



**MINUTES OF THE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
22 APRIL 2026**

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF SOUTHERN DOWNS
REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD ON 22 APRIL 2026 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL, 61 MARSH STREET, STANTHORPE
AT 9:00AM**

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2. PRAYERS & CONDOLENCES

Rev David Tidey from the Baptist Church Offered a prayer for the meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Present: Crs Hamilton (Chair), Bartley, Deane, Harslett, McDonald, Pidgeon, Richters and Wantling

Apology: Cr Windle

Officers: Rachel Brophy (Chief Executive Officer), Dean Frost (General Manager Corporate Services), Nick Wellwood (General Manager Infrastructure, Assets & Projects), Dyan Currie (Acting General Manager Communities, Planning and Environmental Services), Graham Sweetlove (Manager Water and Wastewater) and Marion Seymour (Minute Secretary)

4. READING AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Ordinary Council Meeting - 25 March 2026

Resolution

Moved Cr C McDonald

Seconded Cr C Pidgeon

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2026 be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

5. ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS

5.1 Actions from Council Meeting 25 March 2026

Resolution

Moved Cr S Deane

Seconded Cr M Harslett

THAT Council receive the report.

Carried Unanimously

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

7. MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9. READING AND CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Correspondence

Resolution

Moved Mayor M Hamilton Seconded Cr C McDonald

THAT the report of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to Correspondence be received.

Carried Unanimously

10. RECEPTION AND READING OF PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

11. PORTFOLIO REPORTS

11.1 Portfolio Report - Mayor Hamilton - Prosperous Communities

Resolution

Moved Mayor M Hamilton Seconded Cr C Pidgeon

THAT Council's Prosperous Communities Portfolio Report be received.

Carried Unanimously

11.2 Portfolio Report - Cr Harslett - Inspired Communities

Resolution

Moved Cr M Harslett Seconded Cr S Deane

THAT Council's Inspired Communities Portfolio Report be received.

Carried Unanimously

12. EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 Chief Executive Officer - Status Report

Resolution

Moved Cr M Harslett

Seconded Cr R Bartley

THAT Council note the Chief Executive Officer's Status Report.

Carried Unanimously

12.2 Local Resilience Action Plan

Resolution

Moved Cr C Pidgeon

Seconded Cr M Harslett

THAT Council endorse the amended Southern Downs Local Resilience Action Plan ("LRAP"), which includes the following projects:

- Southern Downs Multi-Purpose Community & Emergency Coordination Centre (Dual-Use Facility)
- SDRC Stanthorpe Depot Relocation Project
- Community Resilience and Recovery Coordinator Project
- SDRC Flood Signage Renewal Project
- Causeway Betterment Projects
- Variable Message Board Establishment Project
- Alternate Community Emergency Messaging
- Evacuation Centre Renewal Project - Design
- Evacuation Centre Renewal Project - WIRAC
- Warwick Airstrip Pavement Upgrade Project
- Stanthorpe Airstrip Pavement Upgrade Project
- Warwick and Stanthorpe Airstrip Water Access Upgrade Project
- Drone Capability Project
- Stanthorpe Joint SES/RFS Facility Upgrade Project
- Carnarvon Bridge Betterment Project
- Warwick Reservoir Upgrade
- Raising of Dwelling houses in the Flood hazard overlay
- Flood-resilient upgrade to Community Housing
- Enviromon Replacement
- OO Madsen Bridge Betterment Project
- Warwick RFS Facility Upgrade Project
- Warwick Hospital Helipad Upgrade Project

Carried Unanimously

13. CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 Financial Services - Financial Report as at 31 March 2026

Resolution

Moved Cr M Harslett

Seconded Cr C Pidgeon

THAT Council receive and note the Financial Performance Report as at 31 March 2026.

Carried Unanimously

13.2 Operational Plan 2025/26 - Third Quarter Update

Resolution

Moved Cr S Deane

Seconded Cr M Harslett

THAT Council receive and note the third quarter update of the 2025/2026 Operational Plan.

