

COONAMBLE
SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

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

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GULARGAMBONE CENTRAL SCHOOL, YALCOGRIN STREET,
GULARGAMBONE
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026 AT 9.30 AM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager), Bruce Quarmby (Director Corporate Services), Kerrie Murphy (Director Infrastructure), Tony Payne (Director Sustainable Communities & Planning), Jenni Maundrell (Executive Manager Corporate Governance), Marina Colwell (Executive Support Officer), Rebecca Payne (Executive Assistant)

1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9.33am, 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

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION 2026/10

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That the apology from Cr Phillipa Goldsmith be noted and approved.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2026/11

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 11 February 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, Ahmad Karanouh and Paul Wheelhouse

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

6 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

RESOLUTION 2026/12

Moved: Mayor Daniel Keady

Seconded: Cr Paul Fisher

That the Mayoral Minute for March 2026 be noted.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

8 SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

8.1 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2026/13

Moved: Cr Karen Churchill

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

That Council note the Council resolutions report and status.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

8.2 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLUTION 2026/14

Moved: Deputy Mayor Steven Butler

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the Correspondence Report for March 2026 be received and noted.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 CORPORATE SERVICES - PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 2026/15

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

- 1. The information contained within the Corporate Services Progress Report.**
- 2. The investments from 1 February 2026 to 28 February 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.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.2 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER COUNCIL'S DONATIONS POLICY

It was requested that Council communicate to the community more when donations are open.

RESOLUTION 2026/16

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council:

- 1. Notes the information in this report.**
- 2. Provide financial assistance in accordance with the recommendations from the Donations Committee as follows:**

(a) Coonamble Rotary Club	\$ 2,000.00
(b) Coonamble Children Services	\$ 5,000.00

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.3 ADOPTION OF LOCAL PREFERENCE PURCHASING POLICY**RESOLUTION 2026/17**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That Council adopts the revised Local Preference Purchasing Policy.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.4 ADOPTION OF PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE POLICY AND SHORT TERM ROAD LEASE POLICY**RESOLUTION 2026/18**

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council Adopts:

- 1. The Permanent Road Closure of Council Public Roads Policy, without change.**
- 2. The Short-Term Lease of Unused Council Public Roads Policy, without change.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.5 BUSINESS ACTIVATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

RESOLUTION 2026/19

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That:

- 1. Council places the Draft Business Activation Policy and Draft Business Activation Procedure on public exhibition for 42 days.**
- 2. A further report be presented to Council if there are any substantial changes to the Draft Business Activation Policy.**
- 3. A further report be presented to Council if there are any substantial changes to the Draft Business Activation Procedure.**
- 4. If no substantial changes arise from the public exhibition, the Business Activation Policy and Business Activation Procedure be adopted and published on Council's website.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

At 10:03 am, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler left the meeting.

At 10:04 am, Deputy Mayor Steven Butler returned to the meeting.

9.6 COONAMBLE SHIRE DRAFT URBAN HOUSING STRATEGY

Director Sustainable Communities and Planning confirmed during the meeting that as the final draft version of the Strategy was received after the report was finalised, there was a small error in the conclusion of the report. There are 9 strategic directions not 10.

RESOLUTION 2026/20

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher
Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

- 1. That the Coonamble Shire Draft Urban Housing Strategy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 2. Following the exhibition period a report be presented to Council on the submissions received.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.7 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE REPORT

Director Sustainable Communities and Planning to work with the Director Finance on updating the Waste income for the next Waste Management Services Update.

RESOLUTION 2026/21

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh
Seconded: Cr Karen Churchill

That Council notes the report on the activities of the Sustainability Communities and Planning Directorate.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

The Council Meeting paused for a short recess at 10:34.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.8 WASTE UPDATE - FOGO

RESOLUTION 2026/22

Moved: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Council:

1. Notes and receive the report.
2. That Council apply for a custom exemption from the FOGO mandates for both residential and commercial services, on the basis that population density and waste volumes do not support a financially viable or beneficial service for the community.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.9 PROPOSED LANDFILL CELL

RESOLUTION 2026/23

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council:

1. Notes the information contained in this report regarding the construction of a new landfill cell at the Coonamble Waste Facility; and
2. Endorse proceeding with detailed design, regulatory approvals, and construction of the new landfill cell, subject to budget availability and compliance with EPA requirements.
3. Report to Council following engagement of the preferred contractor with cost of the construction of new landfill cell and how it will be funded.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.10 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS**RESOLUTION 2026/24**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Margaret Garnsey

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

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

At 11:25 am, Cr Karen Churchill left the meeting.

At 11:28 am, Cr Karen Churchill returned to the meeting.

9.11 BOIL WATER ALERT**RESOLUTION 2026/25**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That the report regarding the recent Boil Water Alert issued for the Coonamble town water supply on 29 January 2026 be received and noted.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.12 TOORAWEEAH ROAD UPGRADE - MONTHLY STATUS UPDATE**RESOLUTION 2026/26**

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council note the report and the progress on the Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Project.

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.13 MT MAGOMETON QUARRY-INDEPENDENT OPERATIONAL, FINANCIAL & STRATEGIC REVIEW**RESOLUTION 2026/27**

Moved: Cr Paul Fisher

Seconded: Cr Paul Wheelhouse

That Council:

- 1. Note the findings of the Independent Operational, Financial & Strategic Review.**
- 2. Transition away from reliance on the existing fixed crushing plant.**
- 3. Adopt mobile crushing as the dominant production strategy.**
- 4. Formalise in the next 12 months a hybrid operating model incorporating contractor-operated mobile crushing.**
- 5. Cease discretionary capital investment in the existing fixed crushing plant beyond safe-operation requirements.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

9.14 COONAMBLE ARTESIAN BORE BATHS (COONAMBLE ARTESIAN AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE)**RESOLUTION 2026/28**

Moved: Cr Margaret Garnsey

Seconded: Cr Ahmad Karanouh

That Council:

- 1. Note the current Water Access Licence position and allocation analysis.**
- 2. Endorse progression of detailed hydraulic modelling and design for the rising water main to supply the Truck Wash, Cattle Saleyards and standpipe, noting that the rising main will utilise artesian water from the Bore Bath bore to reduce reliance on potable town supply and strengthen agricultural infrastructure.**
- 3. Authorise the General Manager to extend the engagement of GHD Group Pty Ltd for the detailed hydraulic modelling and design for the rising water main.**
- 4. Note that the General Manager will report back to the April Council meeting regarding the following resolutions from the 10 December 2025 Council meeting (Resolution 2025/298), including advice on Freehold versus Crown Land arrangements and associated land acquisition matters.**
- 5. Note that construction and any Water Access Licence acquisition or extraction limit reassessment will be subject to a further report to Council following confirmation of capital costs and licensing and water purchasing requirements.**

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

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr Phillipa Goldsmith

CARRIED 8/0

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS**10.1 SOLAR FARM**

IT WAS REQUESTED THAT COUNCIL BRING AN UPDATE TO THE APRIL COUNCIL MEETING ON THE SOLAR FARM.

11 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

12 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 11:46.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 15 April 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON