

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council

held at

Council Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 25 September 2023

at 7:00 PM

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The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7:00 pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

The Mayor went on to inform all those in attendance at this meeting, that the meeting is being webcast and that those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements concerning any person, Councillor or employee, and refrain from discussing those matters subject to Closed Council proceedings as indicated in clause 14.1 of the code of meeting practice.

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Her Worship the Mayor Councillor M Statham Councillor A Bryce Councillor C Coleman Councillor D Goodwin Councillor S Lesslie Councillor S McGhie Councillor E Mahony Councillor C O' Connor Councillor S Ring

Also in attendance				
Craig Butler	General Manager			
Ross Gurney	Chief Financial and Information Officer - Finance, Assets and Legal			
David Anderson	Acting Director Infrastructure and Economy			
Matthew Trapp	Executive Manager Water, Wastewater and Waste			
Trinity Newton	Minutes Secretary			

3. Apologies

All being present, there were no apologies.

4. Declaration of Interest

The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

23 -157 RESOLVED

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 28 August 2023 were taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor M Statham

Divisions

FOR: Councillor M Statham, Councillor C Coleman, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S McGhie, Councillor C O'Connor and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Councillor S Lesslie and Councillor E Mahony

6. Commemorations and Announcements

On behalf of Lithgow City Council the Mayor expressed sincere sympathy and condolences to families who had lost loved ones since the last council meeting.

The Mayor acknowledged the passing of Tanya Flynn, Karyn Schram and Mr Williams.

The Mayor acknowledged the work and effort of the Beatlesfest Committee, wishing them luck for the event occurring this weekend.

7. Public Forum

At 7:04 pm members of the public gallery were invited to participate in the Public Forum Session.

Ms. Dannielle Tilley made a statement in relation to Item 10.5.2. on the business paper.

The Mayor thanked Ms Tilley for her statement.

The Chamber applauded the hard work of the Vale Ladies over the last 83 years they have been tirelessly serving the community.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT Item 10.1.1, 10.1.2, 10.1.3 and 10.5.2 be moved to this point in the meeting.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor S Lesslie

CARRIED

10.1.1. GM - 25/09/2023 - Nominations for and Election for the Position of Mayor 2023-2024

23 -158 RESOLVED

THAT Council proceed with the election of the Mayor for the period to September 2024 with an open voting method.

MOVED: Councillor S Lesslie

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

The General Manager took the chair as the Returning Officer for the Mayoral Election.

The Returning Officer called for any further nominations for the position of Mayor.

The Returning Officer announced there were two valid nominations for the Mayoral Election.

Votes for Councillor C Coleman: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor S Ring, Councillor S Lesslie and Councillor E Mahoney

Votes for Councillor M Statham: Councillor M Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor C O'Connor, Councillor S McGhie.

The Returning Officer declared Councillor Maree Statham as Mayor.

The Returning Officer vacated the Chair and Councillor Maree Statham took the Chair as Mayor.

10.1.2. GM - 25/09/2023 - Nominations for and Election for the Position of Deputy Mayor for 2023-2024

23 -159 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the report on the appointment of and procedure for the election of Deputy Mayor.
- 2. Hold an election for the position of Deputy Mayor.
- 3. Use the open voting method voting for the election of a Deputy Mayor.
- 4. Determines that no fee is paid to the Deputy Mayor.

MOVED: Councillor S Lesslie

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

The General Manager took the chair as the Returning Officer for the election of the Deputy Mayor.

The Returning Officer called for any further nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

The Returning Officer announced there were two valid nominations for the election of the Deputy Mayor.

Votes for Councillor E Mahony - Councillor C Coleman, Councillor S Ring, Councillor S Lesslie and Councillor E Mahony.

Votes for Councillor D Goodwin: Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor C O'Connor, Councillor S McGhie.

The Returning Officer declared Councillor Darryl Goodwin as Deputy Mayor.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

THAT Mr Heinz Beckers be allowed to speak as part of Public Forum at this point in the meeting.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: {seconder}

CARRIED

Mr Beckers made a statement in relation to Item 10.2.1.1 on the business paper.

The Mayor thanked Mr Beckers for his statement.

