Leona Worrell (Minute taker)

1 MEETING OPEN

Mayor Sexton declared the meeting open at 10.04am.

The Mayor welcomed councillors and staff members present to the meeting.

One minute silence was observed to respect those who have passed away.

Deputy Mayor Amy Neal opened with a word of Prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional custodians the Gunggandji People whose country this meeting is being held today, acknowledgement to their elders, past present and emerging.

Acknowledgment also offered to the other Trustees of this land the Northern & Southern PBCs, the Stolen Generations and all Yarrabah people whose elders past present and emerging also call Yarrabah home and support progress in the Shire.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLUTION 01:23/07/2025

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 June 2025 be adopted.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 5/5

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**6 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST – COUNCIL / REGISTER UPDATES**

The Mayor reminded the Councillors of the requirement to declare their conflicts of interest to the CEO prior to the meeting and called on all councillors to re-declare them now.

- Councillor Hezron Murgha declared a conflict of interest in relation to items 7.9 and 7.14 due to family ties.
- Mayor Daryl Sexton and Councillor Michael Sands declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 7.11 due to family ties.
- Deputy Mayor Amy Neal declared a conflict of interest in relation to items 7.13 due to family ties.

The CEO confirmed that these declarations had been received prior to the meeting.

7 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**7.1 CEO OPERATIONAL REPORT****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Monthly Council meeting report on the operational and strategic performance of council business for months of June / August 2025.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 02:23/07/2025

That Council accept the CEO Operational Report, tabled as read.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 5/5

At 10.47am meeting adjourned

At 11.07am meeting reconvened

Note Mayor Daryl Sexton was temporarily absent and expected to return

At 11.08am Director Corporate Services entered the meeting

At 11.23am Mayor Daryl Sexton returned to the meeting

7.2 YASC MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Provide council with monthly financial report. This report covers the financial period 30th June 2025.

Director Corporate Services read to the report

RESOLUTION 03:23/07/2025

That Council accept the 30th of June 2025 Finance Reports as tabled.

1. Operating results
2. Current Debtors:
 - Trade Debtors & Creditors,
 - Housing Debtors
3. Capital works
4. Balance sheet
5. Cash position
6. Status of Commercial leases
7. Areas of Interest Report
8. Grant Report

Moved: Cr Michael Sands

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 5/5

7.3 2025-2026 BUDGET**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Council to adopt the 2025/26 Budget

Director Corporate Services read to the report

RESOLUTION 04:23/07/2025 RESOLUTION 05:23/07/2025

That Council resolve to adopt Council's budget for 2025-2026.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 5/5

At 11.35am Director Corporate Services left the meeting

11.46am moved into Closed session.

Item 9 was brought forward on the agenda to accommodate Councillor Brian Underwood, who needed to leave the meeting early. This item required the presence of all Councillors.

8 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 275 of the Local Government Act 2012:

9.1 CEO Separation - Appointment of Acting / Interim CEO

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 275 - a of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with the appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council moves into Closed Council.

9.2 MOVED INTO CLOSED COUNCIL SESSION

RESOLUTION 05:23/07/2025

Moved: Cr Michael Sands

Seconded: Cr Brian Underwood

CARRIED 5/5

9.3 MOVED INTO OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION 06:23/07/2025

That council resolve:-

- to note and accept the correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- confirm the separation date of employment of the CEO as close of business on 8 August 2025.
- appoint an interim CEO until the recruitment process for the permanent position is finalised and instruct the CEO to make inquiries regarding a suitable candidate.
- If an Interim CEO is not appointed by the above date, appoint the Director of Corporate Services, Mike Mair, as Acting Chief Executive Officer, effective 9 August 2025, until such time as an Interim CEO is appointed.
- All authorities and delegations of the CEO will be applicable to the Acting Chief Executive Officer during this interim period.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 5/5

At 12.03pm meeting adjourned

Visit from RACQ Foundation Representatives

Council received a visit from representatives of the RACQ Foundation, including the General Manager of Operations and the Chairperson.

