

# **Minutes**

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**

**24 June 2025**



**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORUYA**  
**ON TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2025**

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**MINUTES OF THE  
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORUYA  
ON TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025  
COMMENCING AT 12:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mathew Hatcher, Mayor (in the Chair)  
Councillors Laurence Babington, Anthony Mayne (via audio visual link), Rob Pollock OAM, Amber Schutz, Colleen Turner and Sharon Winslade

**Staff:** Mark Ferguson, General Manager  
Mr G Bruce, Director, Planning and Environment  
Mr G Attenborough, Director, Infrastructure Services  
Mrs K Arthur, Director, Community, Arts and Recreation  
Mrs S Speedy, Director, Finance and Corporate Services  
Mr S Westbury, Corporate Manager, Governance and Risk  
Ms K Pisanos, Chief Operating Officer  
Miss H Johnson, Minute Secretary

**1. WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land, Eurobodalla Shire Council recognises Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants and custodians of all land and water in the Eurobodalla and respects their enduring cultural and spiritual connection to it. Eurobodalla Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land in which we live. Council pays respect to Elders past, present and future. We are on Yuin Country.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Mayor Hatcher advised that he had received apologies from Councillors Johnson and Constable. He also noted that Councillor Mayne would be joining the meeting via audio visual link.

#### **4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **25/85 MOTION** Councillor Schutz/Councillor Turner

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 May 2025 be confirmed.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

##### Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner  
and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

#### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Mayne declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary conflict of interest in item MR25/002 Raising the alarm on Rural Fire Service fleet – Parliament listens to councils, and stated that he doesn't believe he should be precluded from voting on the matter.

**Reason:** Councillor Mayne declared he is an active member of the Broulee Rural Fire Service unit.

#### **6. PUBLIC FORUM (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

(Minutes of the Public Forum are a summary only and do not purport to be a complete transcript of the proceedings.)

##### **PF25/025 FCS25/035 ADOPTION OF THE DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29, RESOURCING STRATEGY 2025-35 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26, INCLUDING MAKING OF THE RATES FOR 2025-26**

Tony Jackson addressed Council in relation to FCS25/035.

Tony did not provide a copy of his presentation.

##### **PF25/026 FCS25/035 ADOPTION OF THE DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29, RESOURCING STRATEGY 2025-35 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26, INCLUDING MAKING OF THE RATES FOR 2025-26**

Neil Gow addressed Council in relation to FCS25/035.

A copy of Neil's presentation is available on Council's website.

**7. MAYORAL REPORTS**

**MR25/002 RAISING THE ALARM ON RURAL FIRE SERVICE FLEET - PARLIAMENT LISTENS TO COUNCILS**

Councillor Mayne declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary conflict of interest in item MR25/002 Raising the alarm on Rural Fire Service fleet – Parliament listens to councils, and stated that he doesn't believe he should be precluded from voting on the matter.

**Reason:** Councillor Mayne declared he is an active member of the Broulee Rural Fire Service unit.

**25/86 MOTION** Councillor Hatcher/Councillor Schutz

THAT Council:

1. Advocate to the NSW Premier and the Minister for Local Government to implement as soon as possible the recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry into NSW RFS funding, assets and premises.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**8. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil



## 9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM COUNCILLORS

### QON25/002 VIRTUAL FENCE

File Ref: S028-T00001; S010-T00015

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Anthony Mayne:

#### Question

Could Council provide an update on the status of each of the three Virtual Fence trials currently being undertaken or completed within the Shire? Specifically, could the report include the:

- location and length of each trial,
- percentage change in wildlife vehicle collisions (or related data),
- cost of each trial (including installation and maintenance),
- management and operational responsibilities associated with each trial?

Eurobodalla Shire Council has taken a leadership role in trialling this road safety innovation and has been approached by multiple Councils who are also interested in this project. Having been a member of the South East Australian Transport Strategy group and also chaired the Roads Traffic Committee for 8 years, I have seen a groundswell of community interest in our Shire's road safety initiative.

To further facilitate the sharing of knowledge derived from 3 trials now underway in our Shire, Our Council is well placed to host a virtual symposium about the Virtual Fence project. The Symposium would enable the sharing of valuable insights, learnings and field knowledge to interested Councils across Australia and thereby potentially contribute to the reduction in roadkills and related vehicle accidents. Such a Symposium is a cost effective way to share knowledge, conduct virtual site visits of trial areas and to facilitate a Q&A session.

At the 2024 ALGA National Conference, ESC successfully moved a motion advocating to the Federal Government for funding for this project so that more trials could be undertaken across the country. It is clear that this area of road safety requires ongoing research and development. Our Council recognises that more research is required. I remain passionate about road safety and commend Council and its staff members on their efforts to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions and the associated risks to both wildlife and motorists.

