

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 2025, COMMENCING AT
6.30PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting General Manager (Director Planning and Environment)
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Strategic Planning Manager)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
People and Culture Manager
Chief Financial Officer
Development Services Manager
Senior Planning Assessment Officer
Communications & Engagement Manager
Help Desk Support Officer x 2
Council Services Team Leader

The Prayer was presented by Pastor Rachel Main

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Councillor Jurd requested a Leave of Absence for the Traffic Committee Meeting to be held on 14 April 2025 and the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 16 April 2025.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal
 Seconded: Councillor King

103

RESOLVED that a Leave of Absence from 14 to 16 April 2025 for Councillor Jurd be granted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Lea
Seconded: Councillor Madden

104

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 February 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Watton
Total (13)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI2/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

WI2/2025 - Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2026-31 – Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Interest Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that family work there. Councillor Jurd advised that she would remain in the Chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced her in carrying out her public duty because it was already voted on without her in the Chamber.

CC12/2025 - Authorisation to Borrow – Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Interest Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that family work there. Councillor Jurd advised that she would remain in the Chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced her in carrying out her public duty because it is already passed without her in the Chamber.

PE5/2025 - Exhibition of Draft Infrastructure Contributions Plans – Councillor Palmowski declared a Non Pecuniary Interest Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that she resides in the Huntlee Estate, however the report is on the new development. Councillor Palmowski advised that she would remain in the Chamber and participate and discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced her in carrying out per public duty.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

Nil

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

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
105
RESOLVED

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

NI1/2025	Notice of Intention to Deal with Matters in Confidential Session – Report CC16/2025 - Authorisation to Purchase Property Adjacent to Council Facility	33
‡ CC14/2025	Investment Report - February 2025	89
‡ CC15/2025	Resolutions Tracking Report	94

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEAL WITH MATTERS IN CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

NOTICE OF INTENTION NO. NI1/2025

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEAL WITH MATTERS IN
CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - REPORT CC16/2025 - AUTHORISATION
TO PURCHASE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO COUNCIL FACILITY**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
106
RESOLVED

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

- **Report CC16/2025 – Authorisation to Purchase Property Adjacent to Council Facility as the report 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.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM1/2025

SUBJECT: FUTURE PROOFING THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

MOTION *Moved:* Councillor Watton
107

RESOLVED

1. That Council write to Transport for NSW requesting a review of the Cessnock LGA public transport network and investigate improved, efficient local public transport options to implement for our growing community.
2. That Council write to The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Roads and Regional Transport and local Members of Parliament for priority action on the acquisition of the rail corridor so it can be preserved for future transport functionality.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU2/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Councillor Suvaal moved a Motion of Urgency in relation to Political Signage.

The Mayor ruled the Motion as non urgent.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE3/2025

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO. 8/2023/298/1 FOR A FOOD AND DRINK PREMISES COMPRISING A PUB AND ANCILLARY BREWERY, RESTAURANT / CAFÉ AND ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING AND ON-SITE EFFLUENT DISPOSAL

5439 GEORGE DOWNES DRIVE BUCKETTY

MOTION
108
RESOLVED

Moved: Councillor Hill

Seconded: Councillor Pascoe

1. That:

- (i) Development Application No. 8/2023/298/1 for the construction of a food and drink premises comprising a pub and ancillary brewery, a restaurant / café and associated parking and on-site effluent disposal area on Lot 30 DP 574492 – 5439 George Downes Drive Bucketty, be approved pursuant to Sections 4.16 and 4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, subject to the conditions contained in Enclosure 2.
- (ii) The reasons for the decision (having regard to any statutory requirements applying to the decision) and consideration of community views are as follows:
 - The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, is consistent with the objectives of the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP)*.
 - The proposed development is, subject to the recommended conditions, consistent with the objectives of the *Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP)*.
 - Subject to the recommended conditions, the proposed development will be provided with adequate essential services required under the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP)*.
 - The proposed development is considered to be of an appropriate scale and form for the site and is consistent and sympathetic with the character of the locality.
 - The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, will not result in unacceptable adverse impacts upon the natural or built environments.