The purpose of the visit was to provide an update on the progress of several key community projects currently being delivered in partnership with the RACQ Foundation, including:

- The Men's Shed Market Garden start-up and setup
- Garden beautification at the Women's Elders Hub
- The clean-up and mural installation at Bishop Malcolm Park

The visit also served to acknowledge the positive momentum and inspiration sparked among the leaders of these various community initiatives. Their enthusiasm and commitment have grown significantly as a result of this support, with many expressing renewed motivation to continue developing and expanding their efforts.

The visit highlighted not only the tangible progress made, but also the strength of the partnership between Council and the RACQ Foundation — a collaboration that is fostering pride, connection, and real opportunity within the Yarrabah community.

Visit from Newly Appointed Officer in Charge – Yarrabah Police

Council also welcomed a visit from the newly appointed Officer in Charge of the Yarrabah Police Station, who introduced himself to the Mayor, Councillors.

The introductory visit was an opportunity to begin building a positive working relationship between Council and local police leadership. The Officer in Charge expressed his commitment to collaborative community engagement, community safety, and maintaining open communication with Council.

Council looks forward to working closely with him and the broader local QPS team to support proactive, community-led safety initiatives and strengthen local partnerships.

At 2.17pm meeting reconvened

Note apologies for Councillor Brian Underwood

7.4 NEW POLICY - PERSONAL BELONGINGS POLICY - DAY-CARE CENTRE**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek Council's adoption of the proposed **Day-Care Centre – Personal Belongings Policy**.

This policy sets out clear guidelines and expectations regarding personal items that children may bring to the Centre. Its aim is to support a safe, secure, and respectful environment for all children, while also accommodating individual needs and preferences in a consistent and manageable way.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 07:23/07/2025

1. That Council resolve to endorse and adopt the new Personal Belongings Policy for the Day-Care Centre.
2. Authorise the CEO and Director People and Communities to undertake all necessary actions to implement the policy.
3. Day-Care staff must ensure that all patrons of the Day-Care Centre are made aware of this policy and its requirements.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 4/4

7.5 TENDER APPROVAL - DESIGN & CONSTRUCT: WASTEWATER LAGOON SURFACE AERATION & SWITCHBOARD UPGRADE**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek Council endorsement to award the Design & Construct: Wastewater Lagoon Surface Aeration & Switchboard Upgrade.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 08:23/07/2025

That Council resolve to award the Contract Package for the Design & Construct: Wastewater Lagoon Surface Aeration & Switchboard Upgrade to Austek Py Ltd.

Moved: Cr Michael Sands

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 4/4

7.6 PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES - OPERATIONAL REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide Council an update on operational activities undertaken within the Department of People and Communities.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 09:23/07/2025

That Council accept the Director of People and Communities Operational Report, tabled as read.

Moved: Cr Michael Sands

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 4/4

7.7 BUILDING SERVICES - OPERATIONAL REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to Council the status/activities of Building Services areas for the months of June 2025 to July 2025.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 10:23/07/2025

That Council accept the Director of Building Services Operational Report, tabled as read.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Michael Sands

CARRIED 4/4

7.8 INFRASTRUCTURE - OPERATIONAL REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to Council the status/activities of Infrastructure Department areas for the June/July 2025

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 11:23/07/2025

That Council accept the report of the Director-Infrastructure, tabled as read.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Michael Sands

CARRIED 4/4

Councillor Hezron Murgha declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this matter.

7.9 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM: DEANTE MURGHA**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – Deante MURGHA.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 12:23/07/2025

That Council resolve to endorse the recommendation provided by the CEO to accept the application for confirmation of Aboriginality community affiliation as submitted by the following person:

- o Deante MURGHA

It is further recommended that this action is moved and seconded by the signing Councillors.

Moved: Cr Amy Neal

Seconded: Cr Daryl Sexton

CARRIED 3/3

**7.10 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM:
FIONA PRIOR****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – Fiona PRIOR.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 13:23/07/2025

That Council resolve to endorse the recommendation provided by the CEO to accept the application for confirmation of Aboriginality community affiliation as submitted by the following person:

- Fiona PRIOR

It is further recommended that this action is moved and seconded by the signing Councillors.

Moved: Cr Amy Neal

Seconded: Cr Daryl Sexton

CARRIED 4/4

Mayor Daryl Sexton declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this matter.

