

## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COONAMBLE ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup>  
MAY 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:30AM**

**PRESENT:** Member D Batten, Member N Kinsey, Member P Fisher, Member M Cooke, Member D Bell, Member G Peart, Member P Heuston, Member Z Holcombe, Member G Rummery and Member M Garnsey.

**ABSENT:** Nil

**STAFF MEMBERS:** M. Urquhart (General Manager), A. Fletcher (Senior Biosecurity Officer) and R Wilson (Minute Secretary)

**WELCOME:** Meeting was opened at 10:30am and Chairman Member Batten, welcomed all Members and staff to the meeting.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**02/26/01 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, having been circulated be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**Moved:** Member Heuston

**Seconded:** Member Kinsey

**Carried**

**02/26/02 Correspondence – May 2026**

**Recommendation:**

That the correspondence be received and noted.

**Moved:** Member Fisher

**Seconded:** Member Garnsey

**Carried**

**02/26/03 Reports of Committees****Recommendation:**

That the reports from the following committees be received and noted;

- Western Regional Weed Committee – Meeting Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- Western Regional Weed Committee – Agency Update

**Moved:** Member Holcombe

**Seconded:** Member Garnsey

**Carried**

**02/26/04 Council's Decision Action Report – May 2026****Resolved:**

That the Resolution Register for May 2026 be received and noted.

**Moved:** Member Peart

**Seconded:** Member Rummery

**Carried**

**02/26/05 Circulars Received from the NSW Office of Local Government****Resolved:**

That the information contained in the following Departmental circulars 26-03 to 26-04 from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet be received and noted.

**Moved:** Member Kinsey

**Seconded:** Member Garnsey

**Carried**

**02/26/06 Cash and Investment Reports – 30<sup>th</sup> November, 31<sup>st</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026****Recommendation:**

That the investment report for 28<sup>th</sup> February and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 be received and noted.

**Moved:** Member Fisher

**Seconded:** Member Holcombe

**Carried**

**02/26/07 Third Quarter Operational Plan 2025/2026****Resolved:**

That Council accepts the progress made on the 2025/2026 Operational Plan as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**Moved:** Member Heuston

**Seconded:** Member Garnsey

**Carried**

**02/26/08 Quarterly budget review statement – March 2026****Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 as tabled.

**Moved:** Member Fisher

**Seconded:** Member Cooke

**Carried**

**10:45AM Teams meeting with Member Roy Butler MP**

*Prior to the meeting the General Manager forwarded a list of questions to Mr Butler's office for comment. These questions were discussed during the teams meeting, together with other current bio security matters including Fire Ants situation in QLD.*

**•Will you support CMCC in its quest to have the NSW Minns Government index the WAP grant for LCA's for the next round from 2025/26 to 2028/29?**

*Roy recognises the critical role County Councils and Local Control Authorities play in frontline weed management across regional NSW, particularly across large geographic areas like the Central West.*

*Roy can make representation to the relevant ministers around ensuring future WAP funding arrangements are sustainable and reflective of the true cost of service delivery in regional and remote areas.*

**•Will you support the Minns Government to better utilise LCA's and have them collect pest data whilst in the field inspecting for invasive weeds. This cooperation would allow LLS to access data for a more efficient and effective pest control programs. Of course, CMCC would expect additional funding to record and enter pest data into the DPI BIS portal. CMCC is happy to complete a trial with DPI for this function.**

*Roy has consistently advocated for more practical, locally informed approaches to invasive species management and sees value in improving collaboration between Local Control Authorities, Local Land Services and DPI.*

*The proposal to utilise weed inspectors already operating in the field to also collect pest animal data appears to be a sensible and efficient use of existing regional resources.*

*Roy would likely support further discussions around a pilot program, particularly if it reduces duplication, improves regional biosecurity outcomes, and ensures councils are appropriately resourced and funded for any additional responsibilities.*

**•For your information : CMCC operations are predicated on property and roadside inspections utilising diesel motor vehicles to access the region. The expenditure on diesel during the middle east crisis is estimated to cost Council an additional \$15,000 if the fuel crisis ends at the end of June 26.**

*Roy understands regional councils and county councils are particularly exposed to rising fuel costs because of the vast distances travelled to undertake inspections and compliance work. Representation has been made to the government around ensuring support is given to organisations in relation to rising fuel costs*

**•Can you please provide Council with an update on issues affecting CMCC in the Central West Region.**

*Roy has regularly spoken about the need for sustained—not intermittent—investment in invasive species management, particularly in western and regional NSW.*

**•Roy's view to giving meaningful legislation to weed and pest controllers in order to make their job less of a challenge and have the whole process run smoother for all involved**

*Roy has publicly stated that invasive species management in NSW requires stronger practical support for those working on the ground.*

*In representations and parliamentary discussions, he has highlighted concerns around regulatory barriers, lack of long-term funding certainty, and the need for government agencies to better engage with local operators and regional stakeholders involved in pest control.*

*Roy's position is that legislation and policy settings should make it easier for appropriately trained and authorised weed and pest controllers to undertake effective control work, particularly in regional and remote communities where invasive species have major economic and environmental impacts*

**02/26/09 Draft 2026/27 Operational Plan, 2025/26 to 2028/29 Delivery Program as amended and LTFP 2026/27 to 2035/36 including Asset Management Plan and Workforce Strategic Plan**

**Recommendation:**

That Council after having considered the Draft Operational Plan for 2026/27 with scenario 1 as the preferred option, Delivery Program 25/26 to 28/29 as amended, Long term Financial Plan 26/27 to 35/36, Asset Management Plan 26/27 to 35/36 and Workforce Strategy 25/26 to 28/29, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 until 4.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026, inviting submissions from the public during this time.

**Moved:** Member Peart

**Seconded:** Member Holcombe

**Carried**

**11:30AM Teams meeting with DPI Biosecurity Commissioner Ms Katherine Clift**

*Following a presentation from the Commissioner regarding her role, current projects and achievements, CMCC Councillors asked the Commissioner the following questions.*

*A number of questions were asked of the Commissioner and after hearing the Commissioner's responses, it was clear that the above questions would be better direction to the Department of Primary Industries. The CMCC board members thanked the commissioner for her time and ended the teams meeting.*

**02/26/10 Important Dates for Members - Upcoming Meetings & Events**

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events.

**Moved:** Member Peart

**Seconded:** Member Garnsey

**Carried**

*The General Manager advised that the DPI funding for the Hudson Pear Program will not continue following announcement from the Local Lands Service that they will not be pursuing more funding to continue the Hudson Pear Programme in Lightning Ridge and Grawin areas.*

*CMCC Chairman requested that CMCC obtain an update on the programme to date and collect data that will assist CMCC to ensure landholder compliance following completion of the program in 2027.*

*The Senior Bio security officer noted upcoming meetings, where updates should be provided to stakeholders.*

**02/26/11 Quarterly Biosecurity Report**

**Resolved:**

That;

1. the report be received and noted and
2. the Country Council organises a letterbox drop and combined mail out to relevant landholders in the Warrumbungle, Warren, Gilgandra and Coonamble Shires

**Moved:** Member Garnsey

**Seconded:** Member Holcombe

**Carried**

**Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 12:10pm

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Chairman

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General Manager