- Any issues raised in submission/s have been taken into account in the assessment report and where appropriate, conditions of consent have been imposed on the determination. Council has given due consideration to community views when making the decision to determine the application.

(iii) The details contained above be publicly notified pursuant to Section 2.22 and Clause 20(2) of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

2. That Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the proposed development, of Council's decision.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Harrington
Councillor King	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (3)

CARRIED

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
110

RESOLVED

1. That Council place the Draft Cessnock Vineyards District Place Strategy and Draft Vineyards District Development Control Plan chapter on public exhibition for a period of 40 days.

2. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the Draft Vineyards District Place Strategy and Draft Vineyards District Development Control Plan chapter.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE5/2025

SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS PLANS

Councillor Palmowski declared a Non Pecuniary Interest Less than Significant Conflict for the reason that she resides in the Huntlee Estate, however the report is on the new development. Councillor Palmowski remained in the Chamber and participated and discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
111

RESOLVED

1. That Council place the Draft Cessnock City Wide s.7.11 Infrastructure Contributions Plan and Draft Cessnock City Wide s.7.12 Infrastructure Contributions Plan on public exhibition for a minimum period of 40 days.
2. That Council endorse an application to apply for a Ministerial Direction to increase the contribution cap from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per lot for the Loxford and Huntlee local catchments.
3. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the draft infrastructure contributions plans.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE6/2025

SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF DRAFT CESSNOCK DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN CHAPTERS - 'TOURIST ACCOMMODATION ON RURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS' AND 'SIGNAGE AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING'.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
112
RESOLVED

1. That Council place the Draft Tourist and Visitor Accommodation on Rural and Conservation Lands Development Control Plan chapter on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
2. That Council place the Draft Signage and Outdoor Advertising Development Control Plan chapter on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
3. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the Draft Development Control Plan chapters if unresolved objections are received or significant amendment to the Draft Development Control Plan Chapters are made post exhibition. Where there are no unresolved objections nor significant amendments proposed post exhibition, the Draft Development Control Plan Chapters be adopted by Council pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2001*.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC9/2025

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
113
RESOLVED

That Council adopts the amended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Charter for this term of the Committee.

Councillor King left the meeting, the time being 7.55pm

Councillor King returned to the meeting, the time being 7.57pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC10/2025

SUBJECT: LAND ACQUISITION - SOUTH CESSNOCK BUND WALL

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
114

RESOLVED

1. That Council acquires by voluntary agreement of Austar Coal Mine Pty Ltd land and easement rights, being portions of lots 34, 35 and 36 in DP 755215, required for the South Cessnock Flood Mitigation Scheme Bund Wall project.
2. That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to acquire the land at the assessed market value for the sum of \$43,300 and compensate the landowner for reasonably incurred valuation and legal costs on presentation of paid invoices in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.
3. That Council authorise the General Manager to execute all documents relating to the acquisition and/or documents relating to any application to the Office of Local Government for the approval of the Minister and the Governor for compulsory acquisition if required.
4. That Council authorise the General Manager in the event of failure to acquire by agreement to make any application to the Office of Local Government for the approval of the Minister and the Governor for compulsory acquisition.
5. That on transfer of ownership, Council resolves to classify the land being portions of lots 34, 35 and 36 in DP 755215 as operational land.