10.1.3. GM - 25/09/2023 - Delegations to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

MOTION

THAT

1. To supplement the functions outlined in Section 226 of the New South Wales Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate the following to the **Mayor** of Lithgow City Council:

a. Donations

To approve donations up to the sum of \$250 subject to Council being informed of any such decision, provided that funds are available within the sum voted by Council for donations in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Such donations may only be made to community based, not for profit, groups functioning in the Lithgow Local Government Area.

b. Mayoral Reception

To authorise expenditure for minor civic receptions for visitors up to a maximum of \$500 for any one reception provided that funds are available within the sum voted by Council in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

c. Temporary General Manager

In accordance with Section 351(1)(a) of the Local Government Act, the Mayor be given the authority to appoint a temporary General Manager, either during the absence of the General Manager on leave or otherwise.

d. General Manager – Leave

Authority to approve applications for holidays and leave of absence to the General Manager.

e. General Manager's Performance Review

In conjunction with the Deputy Mayor, the authority to conduct the performance reviews of the General Manager. The outcome of such reviews are to be reported to Council.

 To supplement the functions outlined in Section 231(3) of the New South Wales Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate the following to the **Deputy Mayor** of Lithgow City Council:

a. Function of the Mayor

The Deputy Mayor shall exercise the Delegation of Authority of the Mayor in those cases where the General Manager certifies that the matter is of such an urgent nature that it will not wait until the return of the Mayor.

b. General Manager's Performance Review

In the absence of and with authorisation from the Mayor, chair a meeting of all Councillors convened to conduct the performance reviews of the General Manager. The outcome of such reviews are to be reported to Council.

3. These delegations shall remain in force unless otherwise revoked or amended in whole or in part, as Council may from time to time determine.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor S McGhie

AMENDMENT

THAT

1. To supplement the functions outlined in Section 226 of the New South Wales Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate the following to the Mayor of Lithgow City Council:

a. Donations

To approve donations up to the sum of \$250 subject to Council being informed of any such decision, provided that funds are available within the sum voted by Council for donations in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Such donations may only be made to community based, not for profit, groups functioning in the Lithgow Local Government Area.

b. Mayoral Reception

To authorise expenditure for minor civic receptions for visitors up to a maximum of \$500 for any one reception provided that funds are available within the sum voted by Council in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

c. Temporary General Manager

In accordance with Section 351(1)(a) of the Local Government Act, the Mayor be given the authority to appoint a temporary General Manager, either during the absence of the General Manager on leave or otherwise.

d. General Manager – Leave

Authority to approve applications for holidays and leave of absence to the General Manager.

e. General Manager's Performance Review

That the entire Council have the authority to conduct the performance reviews of the General Manager. The outcome of such reviews are to be reported to Council.

2. To supplement the functions outlined in Section 231(3) of the New South Wales Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate the following to the Deputy Mayor of Lithgow City Council:

a. Function of the Mayor

The Deputy Mayor shall exercise the Delegation of Authority of the Mayor in those cases where the General Manager certifies that the matter is of such an urgent nature that it will not wait until the return of the Mayor.

b. General Manager's Performance Review

In the absence of and with authorisation from the Mayor, chair a meeting of all Councillors convened to conduct the performance reviews of the General Manager. The outcome of such reviews are to be reported to Council.

3. These delegations shall remain in force unless otherwise revoked or amended in whole or in part, as Council may from time to time determine.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

The Amendment was PUT and became the MOTION.

23 -160 RESOLVED

THAT

1. To supplement the functions outlined in Section 226 of the New South Wales Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate the following to the Mayor of Lithgow City Council:

a. Donations

To approve donations up to the sum of \$250 subject to Council being informed of any such decision, provided that funds are available within the sum voted by Council for donations in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Such donations may only be made to community based, not for profit, groups functioning in the Lithgow Local Government Area.

b. Mayoral Reception

To authorise expenditure for minor civic receptions for visitors up to a maximum of \$500 for any one reception provided that funds are available within the sum voted by Council in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

c. Temporary General Manager

In accordance with Section 351(1)(a) of the Local Government Act, the Mayor be given the authority to appoint a temporary General Manager, either during the absence of the General Manager on leave or otherwise.

d. General Manager – Leave

Authority to approve applications for holidays and leave of absence to the General Manager.

e. General Manager's Performance Review

That the entire Council have the authority to conduct the performance reviews of the General Manager. The outcome of such reviews are to be reported to Council.

