

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LISMORE HELD IN  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026 AT 10:00AM**

*Please note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.*

## Present

Mayor, Councillor Krieg; Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Rob (via audio-visual); Waters together with Mr Butron, General Manager; Ms Sullivan, Director People & Community; Ms Keneally, Director Roads & Infrastructure; Mr Potter, Director Water Waste & Open Spaces; Mr Singh-Pangly, Director Corporate Sustainability; Mr Snow, Director Economy Planning & Environment; Mr Pitman, Technology Support Officer; Ms Cotterill, Manager Governance; Mrs Mitchell, Executive Officer; Miss Hull, Executive Assistant - General Manager; Mr Wych-Done, Development Assessment Officer; Mr Whitaker, Executive Planner; Mrs van Iersel, Manager Strategic Services; Mr Simpson, Lead Strategic Planner; Miss Tye, Executive Assistant Mayor and Councillors; Mr Reinhold, Manager Development Services; Mr White and Mr Tilt (Solve Property Consultants)

## Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence or Attendance by Audio-Visual Link

**RESOLVED** that Council approve attendance by audio-visual link for Councillor Rob on medical grounds.

Councillor Guise has previously been granted leave for the April Council Meeting

(Councillors Hall/Bing)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

## Confirmation of Minutes

35/26 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Lismore City Council Ordinary Meeting held on 10 March 2026 be confirmed.

(Councillors Gordon/Bing)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

36/26 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Lismore City Council Confidential Meeting held on 10 March 2026 be confirmed.

(Councillors Bing/Knight-Smith)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

## Disclosures of Interest

**Clr Gordon declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest for the following item:** 10.5 Dedication of Operational land as Public Road

**Nature:** I am the Treasurer of the Showground

**Clr Battista declared a Significant, Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest for the following item:** 10.5 Dedication of Operational land as Public Road

**Nature:** I am the President of Lismore Friendship Festival that are holding an event at the Showground in July and I will leave the chamber during this discussion.

**Clr Knight-Smith declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest for the following item:** 10.5 Dedication of Operational land as Public Road

**Nature:** I am a Show Society member

## Mayoral Minute(s) and Condolence Motions

### **7.1 Condolence Motion - Jenny Dowell OAM**

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37/26

**RESOLVED** that Council:

1. receive and note the Condolence motion for Jenny Dowell OAM
2. forward a letter of condolence to the family from the Mayor

(Councillor Krieg) (BP26/320)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

#### Jenny Dowell OAM Condolence Motion

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Jenny Dowell, a respected member of our community whose contributions have left a lasting impact. She is survived by husband Ron, and children Georgie and Tim.

Jenny Dowell was born in Beaconsfield, Victoria in 1950, the eldest of four children. She studied at La Trobe University and gained her degree in education, spending thirty five years primarily teaching deaf children and later becoming a lecturer in speech and language development.

In 1991, Jenny moved to Lismore when husband Ron got a job at Southern Cross University. She, like all of us here no doubt, gained an interest in Local government when she was dissatisfied with how council handled a particular matter of interest to her in the late 90's. So Jenny joined the Labour Party and stood on the Labor ticket in 2004, successfully being elected as a councillor. In 2008 Jenny was elected as mayor, and served for two terms. She was focused on progressive policies including LGBTQ+ rights, reconciliation, and the arts. Jenny was also a central figure in the controversial introduction of fluoride to the local water supply. Jenny was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Southern Cross University in 2017 and the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her service to local government.

After stepping away from council in 2016, Jenny still remained active in local government, mentoring councillors and mayors across the state, myself being one of them. She was involved in many community groups, with the trend being very active ones, including the Cancer Council Relay for Life and the establishment of Lismore Park Run. There were many others, most notably Red Cross, and it was through her involvement in these community groups that Jenny will be sorely missed.

Jenny was passionate about the Arts and was a driving force behind Lismore's Art Gallery. It is a fitting tribute to have a space in the Art Gallery named in her honour. Let us take a moment to reflect on the remarkable life of Jenny Dowell and the positive change she brought to our community. May her legacy guide us as we move forward, and may her memory be a source of comfort and inspiration.