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 8.03pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 8.04pm

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC11/2025

**SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION 2025
NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ATTENDANCE AND MOTIONS**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Grine

1. That Council determine the Mayor as the voting delegate and Councillors King, Palmowski and Hill as attendees for the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly.
2. That Council endorse the regional motions identified by the Hunter JO Board and that the following motions be submitted for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly:
 - Jobs and Skills
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Financial Sustainability
 - Roads and Infrastructure

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Suvaal

1. That Council determine Councillor Hill as the voting delegate and the Mayor (as alternate voting delegate), Councillors King and Palmowski as attendees for the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly.
2. That Council endorse the regional motions identified by the Hunter JO Board and that the following motions be submitted for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly:
 - Jobs and Skills
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Financial Sustainability
 - Roads and Infrastructure

PROCEDURAL MOTION *Moved:*
Seconded:

Councillor Grine
Councillor Lea

115

RESOLVED

That the Amendment be PUT.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Hill
Councillor Grine	Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (2)

The Procedural Motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

The Amendment was then **PUT**.

AMENDMENT *Moved:* Councillor Hill *Seconded:* Councillor Suvaal

- That Council determine Councillor Hill as the voting delegate and the Mayor (as alternate voting delegate), Councillors King and Palmowski as attendees for the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly.**
- That Council endorse the regional motions identified by the Hunter JO Board and that the following motions be submitted for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly:**
 - Jobs and Skills**
 - Housing and Homelessness**
 - Financial Sustainability**
 - Roads and Infrastructure**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Harrington
Councillor Lea	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Madden	Councillor King
Councillor Palmowski	Councillor Mason
Councillor Suvaal	Councillor Pascoe
	Councillor Watton
Total (6)	Total (7)

Amendment **PUT** and **LOST**

The Motion was then **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
116

RESOLVED

1. **That Council determine the Mayor as the voting delegate and Councillors King, Palmowski and Hill (alternate voting delegate) as attendees for the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly.**

2. **That Council endorse the regional motions identified by the Hunter JO Board and that the following motions be submitted for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly:**
 - **Jobs and Skills**
 - **Housing and Homelessness**
 - **Financial Sustainability**
 - **Roads and Infrastructure**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC12/2025

SUBJECT: AUTHORISATION TO BORROW

Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Interest Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that family work there. Councillor Jurd remained in the Chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

Councillor Pascoe left the meeting, the time being 8.23pm

Councillor Pascoe returned to the meeting, the time being 8.24pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor King
117

RESOLVED

1. **That Council applies for a loan facility in the amount of \$13,600,000 for a maximum period of twenty (20) years for the following projects:**
 - a. **\$10,000,000 towards construction of the new Waste Facility**
 - b. **\$1,400,000 for the Bridge Replacement Program**
 - c. **\$1,000,000 towards Shared Pathways Program**
 - d. **\$1,200,000 towards South Cessnock Flood Mitigation**

2. **That Council delegates the General Manager to negotiate the terms of the loan including tenure, rate and repayment periods.**

3. **That Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute the documents relating to the Loan Agreement including affixing of the Council Seal if required.**

Councillor Palmowski left the meeting, the time being 8.25pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (1)

CARRIED

Councillor Palmowski returned to the meeting, the time being 8.26pm

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC13/2025

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY POST EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
118

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council adopts the Community Engagement Strategy (incorporating the Community Participation Plan) following public exhibition.**
- 2. That Council notes the report on the outcomes of the exhibition.**

Councillor King left the meeting, the time being 8.29pm

Councillor King returned to the meeting, the time being 8.30pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC14/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
119
RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for February 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 \$65,983,370.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC15/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
120
RESOLVED

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI2/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY STRATEGY 2026-31

Councillor Jurd declared a Non Pecuniary Interest Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that family work there. Councillor Jurd remained in the Chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
121

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council place the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2026-31 on public exhibition for a minimum period of 42 days.**
- 2. That Council adopt the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2026-2031 in the event there are no unresolved objections nor significant amendments proposed post exhibition**

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 8.45pm

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 8.46pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI3/2025

SUBJECT: TENDER - T2025-07 BETTERMENT OF THOMAS STREET, NORTH ROTHBURY CIVIL WORKS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
122
RESOLVED

That Council accept the tender (T2025-07) from KCE Pty Ltd for the Betterment of Thomas Street, North Rothbury Civil Works for the lump sum of \$3,398,700 including GST.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN6/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE VANDALISM IN PUBLIC SPACES

