



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Tuesday, 17 February 2026**

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**MINUTES OF BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MARKET STREET BALRANALD
ON TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 4PM**

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 5pm

2 PRAYER & ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, give us the grace to faithfully fulfil the duties of our office.

Shed the light of your wisdom and counsel upon us so that, strengthened by these gifts, we will, in the administration of the affairs of the council, always do what is right and just.

We ask that our deliberations will be both fruitful and wise.

Amen

Acknowledgement of Country

We pay our respect to the Traditional Custodians of the Lands where we hold this meeting to Elders past, present and emerging.

PRESENT:

Mayor Louie Zaffina, Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott, Cr Iain Lindsay-Field, Cr Alison Linnett, Cr Tracy O'Halloran, Cr Phillip Pippin, Cr German Ugarte

IN ATTENDANCE:

Terry Dodds (CEO), David McKinley (Director of Infrastructure & Planning Services), Edna Mendes (Chief Financial Officer), Hodi Beauliv (Executive Manager - Community & Governance), and Carol Holmes (Senior Executive Assistant)

3 APOLOGIES**RESOLUTION 2026/4**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

That apologies from Cr Leigh Byron be received and accepted.

CARRIED

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4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**4.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025**

RESOLUTION 2026/5

Moved: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

Seconded: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 as a true and accurate recording of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/6

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday, 29 January 2026 as a true and accurate recording of that meeting.

CARRIED

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were no Disclosures of Interest submitted to this meeting.

6 MAYORAL/COUNCILLOR REPORT**6.1 MAYORAL REPORT - RSN ROUNDTABLE - DRY CONDITIONS OF FAR SOUTHWESTERN NSW**

RESOLUTION 2026/7

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

CARRIED

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7 COMMITTEE REPORTS**7.1 EUSTON PROGRESSIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2025**

RESOLUTION 2026/8

Moved: Cr Alison Linnett

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That Council;

1. **Note the Minutes of the Euston Progressive Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday, 22 December 2025.**
2. **Source quotes for town entry signs**
3. **Investigates projecting images onto the water towers in Euston.**

CARRIED**7.2 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ACCESS INCLUSION & WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2026**

RESOLUTION 2026/9

Moved: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

Seconded: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

That Council

1. **Notes the Minutes of the Strengthening Community Access Inclusion & Wellbeing Advisory Committee (SCAIWAC) meeting held on Thursday, 22 January 2026;**
2. **Approve SCAIWAC to design and price a canvas sign, a corflute sign and a photo square sign that includes the SCAIWAC logo, NSW State Government logo and Shire logo to the value of \$500; and**
3. **Approve SCAIWAC to support engagement with White Ribbon and extended training dealing with domestic violence in the community for community engagement/participation**

.CARRIED

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8 NOTICE OF MOTION - Nil

9 NOTICE OF RESCISSION - Nil

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORTS (INCORPORATING ALL STAFF REPORTS)

PART A – ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

10.1 OPERATIONAL REVIEW AND LEASING STRATEGY - BALRANALD CARAVAN PARK

RESOLUTION 2026/10

Moved: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

Seconded: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

That Council:

1. Seek quotations from suitably qualified specialist consultants to undertake:
 - a) An operational and financial review of the Balranald Shire Council Caravan Park; and
 - b) The development of a commercial leasing and Expression of Interest (EOI) strategy.
2. Receive a further report once quotations are received, which will include timeframes and funding sources, noting that any future leasing of the caravan park will be subject to Council's further consideration.

CARRIED

10.2 SOUTHERN CROSS MUSEUM - OPTIONS

RESOLUTION 2026/11

Moved: Cr Alison Linnett

Seconded: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

That Council:

1. Advocates to Heritage NSW to seek funding pathways, or advice, to enable the council to undertake a *Strategic Heritage Planning and Pre-Feasibility Study* for the Southern Cross Museum, located at 118 Market Street, Balranald. (Grant-ready.)
2. Confirms that the purpose of the proposed project is to:
 - o Assess options to protect and enhance the heritage significance of the Southern Cross Museum artifacts/displays/visitation
 - o Address long-term sustainability, accessibility, and operational risks associated with the existing volunteer-led operating model and location
 - o Establish a robust evidence base to inform any future conservation, operational models, redevelopment, or relocation decisions.
3. Once information is obtained, the Council receive a further report.

CARRIED

10.3 BREASTSCREEN MOBILE VAN - USE OF THEATRE ROYAL CARPARK**RESOLUTION 2026/12**

Moved: Cr Phillip Pippin

Seconded: Cr Alison Linnett

That Council approve the request from Western Local Health District BreastScreen NSW Mobile Van of parking the BreastScreen Mobile Van in the Theatre Royal Car Park, Friday, 10 April 2026, until Monday, 20 April 2026.