## 7.2 Condolence Motion - Rhoda Roberts AO

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38/26 **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. receive and note the Condolence motion for Rhoda Roberts AO
2. forward a letter of condolence to the family from the Mayor
3. discuss with the immediate family an appropriate and fitting tribute to Rhoda Roberts to honour her legacy and the impact she has had on the Lismore community

(Councillor Krieg) (BP26/321)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

### Rhoda Roberts AO Condolence Motion

Rhoda Ann Roberts was born in Sydney on July 8, 1959, the daughter of Pastor Frank and Muriel Roberts. Rhoda had a twin sister, Lois, and two brothers, Phillip and Mark. Although born in Sydney, she was a proud Widjabul Wiabal woman and spent much of her childhood in Lismore. She attended Lismore Heights Primary school, and Richmond River High School. Even though her passion was the Arts, she initially studied Nursing and had the opportunity to travel to Westminster Hospital in London, gaining certification in Accident and Emergency nursing.

On her return to Australia, Rhoda left nursing and studied performing arts for three years. It is in this field that she left an indelible mark locally, nationally, and internationally. With an amazing career, highlighted with developing the Indigenous segment at the Opening Ceremony for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, entitled 'Awakening' which was viewed by an estimated 3.7 billion people. She curated many festivals, was heavily involved in the media, through SBS, the ABC and also the Koori Mail, which her father co-founded, along with numerous stage and screen productions.

Her last performance fittingly was at the Sydney Opera House. In front of an audience including the Prime Minister and the Governor General, she presented 'My Cousin Frank' a play about Frank Roberts, her cousin and the First Aboriginal selected to compete for Australia at the Olympics, at Tokyo in 1964. As we reflect on Rhoda Roberts' extraordinary life, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values she championed. Let us honour her memory by continuing to strive for inclusivity, cultural understanding, and positive change. May her vision and spirit live on in the work we do and the lives we touch. We offer our deepest sympathies to her partner, Steven Field, and her children Jack, Sarah and Emily. As part of this condolence motion, I would like to move that council discuss with the immediate family an appropriate and fitting tribute to Rhoda Roberts that will honour her legacy and the impact she has made on the Lismore community.

May Rhoda Roberts rest in peace, and may her loved ones find comfort in the enduring legacy she leaves behind.

### **Mayoral Minute Financial Assistance Grants**

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39/26

**RESOLVED** that Council:

1. notes the Country Mayors Association of NSW "Invest in Us" campaign advocating for increased Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments. The campaign seeks to restore at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils across Australia
2. recognises the critical role Local Government plays in delivering essential services and infrastructure that underpin community wellbeing, economic vitality, and national resilience
3. supports the campaign's core message: 'Invest in us so we can invest in them
4. commits to participating in the campaign by:
  - a. sharing campaign materials through Council communication channels
  - b. engaging with local media and community stakeholders to raise awareness
  - c. lobbying Federal representatives to support the funding increase
5. requests the Mayor to write to the relevant Prime Minister, Treasurer, Federal Minister for Local Government, the Shadow Minister for Local Government, our Federal Member of Parliament and Senator expressing Council's support for the campaign and urging their commitment to the proposed funding increase

(Councillor Krieg)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

## Reports of Committees

### **8.1 Briefings Committee - 3 March 2026**

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40/26

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Bing) (BP26/186)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

## Matters Arising

### Reports of the General Manager

#### 10.1 Local Planning Panel

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**MOTION** moved that Council:

1. establishes a Local Planning Panel
2. seeks Expressions of Interest for the community representative Panel Member and for local professional to nominate themselves to the State's expert pool
3. seeks a meeting with the Minister for Planning and Public Space, The Hon Paul Scully MP, to discuss options for funding the Local Planning Panel

(Councillors Jensen/Dalton-Earls)

**AMENDMENT** moved that Council:

1. establishes a Local Planning Panel
2. seeks Expressions of Interest for the community representative Panel Member and for local professional to nominate themselves to the State's expert pool
3. seeks a meeting with the Minister for Planning and Public Space, The Hon Paul Scully MP, to discuss options for funding the Local Planning Panel
4. write to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, advising Lismore City Council does not support the mandatory imposition of Local Planning Panels. Expresses strong concern that the Local Planning Panel model removes planning decision-making from elected councillors and diminishes local democratic accountability.

