



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 11 February 2026**

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 9.00 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Daniel Keady, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler via video link, Cr Karen Churchill, Cr Adam Cohen, Cr Paul Fisher via video link, Cr Margaret Garnsey, Cr Phillipa Goldsmith, Cr Ahmad Karanouh, Cr Paul Wheelhouse

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager), Kerrie Murphy (Director Infrastructure), Tony Payne (Director Sustainability, Community & Planning), Jenni Maundrell (Member), Deb Tatton (Manager Finance & Procurement), Marina Colwell (Executive Support Officer), Rebecca Payne (Executive Assistant)

1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9.12 am, advising the attendees of the following:

- The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website and a person's image and/or voice may be broadcast;
- Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and /or voice being webcast (time will be allowed by the Chairperson for people to leave the meeting before it starts);
- All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent;
- Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending the meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments;
- The recording will be available on Council's website for a minimum of 12 months and retained as a Council record;
- Individuals acting in a disorderly manner can be asked by the Chairperson to leave the meeting under the Council's Code of Meeting Practice;
- The meeting must not be recorded by others without the prior written consent of the Council in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet today, the Wailwan people and the Gamilaroi people and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**RESOLUTION 2026/10**

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 10 December 2025 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Thursday, 22 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct records of the proceedings of the meetings.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

6 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Karen Churchill declared a Pecuniary Interest declaration with:

Item 1.1 Write off of Council Debts as she is the owner of a property named in the report. She indicated she will leave the room for the discussion and for voting on the item.

Cr Adam Cohen declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest declaration with:

Item 7.6 Communities & Planning works in progress report as he is a part owner of the business managing the Coonamble Pool. He indicated he will leave the room for the discussion and for voting on the item.

Cr Paul Wheelhouse declared a Pecuniary Interest declaration with:

Item 11.3 Tender 20260109DHS Tallegar Creek Causeway Upgrade report as he owns the business sub-contracting to supplying concrete for the project. He indicated he will leave the room for the discussion and for voting on the item.

Cr Ahmad Karanough declared a Pecuniary Interest declaration with:

Item 1.1 Write off of Council Debts as he is the owner of a property named in the report. He indicated he will leave the room for the discussion and for voting on the item.

7 MAYORAL MINUTE**MAYORAL MINUTE****RESOLUTION 2026/11**

Moved: Mayor Daniel Keady

Seconded: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

That the Mayoral Minute for December 2025 and January 2026 be noted.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

At 9:18 am, Cr Ahmad Karanouh left the meeting.

At 9:19 am, Cr Ahmad Karanouh returned to the meeting.

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL**2.1 ACCESS TO PAEDIATRIC SERVICES IN COONAMBLE SHIRE****RESOLUTION 2026/12**

Moved: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

- 1. That Coonamble Shire Council actively supports the establishment of a regular visiting paediatric service through Aboriginal Health Service in partnership with the charity Little Wings.**
- 2. That Council contributes initial seed funding of \$9,000 and seeks matching funding from government or community sources for the first 12 months of service to commence as soon as practicable.**
- 3. That Council, in partnership with CAHS and other local organisations, continues to advocate for the ongoing funding and delivery of local paediatric services by the NSW Government.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**3.2 CORRESPONDENCE****RESOLUTION 2026/13**

Moved: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That the Correspondence Report for December 2025 and January 2026 be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICES - PROGRESS REPORT**RESOLUTION 2026/14**

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That Council note:

- 1. The information contained within the Corporate Services Progress Report.**
- 2. The investments from 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026 and that these investments comply with section 625(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.**
- 3. The change of the Public Auction for Unpaid Rates from Thursday, 5 March 2026 to a date to be decided in May 2026.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

5.4 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2026/15

Moved: Cr Karen Churchill
 Seconded: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

That Council note the Council resolutions report and status.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

6.5 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS

RESOLUTION 2026/16

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith
 Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council note the report on the works in progress within Council's Infrastructure Directorate.

That a further report be brought back to the April meeting on the Town entrance signs and Way forward signs.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

At 9:59 am, Cr Adam Cohen left the meeting

At 9:59 am, Cr Ahmad Karanouh left the meeting.