CARRIED

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS AND ENTER INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RESOLUTION 2026/13

Moved: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

Seconded: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

A motion was moved that Council move into Committee of the Whole to allow discussion of the following report.

CARRIED

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION 2026/14

Moved: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

Seconded: Cr Alison Linnett

A motion was moved that Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED

10.4 MONTHLY MAYORAL COLUMNS**RESOLUTION 2026/15**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

That Council;

1. Receive and note the quotes supplied; and
2. Approve the Mayoral Columns in each paper as follows;
 - The Guardian – half page \$450 +GST per month,
 - The Sentinel – quarter page (colour) \$312 plus GST per month, and
 - The Grazier – quarter page \$300 plus GST per month.

CARRIED

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10.5 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ALGWA) CONFERENCE**RESOLUTION 2026/16**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

That Council approve Cr Linnett's and Cr O'Halloran's attendance at the ALGWA Conference being held in Blacktown on Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 March 2026.

CARRIED

10.6 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025**RESOLUTION 2026/17**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Alison Linnett

That:

- 1. Council receive the Quarterly Budget Review statement for the quarter ending 31 December 2025 and approves the proposed alterations to the Budget and endorses that the projected financial position of the Balranald Shire Council for the year ending 30 June 2026 is considered to be satisfactory; and**
- 2. That the Quarterly Budget Review statement be forwarded to the Office of Local Government, no later than 28 February 2025.**

CARRIED

10.7 DONATION REQUEST - LITTLE BUNYIPS PLAYGROUP**RESOLUTION 2026/18**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

That Council waive the rent for the little Bunyips playgroup building to the amount of \$1,040 for the 2025-26 financial year.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That Council waive the rent for the little Bunyips Playgroup bulding to the amount of \$500 for the 2025-26 financial year

.CARRIED

Cr Tracy O'Halloran, Cr Alison Linnett and Cr Iain Lindsay-Field voted against this amendment.

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10.8 BALRANALD HOUSING STRATEGY - UPDATE**RESOLUTION 2026/19**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

That Council:

1. Notes the current status of the Draft Balranald Housing Strategy as pre-exhibition.
2. Endorses the proposed parallel approach to:
 - (a) Publicly exhibit the Draft Housing Strategy for a minimum of 28 days; and
 - (b) Concurrently, undertake targeted investigations to identify and progress shovel-ready housing projects.
3. Endorses proceeding with procurement in February 2026, either by variation to an existing consultant or via a rapid RFQ, to enable project mobilisation in March 2026.
4. Notes Councillors' in-principle willingness to reserve approximately one-third to one-half of the SW Renewable Energy grant funding to co-fund investigations and early works for shovel-ready housing projects, subject to final Council consideration of individual business cases.

CARRIED

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10.9 DRAFT INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**RESOLUTION 2026/20**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That Council:

1. Place the draft IWCMS 2026 on public exhibition for a period of twenty-eight (28) days for comment prior to it being submitted to the April 2026 Council meeting for further consideration.

Balranald Water Treatment Plant		Opt1	Opt2	Opt3
		Augment 0.7MI/d	New 1.8MI/d	New 2.2MI/d
Year 1	Booster Pumps at Reservoir	\$0.59M	\$0.59M	\$0.59
Year 2	Duplicate Potable Reservoir	\$2.7M	\$2.7M	
Year 3	Augment WTP	\$4.3M	\$7.2M	\$9.0M
Year 3	Raw water Pump Station	\$2.0M (\$3.8)	\$2.0M (\$3.8)	\$2.0M
Total		\$9.59M	\$12.49M	\$11.59M

Euston WTP		Opt1
		Augment 0.4MI/d
Year 1	Booster Pumps at Reservoir	\$0.32M
Year 1	Duplicate Potable Reservoir	\$1.9M
Year 8	Augment WTP to 0.8ML/day	\$3.7M
Total		\$5.92M

Balranald Sewerage Augmentation \$2.2M

Augmentation with additional ponds \$2.2M - will require reclassification to scheduled premises (EPA Licence)

Euston Sewerage Augmentation \$3.7M

Augmentation with additional ponds \$3.7M - will require reclassification to scheduled premises (EPA Licence)

CARRIED

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10.10 2025 - 2035 WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**RESOLUTION 2026/21**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That Council

- 1. Approves the 2025-2035 WMS; and**
- 2. Includes 13 key Priority Items/Recommendations from the 2025-2035 WMS for consideration in the future Council Delivery & Operational Plans.**

CARRIED

PART B – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS****11.1 MONTHLY INVESTMENTS REPORT****RESOLUTION 2026/22**

Moved: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

That Council note the information provided in this report.