(Councillors Waters/Dalton-Earls)

The Mayor ruled the motion out of order as per 10.9 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

**RESOLVED** that the motion be put.

(Councillor Gordon)

**Voting for:** Councillors Bing, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob

**Voting against:** Councillors Battista, Dalton-Earls and Waters

41/26

**RESOLVED** that Council:

1. establishes a Local Planning Panel
2. seeks Expressions of Interest for the community representative Panel Member and for local professional to nominate themselves to the State's expert pool
3. seeks a meeting with the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, The Hon Paul

Scully MP, to discuss options for funding the Local Planning Panel

(Councillors Jensen/Dalton-Earls) (BP26/44)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen and Krieg

**Voting against:** Councillors Knight-Smith, Rob and Waters

### **10.2 Planning Proposal - 803 Ballina Road - Rezoning R1 Residential to E1 Local Centre and Alteration of Minimum Lot Size**

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42/26

**RESOLVED** that Council:

1. support the Planning Proposal to amend the Lismore Local Environment Plan 2012 as detailed in Attachment 1 of this report to rezone the land at 803 Ballina Road, Goonellabah (Lot 22 DP835735) for the purpose of seeking a Gateway Determination
2. forward the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with a request for a Gateway Determination
3. place the Planning Proposal on public exhibition and consult with government agencies in accordance with a Gateway Determination and report back to Council if any objections are raised by government agencies and/or if public submissions of objection are received during public exhibition

(Councillors Knight-Smith/Bing) (BP26/152)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

### **10.3 Lismore's Strategic Planning Framework**

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43/26

**RESOLVED** that the:

1. draft Strategies be placed on public exhibition;
  - a. Local Strategic Planning Statement
  - b. Economic Development Strategy
  - c. Rural Land Use Strategy
  - d. Biodiversity Management Strategy
  - e. Resilience and Adaptation Strategy
2. General Manager has delegation to make housekeeping amendments (graphic and

- administrative) to the draft Strategies prior to the consultation
3. consultation feedback and final Strategies be reported back to Council
  4. public exhibition be increased to eight weeks

(Councillors Krieg/Battista) (BP26/251)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

#### **10.4 Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026 - 2030**

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44/26

**RESOLVED** that Council:

1. endorse the draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026–2030 for the purpose of public exhibition for a period of 28 days
2. adopt the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026–2030 following the exhibition period, where no material changes are required as a result of submissions
3. receive a further report where submissions identify material changes requiring Council consideration prior to adoption

(Councillors Rob/Knight-Smith) (BP26/319)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

**Councillor Hall left the meeting, the time being 11:28AM**

**Councillor Jensen left the meeting, the time being 11:28AM**

**Councillor Bing left the meeting, the time being 11:29AM**

**Councillor Jensen returned to the meeting, the time being 11:29AM**

**Councillor Bing returned to the meeting, the time being 11:29AM**

**Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 11:30AM**

**Councillor Battista left the meeting, the time being 11:30AM**

### **10.5 Dedication of Operational Land as Public Road**

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45/26

**RESOLVED** that Council:

1. resolves to dedicate the land described in Schedule 1 as a public road pursuant to section 16 of the *Roads Act 1993*
2. delegates authority to the General Manager to:
  - a. prepare and finalise the Gazette Notice
  - b. submit the notice for publication in the NSW Government Gazette
  - c. execute any documents necessary to give effect to this resolution
  - d. upon gazettal, Council's land register, GIS, and road asset register be updated to reflect the dedication
  - e. undertake the same action in relation to any other suitable parcels of land within a 600m radius for the purpose of public car parking

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Gordon) (BP26/322)

**Voting for:** Councillors Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

**Councillor Battista returned to the meeting, the time being 11:35AM**

**Councillor Dalton-Earls left the meeting, the time being 11:36AM**

**Councillor Dalton-Earls returned to the meeting, the time being 11:39AM**

### **10.6 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly**

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46/26

**RESOLVED** that Council's:

1. delegates to the 2026 ALGA National General Assembly are Councillors Krieg, Waters and Knight-Smith. Councillor Bing as a reserve
2. voting delegate is Councillor Krieg

(Councillors Krieg/Hall) (BP26/324)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

### **10.7 Monthly Finance and Investment Report**

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47/26 **RESOLVED** that Council note the report and adopt the Investment report for March 2026.

(Councillors Bing/Dalton-Earls) (BP26/326)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

**Councillor Waters left the meeting, the time being 11:42AM**

**Councillor Hall left the meeting, the time being 11:43AM**

**Councillor Waters returned to the meeting, the time being 11:45AM**

**Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 11:48AM**

**Councillor Knight-Smith left the meeting, the time being 12:00PM**

**Councillor Knight-Smith returned to the meeting, the time being 12:03PM**

### **10.8 Lismore City Council Emergency Management Committee**

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48/26 **RESOLVED** that Council appoints Mayor Krieg and Councillors Rob, Waters, Knight-Smith, Hall and Jensen to the Lismore City Council Emergency Management Committee.

(Councillors Rob/Hall) (BP26/325)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

### **10.9 Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy - July 2025 to December 2025 Reporting**

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49/26 **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. receive and note the report
2. future reports show details of professional development

(Councillors Knight-Smith/Bing) (BP26/280)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

### 10.10 Policy Review

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50/26

**RESOLVED** that Council:

1. adopt the new:
  - a. 10.9.2 Telecommunications Facilities Policy
  - b. 11.4.2 Acquisitions and Disposal of Council Land Policy
2. adopt the revised:
  - a. 8.9.1 Naming of Infrastructure & Places Policy
  - b. 6.1.7 Rural Connections to the Nimbin Water Supply Policy
3. revoke:
  - a. 1.6.1 Quality Policy Statement
  - b. 5.2.15 Contributions from Property Owners Towards Studies for Rezoning's or DCP's
  - c. 5.2.23 Temporary Residential Occupation of Land
  - d. 5.3.1 Strategic Planning Study Guidelines
  - e. 6.2.1 Water Supply Backflow Prevention
  - f. Wastewater Charging Policy

(Councillors Bing/Gordon) (BP26/193)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

**At this point the meeting adjourned for lunch, the time being 12:35PM**

**The meeting resumed at 1:05PM**

## Notices of Motion / Questions with Notice

### 11.1 Mayoral Attendance Report

51/26 **RESOLVED** that Council receives the Mayoral Attendance Report for March 2026.

(Councillors Krieg/Bing) (BP26/279)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Waters

**Voting against:** Councillor Rob

### 11.2 Residential Land Development Incentive Scheme Feasibility

52/26 **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. investigate the reasons that many approved subdivisions and residential developments are not being built, and whether there is any way Council can assist
2. investigate the developer contribution rates, and see if there is any opportunity to reduce these contributions to help deliver desperately needed housing for Lismore
3. report to Council within the next 3 months on the number of developments in Lismore that have been approved but not acted upon and possible contributions discounts we can offer

(Councillors Battista/Bing) (BP26/154)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob

**Voting against:** Councillor Waters

### 11.3 Community Safety Forum costs

What was the cost of Council organising and facilitating the Community Safety Forum in February 2026? What is the estimated cost to Council in organising and facilitating two (2) Community Safety Forums per year? Where in the budget will this be allocated?

