



# Clarence City Council Annual General Meeting 2023 Minutes

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BLIGH STREET, ROSNY PARK, ON MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023**

**PRESENT:**

The Meeting commenced at 7.03pm with the Mayor (Cr B Blomeley) in the Chair and with Councillors:

A	Ritchie (Deputy Mayor)
H	Chong
J	Darko
E	Goyne
D	Hulme
B	Hunter
R	James
W	Kennedy
T	Mulder
J	Walker
B	Warren; present

**APOLOGIES:**

Nil

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive Officer  
(Mr I Nelson)

Acting Chief Financial Officer  
(Mr R Purves)

Head of Infrastructure and Natural Assets  
(Mr R Graham)

Acting Head of City Planning  
(Ms R Olsen)

Acting Head of Strategic Development, Communications and  
Engagement  
(Ms G Wicks)

Head of Community and Culture  
(Ms T Cockburn)

Head of Regulatory Services  
(Mr R Brennan)

Chief Information Officer  
(Mr A Hannemann)

Executive Officer to the CEO  
(Ms J Ellis)

The Meeting closed at 7.27pm.



## **1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor:

- made the following statement:

*"Before proceeding, I pay my respects to the Mumirimina people as the traditional and original custodians of the lands on which we meet, and I acknowledge the continuing connection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to the skies, land and waterways.*

*I pay respect to Elders past and present."*

- invited those present to pause for a moment of quiet reflection and respect before commencing the council meeting.

## **2. OPENING**

The Mayor declared the Meeting open at 7.03pm and welcomed those present.

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being livestreamed and that what is said at the meeting was not protected by privilege. A link to the Agenda is available via Council's website.

## **3. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCILLORS**

The Mayor introduced the Councillors present at the Meeting.

## **4. APOLOGIES FROM COUNCILLORS**

Nil.

## **5. MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

Refer to agenda.



## 6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Decision:** **MOVED** Cr Ritchie **SECONDED** Cr Chong

“That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 5 December 2022, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed”.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 7. ANNUAL REPORT

### A. ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

#### • GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Mayor tabled the Annual Report and provided a general overview of Council’s challenges, achievements and highlights which occurred during the year.

On behalf of Council the Mayor thanked the Chief Executive Officer and his staff for their dedication to Council and Clarence as a whole throughout the year

The Mayor conveyed his appreciation to his fellow councillors, for a year of dedication, hard work and commitment to the community.

### B. PRESENTATION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Chief Executive Officer provided a summary of the operational activities of the council over the past 12 months. He acknowledged the efforts of all council staff, and conveyed his thanks and appreciation for their continued efforts.

The Chief Executive Officer also thanked the Mayor and Councillors for their on-going support over the past year.

### C. PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL’S 2022/23 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Acting Chief Financial Officer gave a detailed overview of the Financial Statements in the Annual Report and Council’s overall financial performance.



**D. SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED**

The Mayor advised the Meeting that there were no submissions on the Annual Report received prior to the meeting.

**E. DISCUSSION ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED**

As there had been no submissions no discussion occurred in respect to this item.

**F. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT**

<b>Decision:</b>	<b>MOVED</b> Cr Hulme <b>SECONDED</b> Cr Chong
	“That the 2022/23 Annual Report and 2022/23 Financial Report be received”.
	<b>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</b>

**8. REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND AUTHORITIES**

The Mayor invited reports from Councillors.

- As Chair of the Copping Refuse Disposal Site Joint Authority Cr Walker provided an overview of the Authority’s activities during 2022/23.
- Cr James advised that the first meeting of the re-formed Tracks and Trails Working Group would be held on 12 December and regular meetings would be convened from the beginning of 2024.

**9. MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Mayor advised that there had been no Motions on Notice received prior to the Annual General Meeting.

**10. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Mayor advised that there had been no Questions on Notice received prior to the Annual General Meeting.



## 11. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The Mayor invited questions from the meeting.

Cr James asked the following questions:

- **Question 1**

My question relates to the Financials. I note from the Chief Financial Officer that there is 71 million dollars that has been ear-marked as capital works for the 2023/24 financial year. My question is of that number how much is aspirational and how much is achievable?

**ANSWER**

The Acting Chief Financial Officer took the question on notice.  
(Further information) As referenced in the Chief Financial Officer's report and noted in the September 2023 Quarterly Report of Council, the capital program has grown to \$73M in the 2023/24 financial year. A total of \$32M in capital works is expected to be undertaken during this financial year, with an estimated \$36M of unspent funds related to projects in progress at 30 June 2024, will be carried forward into 24/25. A further \$3M in capital projects have been deferred, while the remaining \$2M is scheduled for expenditure in future years.

- **Question 2**

I have looked very carefully through the Annual Report but I wasn't able to ascertain what is the balance of council's cash reserve at 30 June 2023?

**ANSWER**

The total cash holdings of council at 30 June 2023 was \$103.175M. This included monies held in daily transactional accounts, as well as monies placed in term deposits. However as per the audited financial statements of council, \$58.101M was subject to restrictions, namely for employee provisions and reserves for (but not limited to) infrastructure renewal, public open space, car parking, and community services. \$45.074M was therefore considered unrestricted at that time but currently supports the budgets of capital and operational projects carried over from 22/23 to 23/24.



### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE /contd...

- **Question 3**

Council has as I understand it, two loans, one for 5 million dollars for the upgrade of Pass Road and one for 1 million dollars for the commencement of the redevelopment of the Clarence Council building and chambers. When do repayments commence and what is the timing of those repayments?

**ANSWER**

The loans referenced are part of funding for the 23/24 capital program and have not yet been entered in to at this time. Subject to monetary requirements and the undertaking of capital works, it is expected these funds will not be drawn down until the end of the 2024/25 financial year. The timing of repayments will likely be on a 6 monthly basis, subject to conditions and requirements of the borrowing agreements, with repayments unlikely to begin until the 25/26 financial year.

Cr Mulder asked the following question

There is a figure mentioned in rollover of capital funds due to the non starting of projects.

- a. could you just repeat that for my clarification; and
- b. just how many of those non starts were due to their exceeding the pre-tender estimate or lack of people in a position to commence those projects in the financial year for which the money was allocated?

**ANSWER**

- a. In relation to the first question regarding cash I believe that was in reference to the cash balance's increase from the previous year due to a delay in commencing some of the capital projects. This increase in cash balances amounted to \$5M on the prior year, 21/22.
- b. This question was taken on notice.  
(Further information) In relation to question (b) regarding non starts, the delay in commencing Beach Street stormwater upgrades accounts for the entirety of the \$5M.

## 12. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 7.32 pm.