CARRIED

11.2 REPORT OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION**RESOLUTION 2026/23**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

That Council notes the financial information contained in this report for the period ending, 31 January 2026.

CARRIED

11.3 OUTSTANDING RATES AND USAGE CHARGES AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026**RESOLUTION 2026/24**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Tracy O'Halloran

That Council notes the information contained within this report.

CARRIED

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11.4 OUTSTANDING DEBTORS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026**RESOLUTION 2026/25**

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

That Council note the report.

CARRIED

11.5 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ORDER (2) - ITEM 7**RESOLUTION 2026/26**

Moved: Cr German Ugarte

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

1. That Council note that, while all resolutions over the course of the PIO (2) impacting Council's LTFP, have already been previously identified through the QBR processes since the commencement of the PIO in September 2024, the listing of budget changes identified in this report will be separately made publicly available in compliance with PIO (2), Item 7.
2. That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.6 COUNCIL'S 2025-2029 DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT**RESOLUTION 2026/27**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

Seconded: Cr Alison Linnett

That Council receive and note the report on the implementation of the 2025-2029 Delivery Program.

CARRIED

11.7 GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE**RESOLUTION 2026/28**

Moved: Cr German Ugarte

Seconded: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

That Council notes the report.

CARRIED

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11.8 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT**RESOLUTION 2026/29**

Moved: Cr Alison Linnett

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

That Council notes the report.**CARRIED**

11.9 INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026**RESOLUTION 2026/30**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

Seconded: Cr German Ugarte

That Council notes the report.**CARRIED**

11.10 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**RESOLUTION 2026/31**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

Seconded: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

That Council notes the report.**CARRIED**

11.11 MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE MAYOR, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE EXECUTIVE TEAM**RESOLUTION 2026/32**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

Seconded: Cr Alison Linnett

That Council notes the report.**CARRIED**

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11.12 CIRCULARS FROM THE OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLUTION 2026/33

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That Council notes the report.

CARRIED

11.13 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLUTION 2026/34

Moved: Deputy Mayor Dwaine Scott

Seconded: Cr Phillip Pippin

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED

12 NOTICE OF MOTION / QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

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13 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLUTION 2026/35

Moved: Cr Alison Linnett
Seconded: Cr German Ugarte

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:

13.1 Fire Damaged Building - 92 Market Street Balranald

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

13.2 Mayoral Minute - Chief Executive Officer's 2025/2026 Performance Agreement

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).

13.3 Sturt Highway Morris Road intersection - Sunraysia Petroleum

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026/36

Moved: Cr Iain Lindsay-Field
Seconded: Cr Alison Linnett

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council and the CEO read out the resolutions of the Closed Committee as follows;

13.1 Fire Damaged Building - 92 Market Street Balranald

That Council:

1. Endorse the author's request contained in this report for responding to the fire-damaged building at 92 Market Street, Balranald, as the guiding framework for future actions in relation to this matter.
2. Note that Council's primary obligations are limited to abating any immediate public safety risk and protecting Council-owned assets from ongoing damage.
3. Note that the secondary consideration is abating the psychological negativity caused when people see a lack of progress to remediate the site.
4. Confirm that Council will not undertake remediation or clean-up works on privately owned land where the costs are unlikely to be recovered, except to the minimum extent required to address lawful and immediate public safety risks if required.

13.2 Mayoral Minute - Chief Executive Officer's 2025/2026 Performance Agreement

Initial



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That

1. The Mayoral Minute on the Chief Executive Officer's 2025/2026 Performance Agreement be received and noted.
2. That the 2025/2026 Chief Executive Officer's (General Manager's) Performance Agreement, as attached, be adopted.

13.3 Sturt Highway Morris Road intersection - Sunraysia Petroleum

That Council:

1. Endorse the preparation and submission of relevant grant funding applications to support the local road component of required upgrade works at the Morris Road and Sturt Highway intersection, Euston.

(a) Note that potential grant programs may align with regional economic development, freight productivity and road safety improvement objectives.

- (i) Resolve that, should grant funding be unsuccessful, Council will assess a potential contribution toward the local road component during 2026/27 budget deliberations, subject to detailed costings and confirmation of demonstrated public benefit.

In Favour: Crs Louie Zaffina, Dwaine Scott, Iain Lindsay-Field, Alison Linnett, Tracy O'Halloran, Phillip Pippin and German Ugarte

Against: Nil

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 6.42pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 17 March 2026.


MAYOR

1.2