Carried Unanimously

13.3 Minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting held 23 March 2026

Resolution

Moved Cr J Richters

Seconded Cr S Deane

THAT Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held 23 March 2026.

Carried Unanimously

13.4 Local Government Boundary Realignment - Goondiwindi Regional Council - Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 on SP332758 - Rabbit Fence Road KARARA

Resolution

Moved Cr R Bartley

Seconded Cr J Richters

THAT Council:

1. Supports the request to refer the Local Government Boundary realignment to the Local Government Change Commission; and
2. Supports the request from Goondiwindi Regional Council, in regard to Lot 14 on B34379 and Lot 15 SP 332758, being wholly incorporated into Goondiwindi Regional Council's local government area.

Carried Unanimously

13.5 Renewal of Tenure - Expiry up to 31 December 2026

Resolution

Moved Cr M Harslett

Seconded Cr J Richters

THAT Council:

1. Apply the exception in section 236 (1)(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to the disposal of the interest in the land identified in Attachment 1; and
2. Approve the renewal of the tenure agreements in Attachment 1 in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012* whilst adhering to the Council Lease Policy, the Land Title Practice Manual and *Land Act 1994*; and
3. Grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer and delegated officer to negotiate and complete any documents and dealings necessary to implement Council's decision to renew the tenure arrangements in Attachment 1.

Carried Unanimously

14. INFRASTRUCTURE, ASSETS AND PROJECTS REPORTS

14.1 Wallangarra Rural Water Supply Area Adjustments

Resolution

Moved Cr J Richters

Seconded Cr C McDonald

THAT Council:

1. Approve the inclusion of Lot 185 on BNT1725 in the Rural Water Supply Area.
2. Approve in principle the lots shown in Figure 3 in the Rural Water Supply Area.
3. Delegate approval to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to amend the Rural Water Supply Area to incorporate these lots as they connect to the water supply.

Carried Unanimously

14.2 26_035-Sewer Main Inspection and Relining

Resolution

Moved Cr C Pidgeon

Seconded Cr M Harslett

THAT Council:

1. Award the contract to Underground Experts for the value of \$2,537,991.18 ex GST over 2 Financial Years.
2. Allocate funding of \$1,700,000 in the 2026/27 Financial Year to be endorsed in the future budget.
3. In accordance with Section 224 of the Local Government Regulations 2012, enter into a contract with with Underground Experts for the CCTV inspection and relining of sewer mains in Warwick and Stanthorpe.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into any variations to the contract terms as deemed necessary for the duration of the contract.

Carried Unanimously

15. COMMUNITIES, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

15.1 Citizen of the Year Policy Amendments

Resolution

Moved Cr M Harslett

Seconded Cr J Richters

THAT Council resolves to endorse proposed amendments to Southern Downs Citizen of the Year Awards Policy PL-SD041.

Carried Unanimously

15.2 Southern Downs Youth Council Meeting - 26 February 2026

Resolution

Moved Cr M Harslett

Seconded Cr C McDonald

THAT Council receive and note the minutes from the Southern Downs Youth Council Induction Day on 26 February 2026.

Carried Unanimously

16. REPORTS OF DEPUTATION OR CONFERENCE & REPORTS FROM DELEGATES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL TO OTHER BODIES

Nil

17. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 254J(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public and move 'into Committee' to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

Recommendation

THAT the meeting be closed to the public and move into committee to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with Section 254J(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following, as indicated:

17.1 Appointment of Audit and Risk Management Committee Chairperson

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(i) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.

Meeting In Camera

Resolution

Moved Cr J Richters

Seconded Cr C Pidgeon

THAT the meeting move into closed session.

Carried Unanimously

The Meeting moved into closed session at 10:05am.

Meeting Out Of Camera

Resolved

THAT the meeting resume in open session at 10:10am.

17.1 Appointment of Audit and Risk Management Committee Chairperson

Resolution

Moved Cr J Richters

Seconded Cr C McDonald

THAT Council appoint Ms Melissa Jacobs as Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Carried Unanimously

18. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:12am.