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

1. That the General Manager investigate and report back on potential opportunities to reduce vandalism in public places like sporting fields, skate parks and playgrounds, with recommendations for practical measures that can deter such activities.
2. That the report should include an assessment of current policies and strategies, consultation with relevant stakeholders and exploration of best practices from other Local Government Areas.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski

That Council reconvene to further consider options available to help address impacts of crime within the Cessnock LGA after further consultation is undertaken between Cessnock Councillors and NSW Police.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Harrington
Councillor Lea	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Palmowski	Councillor King
Councillor Pascoe	Councillor Madden
Councillor Suvaal	Councillor Mason
Councillor Watton	
Total (7)	Total (6)

The Amendment was **PUT** and **CARRIED** and as such became the Motion.

The Motion was then **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

MOTION

123

Moved: Councillor King

Seconded: Councillor Jurd

RESOLVED

That Council reconvene to further consider options available to help address impacts of crime within the Cessnock LGA after further consultation is undertaken between Cessnock Councillors and NSW Police.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Harrington
Councillor Grine	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (2)

CARRIED

Councillor Madden left the meeting, the time being 9.21pm

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN7/2025

SUBJECT: REPORT ON UNSEALED ROADS AND COSTS

Councillor Grine left the meeting, the time being 9.23pm

Councillor Madden returned to the meeting, the time being 9.23pm

Councillor Grine returned to the meeting, the time being 9.25pm

MOTION Moved: Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor King

That Council requests a report from the General Manager for the following information:-

1. How many unsealed roads in the Local Government Area.
2. How many unsealed roads are maintained.
3. How many unsealed roads are currently unmaintained.
4. What our current budget for unsealed roads maintenance is and what it would cost to maintain all the unsealed roads.
5. Residents that don't have maintenance on roads they must use to access their property, what do their rates cover.
6. Current what grants are available to help with our unsealed road program.

AMENDMENT Moved: Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Suvaal

1. That the General Manager provide a report to Council on the unsealed road network review, including information on Unsealed Road Maintenance Schedule, Council's Asset Management Framework and budget in line with the Long Term Financial Plan.
2. Currently what grants are available to help with our unsealed road program.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

The Amendment was **PUT** and **CARRIED** and as such became the **MOTION**.

The Motion was then **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

MOTION

124

RESOLVED

Moved: Councillor Hill

Seconded: Councillor Suvaal

1. That the General Manager provide a report to Council on the unsealed road network review, including information on Unsealed Road Maintenance Schedule, Council's Asset Management Framework and budget in line with the Long Term Financial Plan.
2. Currently what grants are available to help with our unsealed road program.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Watton

Total (13)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Palmowski

Cessnock City Council Seniors Festival Event at Branxton Community Hall on 8th March 2025

A Soiree was held March 8 at Branxton Community Hall in celebration of Cessnock City Councils Seniors Festival.

The fabulous event was held in collaboration with Miss Jade's Music School whose very talented students performed outstanding musical performances from singing, piano and violin.

There were also other marvelous performances from other community groups and singers who even successfully encouraged the whole room of attendees to join in on the fun following the lyrics of songs displayed on the community halls new projector and screen.

The event was, as always, very well organised by caretaker Helen and her incredible team. The team successfully organised admissions, seating, beautiful table decorations and a lovely afternoon tea.

The event served as a fundraiser to raise funds for Miss Jade's Music School in giving back to those struggling with financial difficulty in access to music lessons and other needs such as instrument repairs.

The Branxton Community Hall received a grant from Cessnock City Council for this event and wanted to pass on their thanks by way of a certificate which I was given on behalf of the Community Hall to Cessnock City Council.

Congratulations to Branxton Community Hall and Miss Jade's Music School for a successful afternoon.