#### **General Manager's response:**

There was no expense for the February forum as Southern Cross University generously sponsored the cost of venue hire on this occasion. Any future forums would likely have

costs associated to it (venue hire, audio technicians, security), dependent on the location or partnership with another organisation/group. Budget would have to be resolved as part of the 2026/2027 operational plan, allocated to Civic Receptions within the Elected Officials budget.

#### **11.4 Advisory Group costs**

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Based on one Advisory Group; what is the cost to Council on facilitation?

#### **General Manager's response:**

Advisory group meetings are not catered and not attended by Council staff (unless staff are consulting with the particular group as part of a project). Minutes and agendas are prepared by the chairperson. Therefore, there is no direct cost to Council

#### **11.5 CBD full time dedicated team**

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Can the General Manager please provide an update on work to have a dedicated team in the CBD as gardeners/cleaners/maintenance.

#### **General Manager's response:**

Open Spaces has completed a period of workplace change and is now recruiting to fill the adopted Open Spaces structure that came into effect on 9 March 2026.

Open Spaces will have four dedicated teams, including one team dedicated to the CBD. The team will be attending to grounds and gardens, cleanliness, and maintenance.

As an addition to this team a new street sweeper is being procured with additional features the current machine lacked, such as pressure cleaning capabilities.

The other three teams will be focused on south, north and sportsfields.

A significant improvement should be experienced in the near future.

#### **11.6 Health Parking Precinct**

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MOTION moved that a Health Parking Precinct free parking policy around Lismore Base Hospital, similar to that of the Legal Parking Precinct around Lismore Court House, be prepared and reported back to the June Council meeting for consideration.

(Councillors Rob/Hall)

**FORESHADOWED MOTION** moved that:

1. set aside this motion until the precinct plan for the CBD and Health precinct is completed
2. Council lobby the Hon Janelle Saffin MP, Member of Lismore to give an election commitment for the construction of Stage 2 of Lismore Base Hospital carpark for hospital staff

(Councillor Gordon)

**RESOLVED** that the motion be put

(Councillor Hall)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

53/26 **DEFEATED** moved that:

1. a Health Parking Precinct free parking policy around Lismore Base Hospital, similar to that of the Legal Parking Precinct around Lismore Court House, be prepared and reported back to the June Council meeting for consideration
2. Council lobby the Hon Janelle Saffin MP, Member of Lismore to give an election commitment for the construction of Stage 2 of Lismore Base Hospital carpark for hospital staff

(Councillors Rob/Hall) (BP26/283)

**Voting for:** Councillors Dalton-Earls, Hall, Jensen and Rob

**Voting against:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Waters

54/26 On submission to the meeting the foreshadowed motion became the motion and was **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. request the precinct plan for the CBD and Health precinct be brought back to Council
2. lobby the Hon Janelle Saffin MP, Member of Lismore to give an election commitment for the construction of Stage 2 of Lismore Base Hospital carpark for hospital staff

(Councillors Gordon/Knight-Smith) (BP26/283)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

**Councillor Hall left the meeting, the time being 2:00PM**

**Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 2:02PM**

### **11.7 Sister City Commemoration Project**

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MOTION moved that:

1. Council use funds donated by our Sister City Yamato Takada following the floods in 2022 to complete a commemorative activation project
2. the project be developed including consultation with Sister City Advisory Group
3. if more than the donated funds of \$4,115.65 is required to complete the project a report be brought back to Council
4. the General Manager be delegated authority to finalise the location and details of the commemorative activation project

(Councillor Bing/Waters)

AMENDMENT moved that:

1. Council use funds donated by our Sister City Yamato Takada following the floods in 2022 to complete a commemorative activation project
2. the project be developed including consultation with Sister City Advisory Group
3. if more than the donated funds of \$4,115.65 is required to complete the project a report be brought back to Council
4. the General Manager be delegated authority to finalise the location being in a community space and details of the commemorative activation project

(Councillor Dalton-Earls)

Lapsed due to want of a seconder.