**7.11 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM:
KIARNI SEXTON****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – Kiarni SEXTON.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 14:23/07/2025

That Council resolve to endorse the recommendation provided by the CEO to accept the application for confirmation of Aboriginality community affiliation as submitted by the following person:

- Kiarni SEXTON

It is further recommended that this action is moved and seconded by the signing Councillors.

Moved: Cr Amy Neal

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 3/3

7.12 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM: SHATARNA KING**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – Shatarna KING.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 15:23/07/2025

That Council resolve to endorse the recommendation provided by the CEO to accept the application for confirmation of Aboriginality community affiliation as submitted by the following person:

- Shatarna KING

It is further recommended that this action is moved and seconded by the signing Councillors.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 4/4

Deputy Mayor Amy Neal declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this matter.

7.13 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM: SHANNA CANUTO**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – Shanna CANUTO.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 16:23/07/2025

That Council resolve, in relation to the application for confirmation of Aboriginality/Community Affiliation as submitted by Shanna CANUTO.

1. To accept the application as submitted

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Michael Sands

CARRIED 3/3

Councillor Hezron Murgha declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this matter.

**7.14 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM:
SIMON BIGGS**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – Simon BIGGS.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 17:23/07/2025

That Council resolve, in relation to the application for confirmation of Aboriginality/Community Affiliation as submitted by Simon BIGGS.

1. To accept the application as submitted for:

- Simon Biggs
- Harrison Biggs
- River Biggs
- Raine Biggs

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Michael Sands

CARRIED 3/3

9 CORRESPONDENCE**8.1 CORRESPONDENCE - NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL - DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS AND MULTICULTURALISM****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To table correspondence addressed to the Mayor, received from the **Director-General of the Department of Women, Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs**, introducing herself following her recent appointment.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 18:23/07/2025

That Council note the correspondence tabled, as read.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 4/4

8.2 CORRESPONDENCE - TERRY JAMES MP**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To table correspondence to Council from Mr. Terry James MP, Member for Mulgrave offering congratulations for gaining support with the proposed planning work of the Yarrie Homes Guideline and the Balamba Structure plan.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 19:23/07/2025

That Council note the correspondence tabled, as read.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 4/4

8.3 CORRESPONDENCE - CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL IMPACTS CASE STUDY**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To table correspondence received from Percy Neal regarding a case study on the impacts of climate change on coastal processes, including sea level rise and extreme sea level events, and their effects on Country and cultural practices.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 20:23/07/2025

That Council note the correspondence tabled, as read.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Michael Sands

CARRIED 4/4

8.4 CORRESPONDENCE - REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP – PAUL BOWMAN CUP CARNIVAL**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To inform Council of a request for financial assistance received from **Ms Nita Ambrym**, on behalf of her son, **Howard Mundraby**, who has been selected to represent the **Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club U/9s** at the upcoming **Paul Bowman Cup Carnival** in **Proserpine**, scheduled for **20–21 September 2025**.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 21:23/07/2025

That Council:-

1. Note the correspondence tabled as read.
2. Instruct the CEO to facilitate a donation of \$150.00 in accordance with the Community Grants Policy.

Moved: Cr Daryl Sexton

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 4/4

8.5 CORRESPONDENCE - REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP – CHOPPYS BOXING CLUB**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To inform Council of a request for financial assistance received from **Choppys Boxing Club** for sponsorship/financial support for club members to attend a boxing tournament in Weipa.

CEO read to the report

RESOLUTION 22:23/07/2025

That Council:-

1. Note the correspondence tabled as read.
2. That Council instruct the CEO to advise the applicant that, in view of Council's ongoing in-kind support—providing access to the facility at no cost—the application is not supported at this time, in the interest of ensuring other community groups have the opportunity to access Council's support.

Moved: Cr Hezron Murgha

Seconded: Cr Amy Neal

CARRIED 4/4

10 CLOSE OF MEETING

Date for the next Council Ordinary Meeting is Wednesday 20 August 2025.

The Mayor thanked the councillors and staff for their participation and attendance at the meeting.

Meeting closed at 3.03pm.



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MAYOR