



Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

Alexandrina Council Special Meeting

Held on 29 April 2024

Minutes of the Alexandrina Council Special Meeting

Monday, 29 April 2024, commencing at 7.09 pm

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1. Opening of Meeting

An audio recording of this meeting was made for minute-taking purposes and lasted the length of the open meeting. The audio file will be available on the Council website after the draft Minutes have been circulated.

Present

Mayor Keith Parkes (Presiding Member), Councillors Bill Cooman, Margaret Gardner, Milli Livingston, Craig Maidment, Sue Miller, Lou Nicholson, Peter Oliver and Michael Scott (from 7.10pm)

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Cr Christie Thornton

In Attendance

Nigel Morris (Chief Executive Officer), Stacey Bateson (General Manager Community), Alan Harvey (General Manager Infrastructure), and other staff as required.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk and Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our Council District.

Local Government Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly beseech thee to grant thy blessing upon the works of this Council, guide us in our deliberations for the advancement and the true welfare of the people of this district.

Declarations of Interest

If a Council Member has an interest in a matter which will be before the Council at this meeting, they are asked to disclose the interest to the Council and provide full and accurate details of the relevant interest at the beginning of the meeting. Members are reminded they must also declare their interest and provide details at the time the relevant item arises for consideration.

2. Adjourned Debate

Nil

3. Presentations / Deputations

Nil

4. Administration Reports

4.1. Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2024/25

C24174

Moved Cr Michael Scott seconded Cr Margaret Gardner

That Council approves the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2024/25 and updated long term financial plan, as contained in this meeting agenda at Attachment 2 to this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.2. Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre Authority Draft Budget 2024/25

C24175

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Milli Livingston

That Council receive the Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre Authority draft Budget 2024/25 report, noting the initial budget position is as provided at the time of publishing this meeting agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.3. Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority Business Plan 2024-27, Long Term Financial Plan and Draft Budget 2024/25

Cr Milli Livingston declared a material conflict of interest in the matter under consideration due to her employment and left the Chamber at 7.14 pm.

C24176

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Lou Nicholson

That Council return the Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA) draft Business Plan 2024-27, updated Long Term Financial Plan and draft Budget 2024/25 as contained in this meeting agenda at Attachment 2 to this report, to FRWA, to review the budget, decrease expenses, remove the new initiatives and return the user share of the surplus (unless it is required to service FRWA's debt).

CARRIED

Cr Milli Livingston returned to the Chamber at 7.20 pm.

4.4. Southern and Hills Local Government Association Draft Budget 2024/25

C24177

Moved Cr Lou Nicholson seconded Cr Peter Oliver

That Council approves:

- 1. The Southern and Hills Local Government Association draft Budget 2024/25.**
- 2. A contribution of \$24,115.10 for 2024/25.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.5. Minutes of Section 41 Audit and Risk Committee - 12 April 2024

C24178

Moved Cr Sue Miller seconded Cr Lou Nicholson

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 12 April 2024 and:

- **Consistent with the Committees' unanimous resolution ACA414 adopt the amended and updated draft Revenue Strategy 2025-2028 and develop an action plan as part of the review of the Strategic Management Plans to be completed by November 2024.**
- **Consistent with the Committees' unanimous resolution ACA407 change the condition audit and revaluation cycle in the Asset Revaluation Management Plan and Appendices from four years to three years, and increase of \$30,000 to the Asset Condition Audit and Revaluation operational budget to accommodate this change.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.6. Report from Section 41 Audit and Risk Committee - Policy Review - Debt Recovery Policy

C24179

Moved Cr Craig Maidment seconded Cr Milli Livingston

- 1. That Council note the resolutions of the Audit and Risk Committee as follows:**

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

- 1. receive and note the report.**
 - 2. recommend the draft Debt Recovery Policy, as detailed in Attachment 1, to Council for adoption.**
- 2. That Council adopt the draft Debt Recovery Policy, as contained in this meeting agenda, detailed in Attachment 1 to this report.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.7. Report from Section 41 Audit and Risk Committee - Policy Review - Annual Budget and Budget Performance Policy

C24180

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Margaret Gardner

- 1. That Council note the resolutions of the Audit and Risk Committee as follows:**

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

- 1. receive and note the report.**
 - 2. amend 4.2 of the Annual Budget and Budget Performance Policy to "Commitment to financial sustainability indicator targets".**
 - 3. recommend the draft Annual Budget and Budget Performance Policy, contained at Attachment 1, as amended, to Council for adoption.**
- 2. That Council adopt the draft Annual Budget and Budget Performance Policy, as contained in this meeting agenda, detailed in Attachment 1 to this report.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.8. Report from Section 41 Audit and Risk Committee - Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25

C24181

Moved Cr Lou Nicholson seconded Cr Sue Miller

That Council notes the resolutions of the Audit and Risk Committee as follows:

That the Audit and Risk Committee recommend to Council that the revised draft Rating Policy at Attachment 2 and Hardship Policy at Attachment 3 be considered for adoption.