#### Response

Council has supported virtual fence trials at three locations across the Eurobodalla Shire: Cullendulla Drive at Long Beach, Dunns Creek Road between Mogo and Tomakin, and more recently, Tomakin Road. These trials are part of Council's ongoing efforts to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions and improve safety for motorists through the implementation of innovative road safety technologies.

The virtual fence system operates by using devices that emit a combination of audible alerts and flashing LED lights when triggered by approaching vehicle headlights. The devices are placed at 25 metre intervals on alternating sides of the road, forming a "virtual fence" that alerts animals to approaching vehicles. The system has been found to be most effective in areas with speed limits of 80 kilometres per hour or less.

The first trial installation of 1.1 kilometres was conducted along Cullendulla Drive at Long Beach. The results were very encouraging, with a noticeable reduction in wildlife fatalities and a positive response from the community. This trial formed the basis for an expanded program. In 2024, an additional 1.8 kilometres of virtual fencing was installed along the worst section of the identified hotspot on Dunns Creek Road, Mogo. Prior to the installation, this stretch of road had recorded multiple wildlife strikes weekly, including a peak of five strikes in a single week in June 2023. Following installation, only a handful of animals have been struck, representing a significant reduction and clear improvement in both wildlife protection and road safety.

Encouraged by the effectiveness of the initial Dunns Creek Road section, Council proceeded to install a further 2.7 kilometres of virtual fencing, completing the coverage of the hotspot area. This final section was installed several months ago, and early results continue to show strong performance. Council has received extensive and positive feedback from the community. Prior to the installation of the final section, Council officers undertook a door-knock of all adjacent private properties along the road. Every resident spoken to reported visible reductions in roadkill, with several noting that neither they nor members of their households had struck any wildlife since the fencing was installed. Council's road crews have also corroborated this feedback.

WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc.) has also reported a noticeable decrease in call-outs to the areas where virtual fencing has been installed, further supporting the effectiveness of this intervention.

In addition to the works on Dunns Creek Road, Council has recently installed 3 kilometres of virtual fencing along Tomakin Road. Although this installation is more recent, the early indicators are promising, and similar trends in reduced wildlife strikes are being observed.

Council continues to receive enquiries from other councils and wildlife organisations regarding the virtual fencing initiative. The success of these trials has positioned Eurobodalla Shire Council as a national leader in the use of virtual fencing as a road safety and environmental protection measure.

Funding and support for these initiatives have been provided not only from Council's own resources but also through contributions from several organisations, including the Great Eastern Ranges (a community conservation organisation), the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Coastwatchers Association Inc., and WIRES. Council has established an annual budget allocation for the purpose of continuing the rollout of this program. This funding is used both to expand the initiative to additional high-risk areas and to attract further grant funding.

While the results to date have been highly encouraging, they are largely based on anecdotal and observational data. Formal evaluation is limited by the absence of comprehensive wildlife vehicle strike data. WIRES does collect call-out information; however, this data is not made available to Council and does not capture all incidents. To address this gap, Council is actively advocating for a university or other qualified research institution to undertake a formal study of virtual fencing outcomes, with the aim of generating robust data that can inform future planning, funding applications, and broader sector adoption.

Council's virtual fencing program is delivering clear benefits in reducing wildlife vehicle collisions and enhancing community road safety. With strong community support, consistent positive observations from operational staff, and increasing interest from other councils and

stakeholders, Council is committed to the ongoing development of this initiative. Additional trials, combined with improved data collection and external research partnerships, will further enhance Council's understanding of the effectiveness of virtual fencing and its potential to be implemented more widely across the region.

**25/87 MOTION** Councillor Mayne/Councillor Schutz

THAT:

1. the response to the questions regarding Council's virtual fence program raised by Councillor Anthony Mayne be received and noted.
2. Council supports the development of an online symposium to share its experience with virtual fencing, including potential stakeholder presentations, a site visit, and opportunities for collaboration.
3. Council thanks the dedication and commitment of Council staff, in particular the professionalism demonstrated by Courtney Fink in her role as the Natural Resources Supervisor and project lead.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

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**10. PETITIONS**

Nil

**11. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS**

**GMR25/003 LGNSW MEMBERSHIP AND CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

**25/88 MOTION** Councillor Schutz/Councillor Winslade

THAT Council:

1. Endorses payment of the \$60,750.89 invoice to LGNSW for the 2025–2026 membership.
2. Nominates Mayor Mathew Hatcher, Councillors Rob Pollock OAM and Sharon Winslade to attend the LGNSW Annual Conference as voting delegates on behalf of Council. Councillors Amber Schutz and Colleen Turner will attend the LGNSW Annual Conference as non-voting delegates.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**GMR25/004 VISITOR ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