7.6 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE REPORT

RESOLUTION 2026/17

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That Council note the report on the activities of the Sustainable Communities and Planning Directorate; and that a report on the school holiday program and youth accommodation housing project be presented to the April meeting.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

At 10:10 am, Cr Adam Cohen returned to the meeting.

At 10:10 am, Cr Ahmad Karanouh returned to the meeting.

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - DECEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION 2026/18

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

That Council

- 1. Adopt the variations to votes as listed in the budget review documents distributed under separate cover.**
- 2. Note that in the opinion of the Responsible Accounting Officer based on the information as presented in the September Budget review, that Council will be in a satisfactory financial position as at 30 June 2026.**
- 3. Note the classification and position of Council's estimated restricted (reserve) funds as at 31 December 2025.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

9.2 COONAMBLE ARTESIAN BORE BATHS (COONAMBLE ARTESIAN AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE)

RESOLUTION 2026/19

Moved: Cr Karen Churchill

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council:

1. Endorse the Coonamble Artesian Bore Baths Masterplan concept as the preferred framework for progressing the Coonamble Artesian and Cultural Experience project.
2. Note the project is supported by \$5.5 million in NSW Government funding under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund, together with councils \$1.25 million co-contribution, subject to the conditions of the executed funding deed.
3. Approve progression to the next stage of the project, including detailed design development, cost planning, and preparation and lodgment of Development Application documentation.
4. Authorise the General Manager to finalise and enter into further service agreements with GHD Group Pty Ltd, to deliver detailed design, cost estimates, statutory approval documentation, tender documentation and project management services.
5. Request the preparation of a detailed Operational Business Model, including pricing strategy and marketing plan prior to construction to confirm long-term financial sustainability.
6. Request regular progress reports be provided to Council outlining project milestones, financial status, risk management and compliance with funding conditions.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

Taken on notice

Cr Karen Churchill suggests the turf at the sportsground be inspected for insect/bug infestation.

Actioning Officer: Director Infrastructure

Cr Ahmad Karanouh suggest watering the younger trees around the town.

Actioning Officer: Director Infrastructure

Cr Paul Wheelhouse suggests putting the Saleyards & Truckwash on direct bore

water.

Actioning Officer: General Manager

Cr Karen Churchill suggested to the General Manager a report for a Reservoir for bore bath.

Actioning Officer: General Manager

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 2026/20

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

11.1 Closed (Public Excluded) Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council - 22 January 2026

11.2 Write off of Council Debts

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - a of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

11.3 TENDER 20260109DHS TALLEGAR CREEK CAUSEWAY UPGRADE

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

11.1 CLOSED (PUBLIC EXCLUDED) EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL - 22 JANUARY 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/21

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Coonamble shire council held on Wednesday, 22 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

At 10:26 am, Cr Ahmad Karanouh left the meeting.

At 10:32 am, Cr Karen Churchill left the meeting

11.2 WRITE OFF OF COUNCIL DEBTS

RESOLUTION 2026/22

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

- 1. That Council notes the information contained within this report.**
- 2. That in accordance with the *Regulation 131 and 213 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* that Council resolves to write off the of debts owed to Council.**
- 3. That the write of these debts be funded from the respective Bad Debt Expenses Budget allocations within Council's 2025-2026 Operational Budget.**
- 4. Further, that in accordance with the requirements of *Regulation 131 and 213 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* that the particulars of the debts to be written off be recorded in Council's register of write off of bad debts.**

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

At 10:35 am, Cr Karen Churchill returned to the meeting.

At 10:35 am, Cr Ahmad Karanouh returned to the meeting.

At 10:35 am, Cr Paul Wheelhouse left the meeting.

11.3 TENDER 20260109DHS TALLEGAR CREEK CAUSEWAY UPGRADE

RESOLUTION 2026/23

Moved: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

That Council award Tender 20260109DHS Tallegar Creek Causeway Upgrade to Conseth Solutions Pty.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Steven Butler, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith and Ahmad Karanouh

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

At 10:40 am, Cr Paul Wheelhouse returned to the meeting.

At 10:43 am, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler left the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026/24

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

In Favour: Crs Daniel Keady, Karen Churchill, Adam Cohen, Paul Fisher, Margaret Garnsey, Phillipa Goldsmith, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

CARRIED 8/0

12 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 10.44am

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 11 March 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON