

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

24 March 2026

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORUYA
ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026

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**MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORUYA
ON TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026
COMMENCING AT 2:01 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Mathew Hatcher, Mayor (in the Chair)
Councillors Mick Johnson, Anthony Mayne, 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
Ms K Bush, Acting Director, Community, Arts and Recreation
Mrs J Sullivan , Acting Director, Finance and Corporate Services
Mr S Westbury, Corporate Manager, Governance and Risk
Miss L Evans, 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

26/21 MOTION Councillor Mayne/Councillor Johnson

THAT apologies be received from Councillor Constable and leave of absence be granted.

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

Leave of Absence

Councillor Laurence Babington (as resolved 24 February 2026, Resolution 26/2)

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

26/22 MOTION Councillor Winslade/Councillor Schutz

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 February 2026 be confirmed.

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

4.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

26/23 MOTION Councillor Hatcher/Councillor Winslade

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 10 March 2026 be confirmed, subject to an amendment to the minute relating to PER26/003 Batemans Bay Masterplan – Probity Report to delete the recommendation and delete the term ‘Amendment’ and substitute with ‘Motion’ when referenced during open Council.

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

Division

For the Motion: Crs M Hatcher, M Johnson, 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

Nil

6. URGENT BUSINES

Nil

7. MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

NOM26/001 CREATIVE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

File Ref: S012-T00026

26/24 MOTION Councillor Schutz/Councillor Turner

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the formation of a Creative Arts Advisory Committee for the duration of the term of this Council.
2. Adopts the attached Terms of Reference for the Creative Arts Advisory Committee.
3. Appoints the Chair and delegate to the Creative Arts Advisory Committee and determines the method of voting for delegates.
4. Approves the appointment of Chair and delegate be for the term of Council.
5. Advertises for representatives to the Creative Arts Advisory Committee.

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

ELECTION OF CHAIR OF COMMITTEE

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Creative Arts Advisory Committee. The only nomination received was for Councillor Schutz, who was therefore declared elected as the Chair for the Committee.

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Alternate Chair of the Creative Arts Advisory Committee. The only nomination received was for Councillor Turner, who was therefore declared elected as the Alternate Chair for the Committee.

26/25 MOTION Councillor Schutz/Councillor Turner

THAT Council approves the appointment of Councillor Amber Schutz as Chair and Councillor Colleen Turner as alternate Chair of the Creative Arts Advisory Committee for the remainder of the Council term.

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM COUNCILLORS

QON26/002 EUROBODALLA ANIMAL SHELTER AND EUTHANASIA RATES

File Ref: S012-T00024

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Colleen Turner:

I receive numerous requests for updates on progress towards an approved DA for the building of a new (much overdue) Animal Shelter for our Shire and also concerns that euthanasia rates are increasing. I know my fellow councillors also regularly receive those requests.

Question 1

I formally request an update on progress on the animal shelter DA given its importance as a critical part of local infrastructure.

Question 2

I formally request an update on Euthanasia rates at our current animal shelter. In addition, I request information about how staff are currently working to reduce those rates.

Response 1

Council prepared a development application and lodged the application in late 2025. During the preparation of the application and subsequent lodgement, it was identified that the existing animal shelter site contains an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) and so further work need to be done to address this issue. Council has commissioned a land survey and Assessment of Significance (ecological assessment) which have both been done. This has necessitated some amendments to the architectural plans and Council is currently waiting on these.

Once the final ecological assessment and architectural plans are received the applicant will be publicly exhibited in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan.

Response 2

Council does all within its power to return animals to their owners or rehome them, including liaison with animal welfare organisations and other surrounding councils. Rangers often work with animals to train and socialise them, to make adoption more viable.

Council conducts free microchipping days to microchip animals bought in by the public so that if the animals are found roaming, they can be returned home. A microchipping clinic is proposed in June/July of this year.

Animal shelter statistics for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 January 2026 (shown in table 1) indicate the current rate stands at 14%.

Table 1	No.
Incoming animals	81
Rehomed (sold or transferred to AWL)	26
Returned to owner	43
Euthanised - dog attacks/ vet advice/ aggressive / unsocial behaviour	12

Prior year euthanasia rates have seen figures that are higher and lower than the NSW state average.

Year	Total animals ESC	Total euthanasia ESC	% ESC	% NSW
2020-2021	197	11	6	15
2021-2022	193	27	14	18
2022-2023	163	34	20	16
2023-2024	168	30	18	13
2024-2025	221	51	23	16

The euthanasia rate is influenced by multiple factors, including assessment by experienced officers to ascertain if they are unsuitable for rehoming due to behavioural or health concerns. At all times, Council Rangers have a duty of care to the community to manage the risk to public safety.

A large portion of dog attacks occur as result of irresponsible dog ownership, where dogs have been left to stray, causing injury to the public. Council's efforts to reduce the number of attacks on animals and people include conducting regular patrols, seizing stray dogs and education.

If an animal is not microchipped and is taken to the shelter, it will be advertised as a "lost dog" on social media. After this period, it will then be chipped and advertised for rehoming on Council's website and social media for approximately 14 days. If there is nil response from the community, Council engages Animal Welfare League for assistance to rehome the animals and also liaises with other local government areas.

