



General Council Meeting

Meeting of the Central Highlands Regional Council held in the **Council Chambers, 65 Egerton Street, Emerald** on

Wednesday, 12 May 2021
Commenced at 9.00am

COUNCIL MINUTES

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2021

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MINUTES – GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 9.00AM WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2021 IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, EMERALD OFFICE

PRESENT

Councillors

Councillor (Crs) Kerry Hayes (Mayor), Christine Rolfe (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors (Crs) Charles Brimblecombe, Joseph Burns, Anne Carpenter, Natalie Curtis, Megan Daniels, Janice Moriarty and Gai Sypher

Officers

Chief Executive Officer Scott Mason, General Manager Communities John McDougall, General Manager Corporate Services Margaret Gatt, General Manager Customer and Commercial Services Michelle Webster, Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Utilities Jason Hoolihan and Minute Secretary Marnie Wills

APOLOGIES

Nil

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolution:

Cr Brimblecombe moved and seconded by Cr Carpenter “That a leave of absence be granted:

1. Cr Janice Moriarty for the General Council Meeting on 26 May 2021.
2. Cr Gai Sypher for the Strategic and Briefing Forum on 29 June 2021 and General Council Meeting on 30 June 2021.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 001

Carried (9-0)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mayor Hayes acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and he paid our respects to the elders, past, present and emerging.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Stephen Gellatly from the Emerald Baptist Church delivered the opening prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

General Council Meeting: 28 April 2021

Resolution:

Cr Brimblecombe moved and seconded by Cr Curtis “That the minutes of the previous General Council Meeting held on 28 April 2021 be confirmed.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 002

Carried (9-0)

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

Nil

OUTSTANDING MEETING ACTIONS

Councillors reviewed the resolution register (meeting actions) update

REVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Discussions were held regarding upcoming agenda items.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Gai Sypher informed the meeting that she has a declarable conflict of interest in the closed session item regarding the Councillor Conduct Investigation (as defined in section 150EN of the *Local Government Act 2009*). This declarable conflict of interest arises because of her close personal history with the Councillor involved and that she proposes to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while this matter is discussed and voted on.

Cr Janice Moriarty informed the meeting that she has a declarable conflict of interest in the closed session item regarding the Councillor Conduct Investigation (as defined in section 150EN of the *Local Government Act 2009*) and that she proposes to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while this matter is discussed and voted on.

Cr Christine Rolfe informed the meeting that she has a declarable conflict of interest in the Regional Show Society Sponsorship matter (as defined in section 150EN of the *Local Government Act 2009*). This declarable conflict of interest arises because she is the president of the Springsure Pastoral and Agricultural Show Society and that she proposes to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while this matter is discussed and voted on.

PETITIONS (IF ANY)

Nil

Conflict of Interest

Cr Rolfe reconfirmed her previous conflict of interest in the following matter and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed and voted on. Cr Rolfe left the meeting at 9.14am.

DECISION ACTION REPORTS

Communities

Regional Show Society Sponsorship 2021

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is for the consideration of sponsorship of the regional show societies for their 2021 regional show events in Emerald, Springsure, Capella and Comet.

Resolution:

Cr Daniels moved and seconded by Cr Burns "That Central Highlands Regional Council approve the requested sponsorship for the following regional shows for 2021 as per the table below:

Show Society	In Kind Support Requested / Supplied	Combined Value of Request	Approved Cash Amount	Approved In-kind Amount
Comet 14-17 May 2021	Water truck \$2,000	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
Capella 21-22 May 2021	Event cleaning \$2,500 Cleaning supplies \$500 Set up grandstand (not possible due to workplace health and safety requirements \$3,000) Setup and take down stage (not	\$8,990	\$3,000	\$2,000

Show Society	In Kind Support Requested / Supplied	Combined Value of Request	Approved Cash Amount	Approved In-kind Amount
	possible due to workplace health and safety requirements \$990) Supply plants for ringside (not possible as council has no available stock) Water truck \$2,000			
Springsure 28-29 May 2021	Water truck \$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
Emerald 1-2 June 2021	Bunting and signage \$3,000 Road corridor permit \$500 Water truck \$2,000 Cleaning supplies \$1,000 Pre-event cleaning \$3,500	\$20,000	\$4,500	\$5,500
	Total	\$38,990	\$13,500	\$11,500

In order to provide consistency, an allocation of \$3,000 cash support will be offered to Springsure Show Society. The total for all regional shows in-kind support is \$11,500 and cash donation is \$13,500.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 003

Carried (8-0)

Attendance

Coordinator Property Services A. Hewitt attended the meeting at 9.27am
Cr Rolfe returned to the meeting at 9.27am

Customer and Commercial Services

Service Level Agreement with Central Highlands (QLD) Housing Company Ltd

Purpose:

This report is seeking endorsement by Central Highlands Regional Council (council) as the Permanent Member of the Central Highlands (Qld) Housing Company Limited on the Service Level Agreement between council and the Central Highlands (Qld) Housing Company Limited.