2. To supplement the functions outlined in Section 231(3) of the New South Wales Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate the following to the Deputy Mayor of Lithgow City Council:

a. Function of the Mayor

The Deputy Mayor shall exercise the Delegation of Authority of the Mayor in those cases where the General Manager certifies that the matter is of such an urgent nature that it will not wait until the return of the Mayor.

b. General Manager's Performance Review

In the absence of and with authorisation from the Mayor, chair a meeting of all Councillors convened to conduct the performance reviews of the General Manager. The outcome of such reviews are to be reported to Council.

3. These delegations shall remain in force unless otherwise revoked or amended in whole or in part, as Council may from time to time determine.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

CARRIED

10.5.2. LATE REPORT - F&G - 25/09/2023 - Vale of Clwydd Hall / Hermitage Hall

Councillor A Bryce left the meeting at 7:38 pm. Councillor A Bryce returned to the meeting at 7:39 pm.

23 -161 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Endorse the proposed 2023/24 hall hire fees for Vale of Clywdd Hall and Hermitage Hall as recommended in this report. Public notice of the proposed fees will be given and the proposed fees be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.
- 2. If in the opinion of the General Manager any submissions received during the public exhibition period for the Vale of Clwydd hall fees and Hermitage Hall fees warrant consideration by Council, the matter be returned to Council with details of relevant submissions and any proposed recommendations in respect of the matter.
- 3. In the event the Vale Ladies declining to renew their lease the Administration negotiates a fair price for the purchase of all fixtures and furnishings owned by the Vale ladies. The funds for said purchase to be paid to the charity nominated by the Vale Ladies, the Lithgow Hospital's Palliative Care Unit.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

Councillor C Coleman called a Point of Order on the basis that Councillor S Ring had not had a chance to give a right of reply.

The Mayor upheld the Point of Order and gave Councillor S Ring gave his right of reply.

8. Mayoral Minutes

There were no Mayoral Minutes tabled.

9. Notices of Motion

9.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - 25/09/2023 - Councillor S Lesslie - Modification to the Order of Business on Council's Agenda

Report by Councillor Stephen Lesslie

MOTION

THAT

- The Order of Business on the Council's agenda be modified to include a new item. "Requests for Reports and Memorandums", to be inserted immediately before Business of Great Urgency.
- 2. Should in the General Manager's opinion a Councillors request for such a Memorandum or Report be excessive or unlawful then all Councillors are to be notified as soon as practicable but in any event at least three days before the close of business for the next Council meeting.
- 3. Such a request can be answered at the meeting in which case both the request and answer are to be minuted.

MOVED: Councillor S Lesslie

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

LOST

10. Staff Reports

10.1. General Manager's Reports

10.1.1. GM - 25/09/2023 - Nominations for and Election for the Position of Mayor 2023-2024

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

10.1.2. GM - 25/09/2023 - Nominations for and Election for the Position of Deputy Mayor for 2023-2024

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

10.1.3. GM - 25/09/2023 - Delegations to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

10.2. People and Place Reports

10.2.1. Building and Development

10.2.1.1. P&P - 25/09/2023 - DA245/13 (MOD DA052/22) – Approved Subdivision of 1 Lot into 61, Modification of Lot Configuration & No. of Allotments, Services & Road Construction, Lot 72 DP1282868, 17G Great Western Highway, Bowenfels

MOTION

THAT Council refer Item 10.2.1.1 to the next information session to provide a detailed briefing on both the modification and original development application.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

Councillor D Goodwin foreshadowed an Amendment if the Motion doesn't succeed.

Councillor Lesslie called a Point of Order stating that there is a motion and if Councillor D Goodwin wants to move an amendment than he should do so.

The Mayor over ruled the Point of Order.

The Motion was PUT and LOST.

LOST

A DIVISION was called by Councillor M Statham.

Divisions

FOR: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor S Lesslie, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Councillor M Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S McGhie and Councillor C O'Connor

The Mayor proposed to put the motion from the business paper.

Councillor C Coleman called a Point of Order as the motion had not been seconded.

Prior to the Mayor being able to deal with the first Point of Order, Councillor S Ring called another Point of Order. He stated that there was a Motion that was Put and a decision was made, therefore the matter had been dealt with.