55/26

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Council use funds donated by our Sister City Yamato Takada following the floods in 2022 to complete a commemorative activation project
2. the project be developed including consultation with Sister City Advisory Group
3. if more than the donated funds of \$4,115.65 is required to complete the project a report be brought back to Council
4. the General Manager be delegated authority to finalise the location and details of the commemorative activation project

(Councillors Bing/Waters) (BP26/327)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

### 11.8 Koala Action Plan

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Can the General Manager please advise why the current Koala Plan of Management (CKPOM) has not been extended to cover the entirety of the Lismore Local Government Area, given that koala habitat and movement corridors exist across the LGA and not confined to currently identified areas?

Are there any key barriers (including resourcing, data or policy constraints) preventing the expansion of the CKPOM to cover the full LGA, and is Council actively working towards a revised whole of LGA Koala Plan of Management?

#### **General Manager's response:**

The Lismore City Council Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) for south-east Lismore commenced in 2013 to protect and improve Lismore's koala population.

The CKPoM doesn't extend across the whole of the Lismore Local Government Area (LGA) because at the time of its introduction Council did not have the funding to undertake the mapping and studies required. The decision was therefore made to cover the south-east section of the LGA because this area had the most significant koala population and the most significant development pressure.

The CKPoM is due to expire in 2028. Council has not made any moves to review or expand the study area due to advice from the NSW State Government. NSW government have advised that they are currently reviewing the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* (Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP). Their expectation is that this SEPP will provide significantly improved protection for koalas and has a higher statutory weight than the local CKPoM.

Staff will therefore not review our CKPoM until this updated SEPP is in place, as we may spend a significant amount of money developing something that becomes trumped by the SEPP within a few months of its implementation. There are significant costs involved in mapping koala habitat across the LGA and conducting surveys to confirm presence/absence of koalas and location of core koala habitat (presence of breeding females). Any potential expansion of the CKPoM must be led by robust data, as a KPoM must be approved by the NSW government to be legislated, we cannot simply expand the area, just because we "know" there are koalas living there.

Once this new SEPP is in place staff will commence a review process for the Lismore CKPoM and inform Councillors.

### 11.9 Supporting Housing Outcomes for Older Women at Risk of Homelessness

56/26

MOTION moved that Council:

1. notes that older women are the fastest growing cohort experiencing homelessness in Australia, as identified in the AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2024-2025
2. writes to the Hon. Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, and the Hon. Janelle Saffin MP, Minister for Recovery and Member for Lismore, advocating for targeted support and investment in housing solutions for older women at risk of homelessness

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Waters) (BP26/330)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Dalton-Earls, Hall, Knight-Smith and Waters

**Voting against:** Councillors Bing, Gordon, Jensen, Krieg and Rob

The vote being tied the Mayor declared the motion **DEFEATED** with his casting vote.

**Councillor Bing left the meeting, the time being 2:30PM**

**Councillor Bing returned to the meeting, the time being 2:31PM**

**Councillor Krieg left the meeting, the time being 2:42PM**

**Councillor Krieg returned to the meeting, the time being 2:43PM**

**Councillor Waters left the meeting, the time being 2:44PM**

**Councillor Waters returned to the meeting, the time being 2:45PM**

### 11.10 Goonellabah Village Sign Rous Road Roundabout

Are there any plans to address the current state the Goonellabah Village Sign next to the Rous Road Roundabout? Can Council confirm whether there is a plan for replacement or repair?

#### **General Manager's response:**

The Goonellabah Village sign next to Rous Rd roundabout is scheduled to be replaced by the end of June 2026.

The Goonellabah suburb signs will be replaced to be consistent with the new villages design. Goonellabah's sign will incorporate the native coral tree, in line with the current signs near Rous Road and Oliver Avenue roundabouts. However, the sign location will be at the suburb boundary near Gallagher Drive, with the ones near the roundabouts removed.

## Continuation of Meeting

57/2658/  
26 **RESOLVED** that the time being 3.00pm the meeting continue to 3.30pm.