File Ref:

**25/89 MOTION** Councillor Winslade/Councillor Babington

THAT Council:

1. Approve the establishment of a Visitor Economy Advisory Committee for the duration of the term of this Council.
2. Endorse the terms of reference and operational model for the Visitor Economy Advisory Committee as attached.
3. Appoint the seven industry representatives on the working group to the Visitor Economy Advisory Committee.
4. Appoint Councillor Amber Schutz as delegate and Councillor Sharon Winslade as alternative to join the Committee.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner  
and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**12. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTS**

**PER25/012 BROU WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT  
(EIS) - REQUEST FOR TENDER (RFT 2425-157)**

File Ref: S031-T00017

**25/90 MOTION** Councillor Hatcher/Councillor Pollock OAM

THAT:

1. Council agrees to award the contract to the preferred tenderer as recommended in the confidential attachment in response to RFT 2425-157 Brou Waste Management Facility Expansion – Environmental Impact Assessment; and
2. Council enter a contractual arrangement with the preferred tenderer, subject to the terms specified in RFT 2425-157 unless otherwise varied in accordance with this report.
3. Council delegate to the General Manager the function of finalising and entering the contract with the successful tenderer in accordance with tender documents forming RFT 2425-157 Brou Waste Management Facility Expansion – Environmental Impact Assessment.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner  
and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**PER25/013 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REPRESENTATIVES**

File Ref: S012-T00025

**25/91 MOTION** Councillor Hatcher/Councillor Winslade

THAT Council appoint ten persons chosen by the assessing panel as community representatives to the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee as contained in the Confidential Attachment.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.



**13. FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**

**FCS25/035 ADOPTION OF THE DELIVERY PROGRAM 2025-29, RESOURCING STRATEGY 2025-35 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26, INCLUDING MAKING OF THE RATES FOR 2025-26**

File Ref: S004-T00028; S004-T00029

**25/92 MOTION** Councillor Winslade/Councillor Schutz

THAT:

1. Council make the annual Ordinary Rates and Special Rate (Environmental Levy) for 2025-26 in accordance with the core rate peg set by IPART, being 4.0% plus 0.1% population growth factor, as contained in the tables in the report.
2. Council make each annual charge for water, sewer, waste, stormwater and liquid trade waste for 2025-26 in accordance with the Revenue Policy and the charges as contained in the tables in the report.
3. Council make each fee and charge for 2025-26 in accordance with the Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges 2025-26 as attached to the report.
4. Council adopt the Delivery Program 2025-29 attached to the report as per the statutory requirements with implementation to commence 1 July 2025.
5. Council adopt the Resourcing Strategy 2025-35 attached to the report as per the statutory requirements with implementation to commence 1 July 2025.
6. Council adopt the Operational Plan 2025-26 (incorporating the Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges 2025-26) attached to the report as per the statutory requirements with implementation to commence 1 July 2025.
7. Council approves a budget allocation of \$100,000 in the 2025-26 capital works budget for the development approval of the new animal shelter. This adjustment and any associated funding will be reflected in the September Quarterly Budget Review.
8. Council thanks the community members who made a submission and provide them with a response.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**FCS25/036 2025-26 DETERMINATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION  
TRIBUNAL**

File Ref: S012-T00010

At **1:12pm** Councillor Mayne left the meeting and did not return.

**25/93 MOTION** Councillor Turner/Councillor Pollock OAM

THAT Council make a determination that the maximum 2025-26 annual Councillor and Mayoral Fees be set in accordance with Council's classification as a Regional Centre.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**FCS25/037     POLICY REVIEW - DRAFT INVESTMENT POLICY**

File Ref: S004-T00060

**25/94     MOTION** Councillor Winslade/Councillor Babington

THAT:

1. Council endorse the public exhibition of the draft Investment Policy for a period of 28 days.
2. Following the exhibition period, the draft Policy and any public submissions will be presented to Council for consideration.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion:     Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**FCS25/038 UNRECOVERABLE DEBT WRITE-OFFS**

File Ref: S011-T00001

**25/95 MOTION** Councillor Schutz/Councillor Turner

THAT Council approve the write-off of unrecoverable sundry debts as outlined in the confidential attachment to this report.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**FCS25/039 INVESTMENTS MADE AS AT 31 MAY 2025**

File Ref: S011-T00006, S012-T00025

**25/96 MOTION** Councillor Winslade/Councillor Schutz

THAT the certification of investments as of 31 May 2025, made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council's Investment Policy and the provision of Clause 1 (Reg. 212) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, be received.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**14. INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS**

**IR25/006 POLICY REVIEW FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION - WATER AND SEWERAGE**

File Ref: S004-T00060

**25/97 MOTION** Councillor Winslade/Councillor Babington

THAT Council defer item IR25/006 Policy Review for Public Exhibition – Water and Sewerage.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Crs A Schutz and C Turner.

**IR25/008      MAINTENANCE OF UNSEALED ROADS**

File Ref: S028-T00009

**MOTION** Councillor Babington/Councillor Turner

THAT Council:

1. Adopts the Maintenance Grading Schedule for unsealed roads for the 2025-26 financial year as attached to this report.
2. Notes that in the future, the Maintenance Grading Schedule will no longer be submitted for adoption but that the relevant Policy will be updated to define how the level of service is determined.
3. Notes that the Maintenance Grading Schedule will continue to be made available on Council's website.

**25/98      AMENDMENT** Councillor Schutz/Councillor Winslade

THAT Council:

1. Adopts the Maintenance Grading Schedule for unsealed roads for the 2025-26 financial year as attached to this report.
2. Notes that the Maintenance Grading Schedule will continue to be made available on Council's website.

(The Amendment on being put became the **MOTION**)

Division

For the Motion:      Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**25/99      MOTION** Councillor Schutz/Councillor Winslade

THAT Council:

1. Adopts the Maintenance Grading Schedule for unsealed roads for the 2025-26 financial year as attached to this report.
2. Notes that the Maintenance Grading Schedule will continue to be made available on Council's website.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion:      Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**IR25/009      LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE NO.7 FOR 2024-25**

File Ref: S030-T00018

**25/100 MOTION** Councillor Babington/Councillor Schutz

THAT Council:

1. Approves the following acts for determination from Local Traffic Committee No. 7:

- **2025.RT.023 - On Street Parking Pacific Street, Batemans Bay – 2 Hour Timed Parking**

That Council Plan 5490-V-01 plan to install signs for two hour timed on street parking in Pacific Street, Batemans Bay, be approved.

- **2025.RT.024 - Wallarah Street, Surfside – Give Way Sign and Line Marking**

That Council Plan 5490-W-01 to install Give Way signage and Line Marking for Wallarah Street, Surfside, be approved.

- **8.1 2025.RT.024 - Driftwood Shores, Anderson Avenue, Tuross Head**

That submitted Plan U18465-B-51 to install Give Way signage and associated Line Marking for Stage 1 of Driftwood Shores subdivision, Tuross Head, be approved.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion:      Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.



**15. COMMUNITY, ARTS AND RECREATION REPORTS**

**CAR25/006 PUBLIC ART POLICY**

File Ref: T0034-S002

**25/101 MOTION** Councillor Schutz/Councillor Pollock OAM

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the public exhibition of the revised draft Public Art Policy for a period of 28 days.
2. Bring the draft policy and any submissions back to Council, following the exhibition period, for consideration and adoption.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**CAR25/007 ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REPRESENTATIVES**

File Ref: OP0108-S001

**25/102 MOTION** Councillor Winslade/Councillor Schutz

THAT Council

1. Appoints seven (7) persons as community representatives to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee as recommended in the Confidential Attachment.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion: Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**CAR25/008    DISABILITY INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REPRESENTATIVES**

File Ref: S003-T00035

**25/103 MOTION** Councillor Schutz/Councillor Turner

THAT Council:

1. Appoints six (6) persons as community representatives to the Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee as recommended in the Confidential Attachment.

(The Motion on being put was declared **CARRIED**)

Division

For the Motion:      Crs L Babington, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner and S  
                                 Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

**16. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**17. DEALING WITH MATTERS IN CLOSED SESSION**

Nil

**18. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil

**Mayor's Acknowledgement – Passing of John Tilbrook**

Mayor Hatcher acknowledged the recent passing of Mr John Tilbrook, a well-known and respected member of the Tuross Head community. He noted that Mr Tilbrook was a passionate advocate for Tuross and had been actively involved with the Tuross Head Progress Association for over 25 years, serving as Secretary for more than a decade.

Mayor Hatcher highlighted Mr Tilbrook's notable contributions, including his advocacy for the installation of the Tuross bus shelter, associated landscaping works, and the turning lane at the intersection of Hector McWilliam Drive and the Princes Highway.

Described as a larger-than-life character, Mr Tilbrook was known for his tireless efforts in contacting Councillors, Council staff, and others in pursuit of outcomes for his community. Mayor Hatcher expressed that Mr Tilbrook will be greatly missed by both the community and Council.

Vale John Tilbrook.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1:39pm**

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**CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 22 July 2025 at which meeting the signature hereon was subscribed.