Councillor King

Meeting with Police – Friday 14 March 2025

****Attendees:****

- Quintin King (Councillor)
- Daniel Watton (Councillor)
- Clayton Barr (Member for Cessnock)
- Dan Repacholi (Federal Member for Hunter)
- Senior police officials

****Meeting Summary:****

The meeting was convened as a result of me writing to the minister of police to discuss several key issues related to policing in the community, including crime statistics, police staffing levels, crime prevention strategies, and local law enforcement activities. The discussions were productive and highlighted several important aspects of police work and community involvement.

1. ****Crime Statistics****

The police presented an update on the current crime statistics for the area. A point that stood out for me was that we have the 3rd highest rate for vehicle theft in the state. The crime rates had some fluctuations but overall remain stable.

2. ****Population Forecast and a plan to maintain Police Staffing****

A point of discussion was the relationship between population growth and the availability of police officers. It was clarified that police staffing numbers are primarily determined by reported crime statistics rather than population forecasts. This means that if crime incidents are underreported, it may lead to fewer resources allocated to the area. As a result, it is crucial that all incidents, no matter how minor they may seem, be reported to the police in order to accurately reflect the crime levels in the community. This, in turn, could potentially lead to an increase in police staff allocation.

4. ****Reporting Crime – Public Awareness Campaign****

The police emphasised the importance of reporting all crimes, regardless of their perceived severity. They noted that the community's engagement in reporting crime is crucial for accurate crime data, which directly impacts resource allocation and staffing decisions.

5. ****Vandalism****

Police have a designated Crime Prevention Officer to work directly with local organisations. The officer's role is to help create and implement strategies to prevent crime.

6. ****Police Trail Bikes ****

The topic of trail bikes was discussed, with clarification that trail bikes are not authorised for general police use in the community. They are only allowed for land searches in specific cases.

7. ****Neighbourhood Watch Groups****

Neighbourhood Watch groups are an important part of community safety. The police confirmed that they are willing to actively support and work with these groups to enhance local vigilance and reduce crime. Councillors are encouraged to continue fostering these community-led initiatives.

8. ****Staffing and Crime Data Support****

Finally, the meeting underscored a key point: to secure more police staff for the area, the data needs to support it. This means that it is crucial for all community members to report each crime or suspicious activity. By doing so, the area's crime statistics will more accurately reflect the true needs of the community, increasing the likelihood of obtaining additional officers to meet those needs.

Recommendations from police council can take to help:

- 1. Promote Crime Reporting**
- 2. Support for Neighbourhood Watch Groups**
- 3. Initiatives against vandalism**

Councillor Lea

Report: Cessnock Seniors Festival 2025

The 2025 Cessnock Seniors Festival was a resounding success, celebrating our senior community members with a diverse and engaging program of activities. This year's festival embraced the theme '*Time to Shine*', encouraging seniors to connect, learn, and engage in meaningful experiences. With over 50 events across 2 weeks, the festival certainly showcased the vibrancy and contributions of our more experienced residents.

The festival was made possible through the collaboration of the Cessnock City Council, community groups, and generous sponsors. A special thanks to our sponsors whose support allowed us to deliver a diverse range of activities.

Personal Highlights

Herstories Author Talk (Saturday, March 15 – Kurri Kurri Library)
One of the standout events of the festival was the *Herstories Author Talk*, featuring celebrated authors *Paula Beavan, Tea Cooper, and Cathryn Hein*. This session provided an enriching experience for attendees, offering a deep dive into storytelling, history, and the literary world. The authors shared insights into their writing journeys, inspirations, and the importance of preserving historical narratives through fiction. The session was well-attended, fostering an engaging discussion between the authors and the audience.

The event not only celebrated literature but also encouraged lifelong learning, a key pillar of the festival. The participation and enthusiasm from attendees highlighted the ongoing appetite for cultural and educational experiences within our broad community and I will highlight that this event in particular attracted visitors from well outside of our LGA and indeed people of all ages.