(Councillors Hall/Knight-Smith)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

### **11.11 Outdoor Spaces and Parks Maintenance Schedule Review**

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MOTION moved that Council:

1. notes ongoing community concerns regarding overgrown parks and public open spaces, including reports of areas not being maintained for extended periods
2. requests a report reviewing current maintenance schedules and service levels for parks and public open spaces across the LGA, including mowing frequency, resourcing, and prioritisation
3. identifies any gaps or delays in maintenance, including areas where upkeep has not occurred within expected timeframes
4. provides recommendations to ensure maintenance standards are consistent, responsive, and aligned with community expectations
5. reports findings back to Council for consideration

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Knight-Smith)

Motion withdrawn by Cr Dalton-Earls.

59/26 **DEFEATED** that Council:

1. notes ongoing community concerns regarding overgrown parks and public open spaces, including reports of areas not being maintained for extended periods
2. requests a report reviewing current maintenance schedules and service levels for parks and public open spaces across the LGA, including mowing frequency, resourcing, and prioritisation
3. identifies any gaps or delays in maintenance, including areas where upkeep has not occurred within expected timeframes
4. provides recommendations to ensure maintenance standards are consistent, responsive, and aligned with community expectations
5. reports findings back to Council for consideration

(Councillors Rob/Dalton-Earls) (BP26/332)

**Voting for:** Nil  
**Voting against:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

### **11.12 South Lismore Duck Pond**

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Can the General Manager please provide any resolutions allowing council to spend ratepayer money on the privately owned land which forms part of the area commonly known as the South Lismore Duck Pond, as well as any references to legislation or Council policies allowing the expenditure of ratepayer money on any private land?

#### **General Manager's response:**

Funding provided for work at South Lismore Duck Pond (SLDP) is a sponsorship of Landcare group activities via the *Urban Landcare Program* (ULP), supporting work across all land tenures and incentivising actions which provide public benefit to biodiversity and water quality. This expenditure is adopted by Council each year as part of the Operational Plan.

The ULP is delivered in accordance with commitments made in Council's:

- Reimagine Lismore: Community Strategic Plan
- Biodiversity Management Strategy (BMS)
- Urban Green Corridors Plan (UGCP)

The ULP achieves the following business objectives for Lismore City Council.

Please note a revised draft BMS is put forward to this Council meeting, it includes an action (9.4) to continue delivering the ULP.

Relevant commitments from the plans are outlined below.

#### **Reimagine Lismore: Integrated Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan (2025-2035)**

- *Objective 2 Value and protect local biodiversity, natural landscapes and waterways, and strengthen resilience to natural hazards.*
  - *2.1 Facilitate increased resilience to natural hazards and disasters.*
  - **2.2 Work with partners to protect natural habitats, waterways and catchments to maintain ecosystem integrity and biological diversity**
    - **2.2.2. Support community groups to implement the Urban Landcare Program.**
    - *2.2.3. Prioritise and implement projects in the Urban Rivers and Catchment Project: Regenerating for resilience in Lismore's urban endangered rainforests.*
  - *2.3 Maintain green infrastructure in urban areas, including green corridors,*