Councillor A Bryce called a Point of Order asking councillors to lower their voices.

Councillor A Bryce called another Point of Order, before the earlier Point of Order was dealt with, seeking clarification on the status of the item.

The Mayor confirmed the motion was unsuccessful.

The General Manager gave advice on the Code of Meeting Practice in relation to foreshadowed motions.

The Foreshadowed Motion was PUT.

23 -162 RESOLVED

THAT

- 1. Development application MODDA052/22 relating to DA245/13 be APPROVED subject to conditions of consent as detailed in the attached planning assessment report.
- 2. A DIVISION be called in accordance with the requirements of Section 375A(3) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

MOVED: Councillor D Goodwin

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

A **DIVISION** be called in accordance with the requirements of Section 375A(3) of the Local Government Act, 1993

Divisions

FOR: Councillor M Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S McGhie and Councillor C O'Connor

AGAINST: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor S Lesslie, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor S Ring

10.2.2. People and Place General Reports

10.2.2.1. P&P - 25/09/2023 - Six Month Progress Report (Jan - June)

MOTION

THAT Council Receive and endorse the January – June 2022 Progress Report for the combined 2022-2026 Delivery Program and 2022/23 Operational Plan.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

AMENDMENT

THAT:

- 1. Council receive and endorse the January June 2022 Progress Report for the combined 2022-2026 Delivery Program and 2022/23 Operational Plan.
- 2. The Administration bring back a report to Council on the implementation of the current staffing strategy, identifying vacant positions and what strategies are in place to fill critical vacancies.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor C Coleman

LOST

The Amendment was PUT and LOST

A **DIVISION** was called by Councillor S Ring

Divisions

FOR: Councillor C Coleman, Councillor S Lesslie, Councillor E Mahony and Councillor S Ring

AGAINST: Councillor M Statham, Councillor A Bryce, Councillor D Goodwin, Councillor S McGhie and Councillor C O'Connor

The Original Motion was PUT.

23 -163 RESOLVED

THAT Council Receive and endorse the January – June 2022 Progress Report for the combined 2022-2026 Delivery Program and 2022/23 Operational Plan.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

10.3. Infrastructure Services and Economy Reports

10.3.1. I&E - 25/09/2023 - Replacement of Grader

23 -164 RESOLVED

THAT Council approve the purchase of the Komatsu GD 655-7 grader from Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd for a cost of \$469,600, excluding GST (\$516,560 including GST).

MOVED: Councillor C O'Connor

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

10.3.2. I&E - 25/09/2023 - Acceptance of Road Sealing Tenders - Asphalt and Spray Sealing

23 -165 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Approve the use of Asphalt Laying Services P/L, Bernipave Road Solutions P/L and Downer EDI as a panel for Council to use in the sealing of roads in asphalt until 30 June 2024.
- 2. Approve the use of All Pavement Road Solutions and Fulton Hogan Industries as a panel for Council to use in the sealing of roads in spray seal until 30 June 2024.
- 3. Delegate authority to the General Manager to execute all necessary contract documentation.

MOVED: Councillor C O'Connor

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

10.4. Water, Wastewater and Waste Reports

10.4.1. WWW - 25/09/2023 - Waste Operational Budget Variation - Hook-Lift Truck and Operator

23 -166 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Endorse a variation to the Waste operational and capital budgets and the calling of tenders to purchase a hook-lift truck (total estimated cost of approximately \$402,000 truck \$360,000, operating costs \$42,000).
- 2. Endorse the addition of a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) waste services staff member at an estimated cost of \$100,000 p.a. (including on-costs), subsequent to this service being brought in-house.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

10.5. Finance and Assets Reports

10.5.1. F&G - 25/09/23 - Investment Report August 2023

23 -167 RESOLVED

THAT:

- 1. Investments of \$42,250,000 and cash of \$2,265,618 for the period ending 31 August 2023 be noted.
- 2. The enclosed certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.
- 3. The commentary on cashflow and funding requirements for restricted reserves be noted.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

10.5.2. LATE REPORT - F&G - 25/09/2023 - Vale of Clwydd Hall / Hermitage Hall

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

10.5.3. LATE REPORT - F&G - 25/09/2023 - Appointment of Independent ARIC Member & Chair

Councillor D Goodwin returned to the meeting at 8:47 pm.