That the Audit and Risk Committee recommend to Council that the current Long Term Financial Plan be updated with the latest depreciation figures and the following rates assumptions for the next five years to ensure that Council returns to a surplus budget within the five-year period:

Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Rates Increase Assumption	CPI + 3.5%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%

That the Audit and Risk Committee recommend Council undertake a further critical review of operating expenses prior to recommendation of the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 for public consultation.

That the Audit and Risk Committee recommend to Council, in order to lower the rates increase assumption over the next five years, revise the A2040 Strategic Plan to target, among other things:

- an overall reduction in operating expenses to be performed in conjunction with current service reviews.
- increases in asset disposals.
- increases in revenue raising opportunities, including a rating review.
- capital expenditure.
- staffing costs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved Cr Sue Miller seconded Cr Margaret Gardner

That Council:

1. adopt the revised draft Rating Policy as contained in this meeting agenda at Attachment 2 to this report.
2. adopt the revised draft Hardship Policy as contained in this meeting agenda at Attachment 3 to this report.
3. update the Long Term Financial Plan with the latest depreciation figures and the following rates assumptions for the next five years to ensure that Council returns to a surplus budget within the five-year period:

Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Rates Increase Assumption	CPI + 3.5%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%

4. in order to lower the rates increase assumption over the next five years, revise the A2040 Strategic Plan to target, among other things:

- a. an overall reduction in operating expenses to be performed in conjunction with current service reviews.
- b. increases in asset disposals.
- c. increases in revenue raising opportunities, including a rating review having regard to timing of such a review to be consistent with Council's resolution of 18 December 2023 (C23501), and advice to be received from the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) in February 2025.
- d. capital expenditure.
- e. staffing costs.

LOST

C24182

Moved Cr Lou Nicholson seconded Cr Margaret Gardner

That Council adopt the revised draft Rating Policy as contained in this meeting agenda at Attachment 2 to this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C24183

Moved Cr Bill Coomans seconded Cr Peter Oliver

That Council adopt the revised draft Hardship Policy as contained in this meeting agenda at Attachment 3 to this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Bill Coomans

That Council update the Long Term Financial Plan with the latest depreciation figures and the following rates assumptions for the next five years to ensure that Council returns to a surplus budget within the five-year period:

Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Rates Increase Assumption	CPI + 1.5%	CPI + 1.5%	CPI + 1.5%	CPI + 1.5%	CPI + 1.5%

LOST

A division was requested by Cr Bill Coomans.

The Presiding Member declared the vote set aside.

Voting in the AFFIRMATIVE	Voting in the NEGATIVE
Cr Peter Oliver	Cr Michael Scott
Cr Bill Coomans	Cr Sue Miller
	Cr Milli Livingston
	Cr Craig Maidment
	Cr Lou Nicholson
	Cr Margaret Gardner

The Presiding Member declared the motion **LOST**

C24184

Moved Cr Sue Miller seconded Cr Margaret Gardner

That Council update the Long Term Financial Plan with the latest depreciation figures and the following rates assumptions for the next five years to ensure that Council returns to a surplus budget within the five-year period:

Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Rates Increase Assumption	CPI + 3.5%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%	CPI + 3%

CARRIED

A division was requested by Cr Peter Oliver.

The Presiding Member declared the vote set aside.

Voting in the AFFIRMATIVE	Voting in the NEGATIVE
Cr Michael Scott	Cr Peter Oliver
Cr Sue Miller	Cr Bill Coomans
Cr Milli Livingston	
Cr Craig Maidment	
Cr Lou Nicholson	
Cr Margaret Gardner	

The Presiding Member declared the motion **CARRIED**

Moved Cr Lou Nicholson seconded Cr Bill Coomans

That Council in order to lower the rates increase assumption over the next five years, revise the A2040 Strategic Plan to target, among other things:

- a. an overall reduction in operating expenses to be performed in conjunction with current service reviews.**
- b. increases in asset disposals.**
- c. increases in revenue raising opportunities, including a rating review.**
- d. capital expenditure.**
- e. staffing costs.**

Cr Milli Livingston, with consent of the mover and seconder, sought and was granted leave of the meeting to vary the motion as follows:

C24185

That Council: *(as varied)*

In order to lower the rates increase assumption over the next five years, revise the A2040 Strategic Plan to target, among other things:

- a. an overall reduction in operating expenses to be performed in conjunction with current service reviews.**
- b. increases in asset disposals.**
- c. increases in revenue raising opportunities, including a rating review.**

- d. capital expenditure.
- e. staffing costs.
- f. Any recommendations resulting from the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C24186

Moved Cr Craig Maidment seconded Cr Sue Miller

That Council receives the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 as presented to the Audit and Risk Committee as contained in this meeting agenda at attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Lou Nicholson

That Council note Administration have undertaken a further critical review of operating expenses and recommend the following adjustments be made to the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to public consultation:

- a. **Operating New Initiatives - In reviewing the new initiative projects for 2024/25 it is recommended by Administration that the following non-urgent project be deferred to a future year:**

Description	Amount
Enhanced Wayfinding Signage Strategy	(\$50,000)
Total	(\$50,000)

- b. **Capital Program - In reviewing the current capital program it is recommended that the following adjustment be made:**

Description	Capital Amount	Operating Amount
Reduce Main Office Refurbishment from \$1M to \$500,000	(\$500,000)	(\$28,200)
Total	(\$500,000)	(\$28,200)

- c. **Review of Recurrent Operating - A review of the 3238 transactions lines that make up the budget has produced a further reduction of operating expenses as follows:**

Description	Amount
Reduction in CEO Miscellaneous expenses	(\$5,000)
Reduced Council Member costs for legal, general and travel based on actuals	(\$15,000)
Reduction in HR recruitment and training costs	(\$10,000)
Reduction in Library Subscriptions	(\$5,000)
Reduction in Visitor Information Centre Communication Costs	(\$5,000)
Reduction in Marketing for events (more use of Social Media)	(\$5,000)

Description	Amount
Coastal Protection Officer reimbursement from Ratalang Trust Account	(\$35,000)
Reduction in Goolwa Oval expenses due to anticipated new lease	(\$107,000)
Reduction in FRACA costs due to anticipated new structure	(\$50,000)
Reduction in stationery costs based on actual	(\$3,000)
Total	(\$245,000)

Cr Sue Miller, with consent of the mover and seconder, sought and was granted leave of the meeting to vary the motion as follows:

C24187

That Council: (*as varied*)

Note Administration have undertaken a further critical review of operating expenses and recommend the following adjustments be made to the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to public consultation:

- a. Capital Program - In reviewing the current capital program it is recommended that the following adjustment be made:**

Description	Capital Amount	Operating Amount
Reduce Main Office Refurbishment from \$1M to \$500,000	(\$500,000)	(\$28,200)
Total	(\$500,000)	(\$28,200)

- b. Review of Recurrent Operating - A review of the 3238 transactions lines that make up the budget has produced a further reduction of operating expenses as follows:**

Description	Amount
Reduction in CEO Miscellaneous expenses	(\$5,000)
Reduced Council Member costs for legal, general and travel based on actuals	(\$15,000)
Reduction in HR recruitment and training costs	(\$10,000)
Reduction in Library Subscriptions	(\$5,000)
Reduction in Visitor Information Centre Communication Costs	(\$5,000)
Reduction in Marketing for events (more use of Social Media)	(\$5,000)
Coastal Protection Officer reimbursement from Ratalang Trust Account	(\$35,000)
Reduction in Goolwa Oval expenses due to anticipated new lease	(\$107,000)
Reduction in FRACA costs due to anticipated new structure	(\$50,000)
Reduction in stationery costs based on actual	(\$3,000)
Total	(\$245,000)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr Milli Livingston declared a material conflict of interest in the matter under consideration due to her employment and left the Chamber at 8.26 pm.

