



DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

STATUTORY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 9 April 2024

ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE
ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING
INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT, PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS
CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES

DOUGLAS
SHIRE COUNCIL

Rachel Brophy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE DOUGLAS SHIRE
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024 COMMENCING AT 9:00A.M.**

Mayor Cr Scmazzon opened the meeting at 9:00am by welcoming everyone to the Post-Election Statutory Meeting of the Douglas Shire Council being held on 9 April 2024 at the Mossman Council Chambers.

This Statutory Meeting of Council is being Live Streamed on Council's Website and will also be available for others to watch at a later time.

Cr Scmazzon acknowledged the Kuku Yalanji people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which this meeting is being held and paid respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extended that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be listening or watching this morning.

**DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL
STATUTORY MEETING
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9:00 AM
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1. OFFICIAL OPENING

Mayor Cr Scomazzon opened the meeting at 9:00am by welcoming everyone to the Statutory Meeting of the Douglas Shire Council being held on 9 April 2024 at the Mossman Council Chambers.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1. PRESENT

Cr Lisa Scomazzon (Mayor), Cr Damian Meadows, Cr Abigail Noli, Cr Michael Rees, Cr Roy Zammataro

2.2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2.3. OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rachel Brophy (Chief Executive Officer), Maria Evans (Manager Governance), Sara Roberts (Acting Manager People and Community Services), Tony Murphy (Acting Manager Water and Wastewater), Pieter Kleinhans (Manager Infrastructure), Natalie Crimmins (Senior Governance Officer), Kelly Dean (Mayoral and Councillor Support Officer), Tarren Woodhams (Digital Communications Officer).

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Scomazzon acknowledged the Kuku Yalanji people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which this meeting is being held and paid respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extended that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be listening or watching this morning.

4. MAYOR ADDRESS

Welcome to the first Council Meeting of the first term of the Douglas Shire Council.

Congratulations to Councillors Roy Zammataro and Abigail Noli on being re-elected. Combined you have eighteen years of local government service which says a lot about your commitment to the region and the ongoing level of support you both have in the community. The knowledge and expertise you both have gained over this time has been beneficial to the Community and Council.

And welcome aboard to new Councillors Michael Rees and Damian Meadows. I am delighted to have you on the team, and I look forward to working with you both.

We have a combination of new and familiar faces which I believe is the right mix of Councillors for the upcoming four-year term.

I would also like to acknowledge those candidates who put their hands up but were unsuccessful. You clearly value the community and were willing to contribute to its well-being, so thank you.

Each of us originates from different walks of life, with varied perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds.

I want to capitalise on this diversity and create a cohesive and proactive team which generates fresh ideas and approaches which will be critical to leading the Shire in its recovery efforts and for the future.

In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Jasper and the subsequent flooding at the end of 2023, and more recently, the announcement of the closure of the Mossman Mill after more than 130 years of operation, there is no doubt the next twelve months will have its challenges but with a great team of Councillors working together, the load becomes lighter.

You often hear after disasters “our community spirit thrives in adversity”. This may sound good, but based on my conversations with many people, such hollow platitudes ignore the stress and anxiety that many families in our Shire are experiencing right now.

There are those who have lost their homes due to destructive flood waters or landslides. Many businesses have lost income — employees have lost work. Cane farmers and those whose livelihoods rely on the sugar industry which accounts for 87% of the total agricultural output in Douglas, will have a difficult year ahead. This is the time when the whole of the Shire needs to support and help each other.

It is my intention to lead with empathy and transparency.

I have no doubt that most new Mayors in the other 76 local government areas in Queensland will be promising to be more inclusive and consult more with their community. I am among them but want to back up this promise by significantly increasing the number of opportunities for residents to meet with and talk directly to Councillors face to face.

To use an analogy from chefs, I want community engagement to be my signature dish, permeate my leadership style.

Arrangements are already underway for visits to the most affected communities before the end of April, and we are not stopping there.

The election of a new council coincides with the production of a new five-year Corporate Plan. This is the blueprint that drives and coordinates the direction and activities of Council. The aim is to have it completed and adopted by January 2025. Throughout July, August and September, a series of community meetings will be held across the Shire to give people the opportunity to be more involved in setting Council’s vision for the Shire and direction for this term of Council.

One of the immediate priorities we will have as new Councillors is to adopt the 2024/25 budget. It is critical we get this right, so we can assist the Shire to recover, rebuild and diversify the economy.

But we are not starting from scratch. Our natural assets are very much intact. Our reef and rainforest are national and international icons. We will continue to build on strengthening our relationship with Tourism Port Douglas Daintree, and Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

I would like to acknowledge that both these organisations have given Council and our many tourism businesses tremendous support over the past three months.

We need to fast track the development of an Agriculture Diversification Plan, which was one of the key initiatives identified in our Economic Development Strategy. We need to work with growers to identify a clear pathway to support sustainable agricultural diversification and value-adding within the Shire.

Finally, I would like to thank our CEO, Rachel Brophy, Council's Management Team and all Council staff for their extraordinary efforts and dedication under stressful and exceptional circumstances over the past 3½ months.

5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

5.1. ELECTION RESULTS - 2024 QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

Moved Cr Noli

Seconded Cr Meadows

That Council note the content of this report of the 2024 Election Results provided by the Electoral Commission of Queensland.

Carried Unanimously

5.2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Moved Cr Noli

Seconded Cr Rees

That Council appoint a Deputy Mayor as required by s175 of the Local Government Act 2009.

Cr Noli nominated Cr Zammataro for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Rees nominated Cr Meadows for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Voting took place by way of show of hands.

That Council appoint Cr Zammataro as Deputy Mayor in accordance with s175 of the Local Government Act 2009.

For Cr Scomazzon, Cr Noli, Cr Zammataro

Against Cr Meadows, Cr Rees

Carried

5.3. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF 2024

Moved Cr Zammataro

Seconded Cr Rees

That Council adopt the meeting schedule for the Ordinary Council Meetings for the remainder of the 2024 calendar year as presented below:

DAY	DATE	TIME
Tuesday	30 April 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	28 May 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	25 June 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	30 July 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	27 August 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	24 September 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	29 October 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	26 November 2024	10:00AM
Tuesday	17 December 2024	10:00AM

Carried Unanimously

5.4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR - LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP (LDMG)

Moved Cr Scomazzon

Seconded Cr Meadows

That Council appoints the Mayor as Chair of the Douglas Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and further, nominations be invited for the Deputy Chair of the LDMG.

Cr Scomazzon nominated Cr Meadows as Deputy Chair.

That Council appoints the Mayor as Chair of the Douglas Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and furthermore that Cr Meadows be appointed as Deputy Chair.

Carried Unanimously

5.5. MOSSMAN WATER INTAKE WISER FUNDING APPLICATION

Moved Cr Meadows

Seconded Cr Rees

That Council:


- 1. Endorses the application for grant funding from the National Water Grid's "Water Infrastructure for Sustainable and Efficient Regions" (WISER) fund in partnership with the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water for an alternative Mossman Water Intake;*
- 2. Commits a contribution from Council of \$6,400,000 for this project, and notes that if successful, the contribution will be over the financial years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027; and*
- 3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer under Section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to administer all matters in relation to the above.*

Carried Unanimously

6. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9:30am.

CONFIRMED THIS 30TH DAY OF APRIL 2024.


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MAYOR/CHAIR