



SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPING THE OUTBACK

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

**Held at Diamantina Shire Council's
Administration Centre**

**17 Herbert Street, Bedourie, QLD 4829 on
19 January 2026 at 9:00am**

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor, Cr Francis Murray declared the Meeting open at 8:57 am.

2 ATTENDANCE

Present:

Mayor Francis Murray	Mayor
Deputy Mayor Damien Watson	Deputy Mayor
Cr Damian Clarke	Councillor – attendance via Microsoft Teams
Cr Robert Dare	Councillor
Cr Kerry Morton	Councillor – attendance via Microsoft Teams

Officers in attendance:

Ms Julianne Meier	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Jade Nacario	Director Corporate Services
Ms Juanita Warner	Governance Manager

Via Microsoft Teams

Mr Stuart Bourne	Partner, GBA Consulting Engineers
Ms Practice Brandenburg	Director Communities

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

3.1 Leave of Absence

Nil

3.2 Apologies

Mr Garth Borgelt	Director Infrastructure
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4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mayor, Cr Francis Murray acknowledged the Wangkamahdla People, Traditional Custodians of the land on which the meeting was held and paid respect to their Elders, past and present. He extended that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present at the meeting.

5 CONDOLENCES

Thelma Joyce Lander “Bubsy” a long term resident of outback Queensland.

6 DISCLOSURES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

7 PRESENTATIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Item - 7.1 Ergon Energy - has been moved to another part of the document – see page 6

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION CNL/26/001

Moved: Deputy Mayor Damien Watson

Seconded: Cr Robert Dare

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 December 2025 copies of which were previously circulated, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED 5/0

9 MAYORAL UPDATE

9.1 Mayoral Report

RESOLUTION CNL/26/002

Moved: Deputy Mayor Damien Watson

Seconded: Cr Robert Dare

That Council receives the Mayor's Report.

CARRIED 5/0

10 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 OFFICER REPORTS

12.1 Infrastructure Services Directorate

Stuart Bourne arrived at the meeting 9:23am

12.1.1 Infrastructure Services Report

RESOLUTION CNL/26/003

Moved: Mayor Francis Murray

Seconded: Cr Kerry Morton

That Council receives and notes the Infrastructure Services Report.

CARRIED 5/0

Andrew Kunst and Jessica Collison joined the meeting at 10:00 am

Andrew Kunst and Jessica Collison left the meeting at 10:32 am

7.1 Ergon Energy

Update on the commissioning of the new Battery at the Power Station in February/March 2026 – presented by Andrew Kunst & Jessica Collison at 10:00am.

RESOLUTION CNL/26/004

Moved: Mayor Francis Murray

Seconded: Cr Kerry Morton

That Council receives and notes the Ergon Energy report.

CARRIED 5/0

Stuart Bourne departed the meeting at 10:36am

Juanita Warner joined the meeting at 10:36am

12.2 Corporate Services Directorate

12.2.1 Governance Update

RESOLUTION CNL/26/005

Moved: Cr Robert Dare

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Damian Watson

That Council receives and notes the Governance Update report.

CARRIED 5/0

Meeting adjourned at 11:31am for morning tea and an external meeting
Meeting resumed at 12:45pm

12.2.2 Finance Report - December 2025

RESOLUTION CNL/26/006

Moved: Cr Robert Dare

Seconded: Cr Damian Clarke

That Council receives and notes the Finance Report - December 2025 report.

CARRIED 5/0

12.2.3 Corporate Services Update

RESOLUTION CNL/26/007

Moved: Cr Kerry Morton

Seconded: Cr Damian Clarke

That Council receives and notes the Corporate Services Update report.

CARRIED 5/0

12.3 Communities Services Directorate

12.3.1 Commemorative Plaques

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of Commemorative Plaques for the Birdsville Courthouse Experience and Vaughan Johnson Lookout.

RESOLUTION CNL/26/008

Moved: Deputy Mayor Damien Watson

Seconded: Cr Kerry Morton

That Council approve the designs for Commemorative Plaques.

CARRIED 5/0

12.4 Executive Office

12.4.1 CEO Update

RESOLUTION CNL/26/009

Moved: Cr Robert Dare

Seconded: Cr Damian Clarke

That Council receives and notes the CEO Update report.

CARRIED 5/0

12.4.2 Proposed Declaration of Ethabuka Special Wildlife Reserve

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the department) is seeking Council's views regarding the proposed declaration of Ethabuka Special Wildlife Reserve under the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council has no objection to the proposed declaration of Ethabuka Special Wildlife Reserve under the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
Or
2. That Council objects to the proposed declaration of Ethabuka Special Wildlife under the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, as outlined.

RESOLUTION CNL/26/010

Moved: Mayor Francis Murray

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Damien Watson

That Council has no objection to the proposed declaration of Ethabuka Special Wildlife Reserve under the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

CARRIED 5/0

13 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

Meeting adjourned at 2:41pm for the lunch break

Meeting resumed at 3:06pm

14 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

RESOLUTION CNL/26/011

Moved: Deputy Mayor Damien Watson

Seconded: Cr Kerry Morton

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:

14.1 Request for Deferral of Lease Payment

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 254J(3) - g 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 negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

14.2 AMCO Prime Spill

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 254J(3) - f 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 matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals.

CARRIED 5/0

Stuart Bourne joined the meeting at 3:30pm

14.1 Request for Deferral of Lease Payment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A lessee has requested a payment arrangement for annual lease payments because of significant financial impacts from the 2025 flood event. The request does not change the total lease payable but alters the timing of cash receipts to Council. This report presents options for Council to either approve the deferral or decline the request.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the request to defer the lease payment of \$75,000 plus GST; and
2. Delegate authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to execute a payment arrangement under the contractual payment obligations of the lease.

OR

1. Decline the request and advise that the existing contractual payment obligations remain unchanged.

RESOLUTION CNL/26/012

Moved: Deputy Mayor Damien Watson

Seconded: Cr Damian Clarke

That Council:

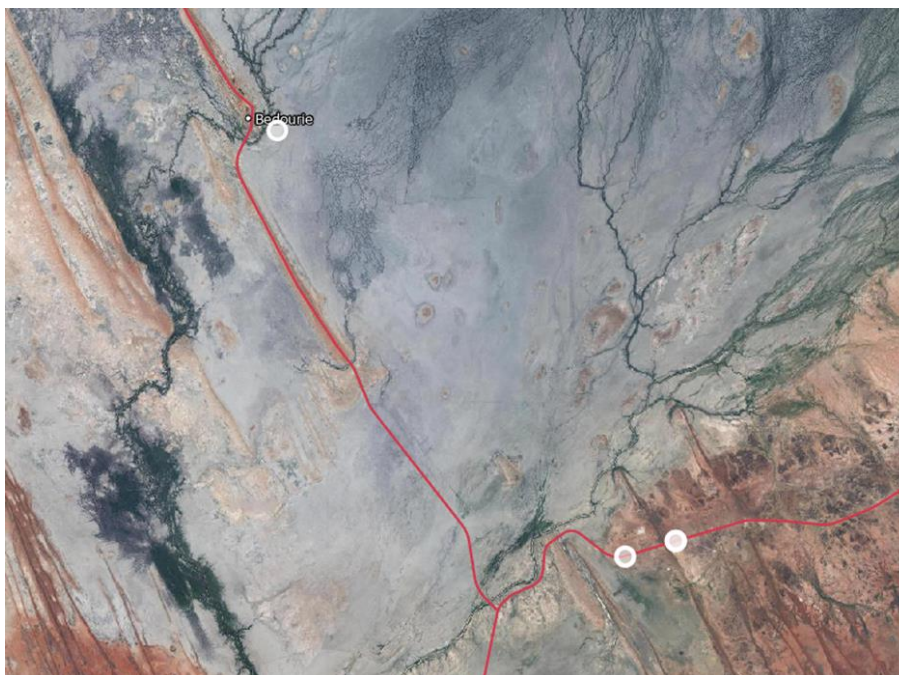
Decline the request and advise that the existing contractual payment obligations remain unchanged.

CARRIED 5/0

14.2 AMCO Prime Spill

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to review an incident that occurred in December 2025 relating to a bitumen spraying contractor. Queensland Central Bitumen (QCB) completed bitumen spraying works to the Cuttaburra 1 section recently completed. As part of these works QCB had some left over AMCO Prime in their spray tank. The contractor discharged this bitumen product on at least three sites following the works. Two of the three sites were stockpile pads adjacent to the road which had previously stored precoated aggregate and premix asphalt among other bituminous products. One of the sites was a private unsealed road, south of Bedourie.

**RESOLUTION CNL/26/013**

Moved: Cr Robert Dare

Seconded: Cr Damian Clarke

That Council note and receive this report.

CARRIED 5/0

RESOLUTION CNL/26/014

Moved: Deputy Mayor Damien Watson

Seconded: Mayor Francis Murray

Resume in Open Session and note the Mayor's report on Confidential Resolutions.

CARRIED 5/0

15 GENERAL BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Damien Watson raised a question about the construction of a driveway to a private property.

Stuart Bourne confirmed the cleaning of the kerb and channel would be the responsibility of the council maintenance crew. The construction of the driveway would be the responsibility of the property owner.

Mayor Francis Murray advised he may be a candidate for a board position on the RESQ and wanted to confirm the Shire of Diamantina councillors did not have any concerns.

16 NEXT MEETING

To be held at Diamantina Shire Council's Administration Centre, 17 Herbert Street, Bedourie, QLD 4829 at 9:00 AM on 16 February 2026.

17 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 4:18pm.