Sir Edgeworth David Museum Open Day (Sunday, March 16 – Abermain School of Arts)
Another remarkable event was the *Sir Edgeworth David Museum Open Days*, where visitors explored an extensive collection of documents, artefacts, photographs, and memorabilia capturing the rich history of the Coalfields. The museum's volunteers provided guided tours, sharing fascinating stories of the region's past and its contributions to Australia's development.

The event also included a *community BBQ*, offering a welcoming atmosphere for attendees to connect and reminisce. The passion and dedication of the museum's volunteers were evident, and the event successfully promoted the preservation of local history and heritage.

In conclusion, the festival successfully fostered *social connection, learning, and wellbeing* among seniors, aligning with the *5 Ways to Wellbeing* framework. Events provided opportunities to connect with peers, be active, take notice of cultural and historical contributions, keep learning through engaging activities, and give back by sharing experiences and stories.

The positive feedback received from attendees highlighted the importance of such initiatives in enhancing the quality of life for our residents. The festival reinforced the role of the Cessnock City Council in supporting an inclusive and thriving community.

The Cessnock Seniors Festival 2025 was an outstanding success, and I commend all organisers, volunteers, and sponsors for their dedication.

Of particular note I feel it is imperative to highlight the efforts of our 2024 Senior Citizen of the year, Delma Whyte. During the 2 weeks of the festival Delma attended at staggering 18 events as the festival's 2025 ambassador. This only strengthens what we all know, Delma was an extremely worthy recipient of the Senior Citizen of the year award.

I look forward to seeing the festival grow even further in the coming years, ensuring that our senior community members continue to feel valued, celebrated, and engaged.

Councillor Dixon

International Women's Day Celebration – Cessnock Leagues Club

Date – Friday 14 March 2024, **Location** - Cessnock Leagues Club, **Purpose** – Celebration of International Women's Day and networking event.

Introduction – The Cessnock Women Connects Networking Night, held on Friday, 14 March 2025 at the Cessnock Leagues Club was a successful event celebrating International Women's Day. The Event featured inspiring guest speakers, community support initiatives and networking opportunities for attendees.

Guest Speakers

The event showcased the achievements of local women, featuring four special guest speakers:

- Liz Riley, Cessnock Electorate Local Woman of the Year
- Lilly Bridge, Cessnock Young Female Achiever and Maree Callaghan Award winner
- Caitlin Barker, Cessnock Show Young Woman of the Year
- Taylee Short, Miss Australia Global World.

The speaker's presentations were well received, highlighting their personal achievements and dedication to the Cessnock area.

Community Support

- The event incorporated a community support element by collecting pantry item donations for the Hunter Food Relief Centre. This initiative demonstrated the attendees' commitment to supporting those in need.
- A raffle was held, featuring prizes generously donated by local businesses, including Elysia Wellness Retreat, Hunter's Quarter restaurant and Boho Bungalows Lifestyle Retreat. This added to the event's fundraising success and provided valuable exposure for local businesses.

Networking

The event provided a valuable platform for women to connect, network and share experiences. The atmosphere was positive and supportive, fostering a sense of community.

Conclusion

The Cessnock Women Connects Networking Night was a successful and inspiring event that effectively celebrated International Women's Day. The event highlighted the achievements of local women, fostered community support and provided valuable networking opportunities.

MAYORAL SUMMARY - 18 February to 19 March 2025

18 February - Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Alliance Meeting

This was CCC's turn to chair the Alliance meeting:

- STOMP Festival
- \$14million grant funding for APEX Park - \$14 million will be spent by Cessnock Council upgrading Apex Park, with the Federal Government providing a grant under the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program - one of seven projects to receive funding in NSW.
- Recap on Canberra Visit

20 February - Hunter Transmission Project - Social Impact Statement Interview

12 March - Meeting with Hon. Emily Suvaal MLC re Accelerating the reactivation of current and former mining lands to create jobs in the Hunter Region arranged by Hunter JO.

Today, 7 out of 10 Mayors through the Hunter JO met with Hon Emily Suvaal, Chair of the NSW Inquiry into the beneficial and productive post-mining land use. The purpose of the meeting was to raise the urgency and to seek a commitment from NSW Government to collaborate and invest in locally led solutions.

With a global decline in coal demand with the uptake of renewable energy across the world, the Hunter region is set to experience coal mine closures, with the loss of 12,000 jobs by 2030 and impacting around 50,000 direct and indirect supply chain jobs between now and 2050.

The mining and buffer lands have existing infrastructure such as train lines, connections to electricity, water, good transport connections to highways, all of which could be re-used for other businesses instead of the current plans to remove them. We need to prioritise the development of these mining and buffer lands to reutilise these important assets where feasible, with the added benefit of reducing the need to clear undisturbed bushland to create much needed new employment lands. Importantly, our plan ensures that biodiversity corridors are maintained or enhanced through this process.

13 March - Training - Affordable Housing Induction for Councillors

Housing affordability is at the forefront of community concerns across NSW. While the NSW and Commonwealth governments must do their part, local government is a key stakeholder and decision maker in the delivery of affordable housing. This role is especially critical given recent government funding and policy commitments.

Community Housing Industry Association NSW (CHIA NSW) developed a training course for councillors. CHIA NSW is the peak body for the community housing industry in NSW, which specialises in the delivery of affordable housing and support to communities.

- Explain key housing terms and concepts in plain English: Such as the difference between housing affordability, affordable housing, and social housing.
- Identify how councils can support the delivery of more affordable housing: Learn about the tools available to councils and understand the latest policy changes and available funding programs.
- Explore the important role of community housing providers (CHPs): Learn about CHPs and how they are regulated. Hear about the homes CHPs deliver and the lived experiences of the people they house.
- Delve into how councils can partner with CHPs: Explore examples of successful partnerships and learn about the benefits these projects delivered.
- Link councillors to affordable housing resources and support available.

14 March - Cessnock Police - Staffing and Crime meeting

At February's Ordinary meeting Council unanimously resolved to write to Police, State and Federal members to request for support and advocacy to address staffing shortages and ensure sufficient police resources are allocated to the Cessnock region to support our growing community. Myself, Dan Repacholi MP, Clayton Barr MP, Councillor King attended Cessnock Police Station for a discussion with senior staff in relation to Cessnock Police current staffing and their response to crime within the Cessnock Policing Sector.

16 March - Upper Yango Landholders Association - community resilience information presentation

Our small community, on the eastern boundary of Yengo National Park, was devastated by the 2019 Gospers Mountain and Little L Bushfires.

With support from a BLERF grant, we have spent five years enhancing resilience through an ecologically sensitive fire, flood and emergency management program.

At this event, we will share lessons learned and hopefully inspire other landholders to build their own resilience strategies for a safer, stronger future.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton **Seconded:** Councillor Suvaal
126
RESOLVED

That the meeting be extended to 10.30pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.56pm

Confidential reports (closed session)

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor King
127
RESOLVED

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.59PM

Open Session

The meeting move back into open session and the Director Corporate and Community Services reported on the outcome.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC16/2025

SUBJECT: AUTHORISATION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO COUNCIL FACILITY

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) 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.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
128

RESOLVED

1. That Council delegate to the General Manager authority to purchase Lot: 4 DP: 835450, known as 69 Vincent Street, Cessnock to facilitate the future expansion of the Cessnock Library Building.
2. That Council delegate to the General Manager authority to enter negotiations for purchase of the property within 10% of the recommendation associated with this report + GST.
3. That Council authorises the General Manager authority to execute the Transfer documentation of the purchase between Cessnock City Council and the private property owner.
4. That the Council authorises use of funds from the Development Contributions Plan for purchase and fit out of the property.
5. That on transfer of ownership, Council resolves to classify the land being Lot: 4 DP: 835450, as operational land.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 10.00pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 16 April 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**