*streetscapes and public open spaces.*

- **2.3.2. Prioritise and deliver projects in the Urban Green Corridors Plan.**

### **Biodiversity Management Strategy for the Lismore Local Government Area 2015-2035**

- 6.2 *Partner with the local community on projects that have biodiversity outcomes*
  - 6.2.2 *Participate in collaborative projects with local community groups to access external funds to achieve biodiversity outcomes*
- 7 *Linking the community with resources, information and opportunities*
  - 7.2 *Recognise and celebrate our community's connection with biodiversity and their contribution to its protection and enhancement*
- 9 *Providing education and incentives to rural landholders that are mutually beneficial for biodiversity and agricultural production*
  - 9.3.1 *Continue to work with industry, primary producers and other partners on existing and emerging projects*
- 10 *Restoring our urban bushland and supporting biodiversity and community well-being, including through implementing the Urban Green Corridors Plan*
  - 10.1 *Restore and maintain the ecological integrity and connectivity of urban bushland*
    - 10.1.2 *Continue weed management and bush regeneration in high priority urban riparian areas to improve connectivity*
  - 10.2 *Provide support for Landcare, schools and community groups undertaking management of urban and/or riparian bushland*
    - 10.2.1 *Provide in-kind support and financial support for Landcare groups, including to develop site action plans and work reports*
    - 10.2.2 *Provide in-kind support for schools and groups to apply for external funding*
    - 10.2.3 *Provide opportunities for Landcare groups to develop their capacity to work safely*
  - 10.3 *Enable our residents' connection with and stewardship of urban bushland*
    - **10.3.4 *Develop appropriate place-based responses/initiatives to protect urban bushland reserves from weeds on adjacent private property as identified during bushland health assessments or restoration works (UGCP #8-11)***

More broadly, the goals of the Biodiversity Management Strategy for the Lismore LGA are to:

- develop a greater understanding of the flora and fauna, habitats and ecological processes of the area and their value
- identify and mitigate the pressures on these biodiversity values
- improve the broader community's awareness of biodiversity through education and engagement activities
- foster partnerships with and build capacity for rural landholders, industry and community groups to improve biodiversity stewardship on private lands
- **foster partnerships with and build capacity for community groups to protect and improve biodiversity on Council-managed, public lands**
- promote a landscape connectivity approach as the basis for managing biodiversity and building landscape resilience to climate change

- embed the principles of ecologically sustainable development into planning processes
- provide a long-term strategic framework to guide on-the-ground actions that lead to measurable biodiversity outcomes
- foster an adaptive management approach so that the strategy can continuously improve on its delivery

#### **Urban Green Corridors Plan**

- *Engage with private landholders within the Urban Green Corridor and provide advice, support and funding, wherever possible through additional grants opportunities, to encourage and undertake restoration on **private land***
- *15 Provide support and resources for Landcare, schools and community groups undertaking management of urban or riparian bushland*
- *16 Provide support for Landcare and community groups to apply for funding from NSW Environmental Trust, Department of Primary Industries and other relevant funding bodies*
- *17 Actively seek partnering opportunities with other organisations and landholders to share resources, and develop and implement projects which contribute to achieving the aims and objectives of this Plan.*

MOTION moved that the General Manager investigate the acquisition of land known as and in the vicinity of the South Lismore Duck Pond and report back to the June Council meeting.

(Councillor Rob)

Lapsed due to want of a seconder

## Confidential Matters – Closed Council Meeting

60/26 **RESOLVED** that Council now exclude the press and public and meet in Closed Council to consider the following matters;

<b>Item</b>	12.1 Proposed Land Swap
<b>Grounds for Closure</b>	Section 10A(2) (d i):
<b>Public Interest</b>	Discussion of this matter in an open meeting would on balance be contrary to the public interest because it relates to: commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

(Councillors Krieg/Bing)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob

**Voting against:** Councillor Waters

## Resumption of Open Council

When the Council had resumed its former sitting, the Mayor reported that Council, meeting in Closed Session, had RESOLVED:

### 12.1 Proposed Land Swap

That Council:

1. notes the confidential correspondence attached in the report dated 9 April 2026 and 13 April 2026
2. acquires the properties mentioned in this report on the terms and conditions acceptable to the General Manager
3. disposes of the property at 260 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah (Lot 3, DP1305035) on the terms and conditions acceptable to the General Manager
4. classifies any land acquired as Operational in accordance with section 31 of the *Local Government Act 1993*
5. delegate authority to the General Manager to:
  - a. negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of the acquisitions and disposal
  - b. execute all necessary contracts, documents, and instruments
  - c. take all actions necessary to give effect to this resolution

(Councillors Gordon/Hall) (BP26/269)

**Voting for:** Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

**Voting against:** Nil

## Closure

This concluded the business and the meeting terminated at 3.25pm.

CONFIRMED 12 May 2026 at which meeting the signature herein was subscribed.

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**MAYOR**