Resolution:

Cr Brimblecombe moved and seconded by Cr Carpenter “That Central Highlands Regional Council

1. Endorse the Service Level Agreement between council and the Central Highlands (Qld) Housing Company Limited.
2. Approve the General Manager Customer and Commercial Services to enter into the Service Level Agreement on behalf of council.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 004

Carried (9-0)

Attendance

Coordinator Property Services A. Hewitt left the meeting at 9.31am
Manager Customer Service R. Brosnan attended the meeting at 9.31am

Minutes - Community Consultation Orion - 23 April 2021

Purpose:

This report provides the minutes and actions from the Community Consultation held at Orion Recreation Hall on 23 April 2021.

Resolution:

Cr Curtis moved and seconded by Cr Carpenter “That Central Highlands Regional Council endorse the minutes from the Community Consultation Meeting held at Orion Recreation Hall on 23 April 2021 noting the following action has been logged as a Customer Request (CRM):

1. Leucaena trees along road reserve to be slashed and sprayed to prevent spread. CRM 2021/124734.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 005

Carried (9-0)

Attendance

Manager Customer Service R. Brosnan left the meeting at 9.38am

Minute Secretary M. Wills left the meeting at 9.38am and returned at 9.39am

Manager Safety and Wellness G. Westerberg attended the meeting at 9.39am

Cr Sypher left the meeting at 10.00am

Cr Sypher returned to the meeting at 10.03am

Manager Safety and Wellness G. Westerberg left the meeting at 10.15am

INFORMATION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

Safety and Wellness Quarterly Update Report

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of Central Highlands Regional Council’s health and safety performance. highlighting any issues, risks and opportunities impacting the safety and health of workers at Council.

Resolution:

Cr Daniels moved and seconded by Cr Brimblecombe “That Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) receive the Quarterly Safety and Wellness Report for the period ending January to March 2021.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 006

Carried (9-0)

LATE AGENDA ITEMS

2020-21 COVID Works 4 Queensland (W4Q) Funding Amendments

Purpose:

This report summarises proposed changes to the previously approved program of works funded as part of the Queensland Government’s Economic Recovery Strategy: *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*, COVID Works for Queensland (2020–21 COVID W4Q) program, to be delivered during 2020–21.

Resolution:

Cr Sypher moved and seconded by Cr Brimblecombe “That Central Highlands Regional Council approve:

1. The submission of a program variation to the State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning with the following changes:

COVID W4Q Reference and Project number	Project Title	Adopted W4Q Total Grant Funding 2020-2021	Proposed W4Q Total Grant Funding 2020-2021
		\$	\$
CHRC - W4QC20 - 2	Garden bed upgrades - Duaringa medians / Council office	50,000	75,000
CHRC - W4QC20 - 3	Maintenance works in council parks and Emerald Botanical Gardens	30,000	330,000
CHRC - W4QC20 - 8	Bauhinia Community Hall Repairs	70,000	170,000
CHRC - W4QC20 - 9	Electrical Switchboard Replacements	90,000	238,000
CHRC - W4QC20 - 11	Regional Radio Network Planning and Implementation	823,000	0
CHRC - W4QC20 - 12	Maintenance - sewer network	250,000	500,000
		1,313,000	1,313,000

2. The changes be reflected in budget review four (BR4).”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 007

Carried (9-0)

Resignation of Chief Executive Officer

Purpose:

This report is to:

1. Advise and accept the resignation of its Chief Executive Officer Mr Scott Mason effective 18 June 2021.
2. Delegate responsibility to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer.

Resolution:

Cr Moriarty moved and seconded by Cr Brimblecombe “That Central Highlands Regional Council:

1. Accept the resignation of its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Scott Mason effective 18 June 2021.
2. That council recruit a new Chief Executive Officer:
 - a. That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be delegated the responsibility to oversee the recruitment process in consultation with councillors.
 - b. That council consider a short list of interviewed candidates and subsequently appoint a suitably qualified person to fulfil the role of Chief Executive Officer.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 008

Carried (9-0)

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10.37am
Meeting resumed at 11.03am

Attendance

General Manager Community Services J. McDougall, General Manager Corporate Services M. Gatt, Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Utilities J. Hoolihan, General Manager Customer and Commercial Services M. Webster did not return to the meeting
Manager Governance J. Ngoroyemoto attended the meeting at 11.03am

DECISION ACTION – CONFIDENTIAL CLOSED SESSION

Into Closed Session

Resolution:

Cr Burns moved and seconded by Cr Daniels “That Council close its meeting to the public in accordance with Section 254 (J) (3) (a) (j) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and that Council staff involved in the closed discussions remain in the room.”

- (a) *the appointment, discipline or dismissal of the chief executive officer;*
- (i) *a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.*

2021 / 05 / 12 / 009

Carried (9-0)

The meeting was closed at 11.03am

Conflict of Interest

Crs Sypher and Moriarty confirmed their previous conflict of interest in the following matter and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed. Crs Sypher and Moriarty left the meeting at 11.04am.

Mayoral Minute - Councillor Conduct – Investigation

Attendance

Manager Governance J. Ngoroyemoto left the meeting at 11.49am
Chief Executive Officer S. Mason left the meeting at 11.50am
Crs Sypher and Moriarty returned to the meeting at 11.51am

Mayoral Minute - Chief Executive Officers Remuneration Review

Out of Closed Session

Resolution:

Cr Brimblecombe moved and seconded by Cr Rolfe “That the meeting now be re-opened to the public.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 010

Carried (9-0)

The meeting was opened at 12.14pm

Attendance

Chief Executive Officer S. Mason returned to the meeting at 12.15pm

Mayoral Minute - Chief Executive Officers Remuneration Review

Purpose:

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Annual Performance Review was conducted by the Performance Review Panel and facilitated by Mr Chris Rose of Crest Performance on 4 September 2020.

The purpose of this report is to close out the process.

Resolution:

Cr Sypher moved and seconded by Cr Curtis “That Central Highlands Regional Council in response to a successful annual performance review conducted on 4 September 2020, vary the remuneration schedule of the Chief Executive Officers employment contract in accordance with this report as per option A to be back dated to 7 September 2020.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 011

Carried (9-0)

Conflict of Interest

Crs Sypher and Moriarty reconfirmed their previous conflict of interest in the following matter and left the meeting while the matter was being voted on. Crs Sypher and Moriarty left the meeting at 12.16pm

Mayoral Minute - Councillor Conduct – Investigation

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide council an outline, findings and recommendations of an investigation into the alleged inappropriate conduct of Councillor Janice Moriarty.

Resolution:

Cr Rolfe moved and seconded by Cr Burns “That Central Highlands Regional Council resolves that:-

1. Pursuant to section 150AG(1)(a), on 29 January 2021, Cr Janice Moriarty engaged in inappropriate conduct as defined in section 150K (i)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2009* by contravening a behavioural standard, in particular:
 - a. Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland – Standards of Behaviour part 1.1;
 - b. Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland – Standards of Behaviour part 2.1; and
 - c. Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland – Standards of Behaviour part 2.2,

by engaging in the following conduct:

- a. leaving the Corporate Planning Workshop other than in exceptional circumstances or with prior leave being given; and
 - b. making various inappropriate comments to a council officer about the context and content of the material provided to councillors in the workshop which were discourteous and used abusive language.
2. Pursuant to sections 150AG(1)(b) and 150AH(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld), that no action be taken against Cr Janice Moriarty; and take this opportunity to remind all councillors of their obligations contained in the Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland to attend and participate meaningfully in all council workshops other than in exceptional circumstances and/or where prior leave is given, to treat council employees and members of the public with courtesy, honesty and fairness and not to use abusive, obscene or threatening language (either oral or written) or behaviour towards Council employees or members of the public.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 012

Carried (7-0)

Attendance

Chief Executive Officer S. Mason left the meeting at 12.18pm and returned at 12.19pm
Crs Sypher and Moriarty returned to the meeting at 12.19pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

(Verbal matters raised by Councillors either as a question, acknowledgement and or additional follow-up by officers)

Cr Daniels – Requested an update on the camping options strategy to be provided to council

Cr Rolfe – The Springsure Mountain Challenge event was held on the weekend and made mention that it was very successful and well attended by the community.

Attendance

General Manager Communities J. McDougall returned to the meeting at 12.20pm
General Manager Corporate Services M. Gatt and Manager Finance V. Coleman returned to the meeting at 12.21pm

Mayor Hayes – Queensland Beef Corridors event was held in Rockhampton last week at Beef Week 2021. The dinner was extremely successful and gave thanks to all staff that were involved for their efforts to bring this event together. Special mention to Arjan Bloemer, Sonya Comiskey and Cassie Turner from Central Highlands Development Corporation and Andrea Ferris and Jorunn Lorenzen from council for the coordination of the video.

Attendance

General Manager Communities J. McDougall left the meeting at 12.30pm

LATE AGENDA ITEM

Extension to due date on second half general rates and charges

Purpose:

This report seeks council's approval for an extension to the payment due date for the second half general rates to 27 July 2021.

Resolution:

Cr Brimblecombe moved and seconded by Cr Sypher "That Central Highlands Regional Council approve an extension to the due date and discount date for the 2020-21 second half rates and charges notices for all classes of ratepayers to 27 July 2021 in accordance with sections 121(b), 122 and 130(7) to (9) of the Local Government Regulation 2012."

2021 / 05 / 12 / 013

Carried (9-0)

Attendance

Manager Finance V. Coleman left the meeting at 12.42pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

General Council Meeting – Amended Meeting Time

Resolution:

Cr Sypher moved and seconded by Cr Burns “That Central Highlands Regional Council amend the meeting time for the General Council Meeting scheduled for Blackwater at the Blackwater Civic Centre on Wednesday 26 May 2021 to commence at 11.00am.”

2021 / 05 / 12 / 014

Carried (9-0)

CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 12.43pm.

CONFIRMED

MAYOR

DATE