C24188

Moved Cr Bill Coomans seconded Cr Margaret Gardner

That Council update the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 with the revised Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA) Costs:

Description	Amount
Amount in draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget as presented to the Audit Committee	(\$3,069,000)
Amount Budget 2025 now provided by FRWA	\$3,779,000
Adjusted by raising the FRWA WRD Fees and charges to 8.3% to assist covering costs	(\$117,000)
New leases signed with FRWA (Goolwa \$210k, Strathalbyn \$80k)	(\$290,000)
Original budget estimate for new FRWA leases (already contained within presented budget)	\$200,000
Reduce amount included for additional opening hours for Strathalbyn	(\$60,000)
FRWA ACM less provision payment not in budget presented to Audit Committee	\$226,000
Net Result	\$669,000

CARRIED

Cr Milli Livingston returned to the Chamber at 8.31 pm.

C24189

Moved Cr Craig Maidment seconded Cr Bill Coomans

That Council update the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 with the reviewed Subsidiary Equity Surpluses for Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority, Adelaide Hills Regional Waste Authority and Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre Authority with the variance between what was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee and what has now been presented in the Subsidiary Annual Business Plans and Budgets:

Description	Amount
Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA)	(\$53,000)
Adelaide Hills Regional Waste Authority (AHRWMA)	\$11,000
FRACA Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre Authority (FRACA)	(\$29,000)
Total	(\$71,000)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chief Executive Officer advised that he wished to withdraw the Administration recommendation for Council to note the net effect of the above adjustments to the operating budget total at this time.

C24190

Moved Cr Sue Miller seconded Cr Lou Nicholson

That Council confirms the following new initiative from the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to consultation:

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ID	Description	Expenditure	Rate Revenue
NI#25	Agribusiness Officer - (0.6FTE) Position Proposal (ASART and Council)	\$70,631	0.15%

CARRIED

C24191

Moved Cr Craig Maidment seconded Cr Sue Miller

That Council confirms the following new initiative from the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to consultation:

ID	Description	Expenditure	Rate Revenue
NI#9	Strathalbyn Town Plan Renewal	\$70,000	0.15%

CARRIED

C24192

Moved Cr Lou Nicholson seconded Cr Michael Scott

That Council confirms the following new initiative from the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to consultation:

ID	Description	Expenditure	Rate Revenue
NI#20	Port Elliot Local Heritage Code Amendment	\$70,000	0.15%

CARRIED

C24193

Moved Cr Craig Maidment seconded Cr Peter Oliver

That Council confirms that the following project be updated to be funded in the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to consultation:

ID	Description	Expenditure	Rate Revenue
NI#32	Adelaide Car Rally - Staging at Strathalbyn	\$25,000	0.04%

CARRIED

Cr Milli Livingston declared a material conflict of interest in the matter under consideration due to a related party and potential contractor and left the Chamber at 8.44 pm.

C24194

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Bill Coomans

That Council confirms that the following project be updated to be funded in the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to consultation:

ID	Description	Expenditure - Capital	Expenditure- Operating	Rate Revenue
NI#39	Capital: Armfield Slip - Viewing Platform	\$30,000	\$2,000	0.003%

CARRIED

Cr Milli Livingston returned to the Chamber at 8.49 pm.

C24195

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Peter Oliver

That Council confirms that the following project be updated to be funded in the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to consultation:

ID	Description	Expenditure	Rate Revenue
NI#31	Road Closure Funding - Community Events (Strathalbyn Christmas Pageant, Goolwa Christmas Pageant, Goolwa NYE Fireworks, ANZAC Day Ceremonies)	\$30,000	0.05%

CARRIED

C24196

Moved Cr Peter Oliver seconded Cr Milli Livingston

That Council confirms that the following project be updated to be funded in the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 prior to consultation:

ID	Description	Expenditure	Rate Revenue
NI#30	Lifeguard Services - Goolwa Beach	\$28,000	0.05%

The outcome being TIED, the Presiding Member exercised his casting vote FOR the motion and declared the motion **CARRIED**

C24197

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Sue Miller

That Council:

1. **authorise Administration to the make changes as above and changes of a minor technical, editorial or formatting nature to the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25.**
2. **subject to the changes being made above, commence public consultation on the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 and the updated Long Term Financial Plan, in accordance with the Community Engagement Plan, as contained in this meeting agenda at Attachment 4 to this report.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Confidential Items

Nil

6. Closure

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 9.04 pm

MINUTES CONFIRMED.....DATE.....

Mayor Keith Parkes