If a dog is microchipped, Council makes every attempt to contact the owner. If unsuccessful, after 14 days the dog is assessed for suitability for rehoming and it will then be advertised.

Council officers have experience to manage lost, abandoned or surrendered animals and it is Council's priority to ensure the safety of the community as well as the treatment of animals in accordance with legislative and welfare objectives.

A candidate assessment is undertaken prior to rehoming an animal to ensure the suitability of the home environment.

10. PETITIONS

Nil

11. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

GMR26/001 JOINT ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP REVIEW AND COUNCIL SUBMISSION

File Ref: S012-T00022

26/26 MOTION Councillor Winslade/Councillor Schutz

THAT Council notes the report and responds to Minister Hoenig advising its preference to remain in the Canberra Region Joint Organisation.

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

12. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

PER26/005 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS - CARROLL COLLEGE

File Ref: DA121/94

26/27 MOTION Councillor Schutz/Councillor Mayne

THAT:

1. Minute No: 564 (a) being "*Pupil cycle or pedestrian access to the school to be prohibited*" be rescinded.
2. Council authorises pedestrian/ cycle access to the school for the remainder of 2026 school year subject to a section 138 application under the Roads Act being submitted to and approved by Council.
3. Council advocate for funding for the Train Street / George Bass Drive roundabout to improve safe vehicle and pedestrian access.

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

**PER26/006 PLANNING PROPOSAL 25 - REZONING OF LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES -
LOT 189 DP 1027692; LOT 191 DP 1070903 AND LOT 1 DP 1173641 RESERVOIR
ROAD, MALUA BAY**

File Ref: OP0139-S006

26/28 MOTION Councillor Hatcher/Councillor Mayne

THAT Council defer item PER26/006 Planning Proposal 25 - Rezoning of Land for Residential Purposes - Lot 189 DP 1027692; Lot 191 DP 1070903 and Lot 1 DP 1173641 Reservoir Road, Malua Bay to the Council Meeting on 28 April 2026 to seek further advice from staff.

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

Division

For the Motion: Crs M Hatcher, M Johnson, A Mayne, A Schutz, C Turner and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Cr R Pollock OAM.

13. FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

FCS26/007 ACQUISITION OF LAND - WHARF ROAD NORTH BATEMANS BAY

File Ref: S023-T00001

26/29 MOTION Councillor Winslade/Councillor Schutz

THAT

1. Council approve the acquisition of land being Lot 35 DP1177191, Lot 36 DP1177191, Lot 37 DP1177191, Lot 55 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 56 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 57 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 58 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 25 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 26 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 27 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 28 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 29 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 30 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 42 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 1 DP455249, Lot 2 DP455249, Lot 3 DP455249, Lot 4 DP455249, Lot 5 DP455249, Lot 44 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 46 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 48 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 50 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 13 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 14 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 15 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 16 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 17 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 18 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 19 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 20 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 21 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 22 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 23 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 24 Section 3 DP1067, Lot 38 Section 1 DP1067, Lot 39 Section 1 DP1067, Lot 40 Section 1 DP1067, Lot 41 Section 1 DP1067, Lot 42 Section 1 DP1067, Lot 51 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 52 Section 2 DP1067, Lot 53 Section 2 DP1067 and Lot 54 Section 2 DP1067 from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to Council.
2. The general manager be given delegated authority to execute all necessary documentation associated with the acquisition and transfer of land.

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

FCS26/008 INVESTMENTS MADE AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

File Ref: S011-T00006, S012-T00025

26/30 MOTION Councillor Winslade/Councillor Schutz

THAT the certification of investments as of 28 February 2026, 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 M Hatcher, M Johnson, A Mayne, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz, C Turner
and S Winslade.

Against the Motion: Nil.

14. INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

IR26/003 LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM NO.6 FOR 2025-26

File Ref: S030-T00018

26/31 MOTION Councillor Schutz/Councillor Mayne

THAT Council notes the following item which was endorsed for approval by the Local Transport Forum No. 6 for 2025-26:

- **2026.SE.008 Fox Superflow – Narooma.**

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

Division

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

15. COMMUNITY, ARTS AND RECREATION REPORTS

Nil

16. DELEGATE REPORT

Nil

17. DEALING WITH MATTERS IN CLOSED SESSION

Nil

18. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

Passing of Joan Constable

The Mayor acknowledged the passing of Joan Constable, the mother of Councillor Phil Constable. Joan was a former teacher at Narooma Central School, who passed away on Sunday 22 March. The Mayor noted that Joan commenced teaching in Narooma at the age of 19 and taught her last class at the age of 71. The Mayor expressed the Council's condolences to Councillor Constable, his family, and the Narooma community.

Incident at Narooma

The Mayor advised the meeting of a serious incident that occurred in Narooma earlier this week. The Mayor acknowledged Thomas, who was injured in the incident, and his partner, Mercedes, who are currently in Canberra. The Mayor expressed the Council's thoughts and support to the Narooma community during this difficult time, and acknowledged the police and first responders involved in responding to the incident.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.13 PM

CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 28 April 2026 at which meeting the signature hereon was subscribed.