23 -168 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Appoint Deborah Goodyer as an independent voting member of the Lithgow Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for a four-year term, in accordance with the ARIC Terms of Reference.
- 2. Appoint current independent member Ron Gillard as ARIC Chair, with the appointment to be reviewed by the Council elected in September 2024.

3. put a Motion to the LGNSW Annual Conference to retain voting Councillor members on the ARIC.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED:

11. Council Committee Reports

11.1. 25/09/2023 - IS&E - Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - 7th August 2023

23 -169 RESOLVED

THAT Council note the:

- 1. Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 7 August 2023; and
- 2. Information included in the minutes regarding Great Western Highway maintenance and that the additional information in response to Councillor enquiries be brought back to the Committee.

MOVED: Councillor S McGhie

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

11.2. 25/09/2023 - IS&E - Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 9th August 2023

23 -170 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the minutes of the Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2023; and
- 2. Accepts Nicholas Kenniff and Mark McAuley as the Sports Advisory Committee

representatives from Lithgow District Senior Cricket and Lithgow Table Tennis Club.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

Councillor S Ring left the meeting at 8:48 pm.

11.3. P&P - 25/09/2023 - Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes - 16 August 2023

23 -171 RESOLVED

THAT Council note the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held on 16 August 2023.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor E Mahony

CARRIED

11.4. 25/09/2023 - IS&E - TALC Committee Meeting Minutes - 7th September 2023

23 -172 RESOLVED

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the minutes of the TALC Committee meeting held on 7 September 2023; and
- 2. Reinstate the 5 tonne load limit on McKanes Falls Road, South Bowenfels between Great Western Highway and Jenolan Caves Road to improve safety for road users, and to preserve the structural integrity of the road; and
- 3. Grant permission to conduct the Tour De Cure bicycle event travelling through Lithgow on Monday, 6th of November 2023, subject to permission being granted by TfNSW and NSW Police Road Events; and
- 4. Endorse the 2023 Alpine Classic road event on local roads in the Lithgow Local Government on 14th and 15th October 2023 provided verification of the approval from NSW Police is provided; and
- 5. Approves the Traffic Management Plan for the 2023 Lithgow Halloween event, including the following temporary road closures between 10.00am Saturday, 28th October 2023 until 1.00am Sunday, 29th October 2023:
 - a. Main Street, Lithgow between Sandford Avenue and Bridge Street.
 - b. Eskbank Street, between Main Street Lane and Railway Parade.
 - c. Station Street, between Main Street and Station Street Carpark.
 - d. Burns Lane (Bank Lane) between Main Street and Main Street Lane.

MOVED: Councillor S Lesslie

SECONDED: Councillor D Goodwin

CARRIED

Councillor S Ring returned to the meeting at 8:49 pm.

12. Business of Great Urgency

The Mayor asked if there were any matters to be considered as matters of great urgency.

No matters were raised.

13. Closed Council

The Mayor asked if there were any objections from the public with regards to the listed reports being in a session of the meeting that is closed to the public.

There were Nil objections.

23 -173 RESOLVED

THAT Council resolve to move into Closed Council to consider the confidential reports as listed in the business paper at 8:50 pm.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

The Mayor informed the Public that the webcasting will be turned off at this point in the meeting and will be reopened at the end of the session of the meeting that is closed to the public.

23 -175 RESOLVED

THAT Council resolve to return to open Council and inform the public of the resolutions of the session of the meeting that is closed to the public at 8:59 pm.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Councillor A Bryce

CARRIED

The General Manager informed the public of the resolution of the closed council.

13.1. WWW - 25/09/2023 - Waste Services Contract - New Recycling Supply Agreement

23 -174 RESOLVED

THAT:

- 1. Council agree to vary the Waste Services Contract between JR & EG Richards (NSW) Pty Ltd (JR Richards) and Lithgow Council to include a new recyclables Supply Agreement with Visy Recycling commencing 4 November 2023 and ending 3 November 2025.
- 2. An addendum be added to the Waste Services Contract between JR Richards and Lithgow Council referencing the new Supply Agreement with Visy Recycling.
- 3. Council delegate authority to the General Manager to execute all necessary contract documentation.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.