

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF
BLACKALL-TAMBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TAMBO COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026 at 9:00 AM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cr AL Martin (Mayor), Cr DA Hardie, Cr BP Johnstone, Cr GK Schluter, Cr AA Hart, Cr PW Skewes OAM

OFFICERS:

Mr Mike Lollback, Chief Executive Officer, Mr Shalveen Dayal, Chief Financial Officer, Ms Alison Lamb, Director of Organisational Performance, Ms Jaimee-Lee Prow, Director of Lifestyle and Community, Mr Greg Nicholls, Group Manager Town and Rural Services, Mr Matthew Richardson, Group Manager of Road Works, Mrs Andrea Saunders, Interim Assets/Major Projects and Customer & Council Support Services Manager, Mr Dallas Kowald-Dawson, Fleet Supervisor, Mrs Kaylene Carroll, Accountant, Ms Tiffany Chapman, Executive Assistant, Minute Taker.

Leave of Absence

Cr Jane Scobie requested a leave of absence for the meeting.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That a leave of absence for Cr Jane Scobie for today's meeting be granted.

GM 2026/07/725

Carried 6/0

CONDOLENCES:

A minute's silence was observed to mark the passing of:

- Patrick (Hector) Heumiller – Councillor of Blackall-Tambo Regional Council 2016 2020
 - Trevor Christensen
 - Edward Austin
-

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**Cr Andrew Martin for item 11.2.7 Planning and Development Report for June - I**

Councillor Andrew Martin, inform the meeting that I have a material personal interest in item 11.2.7 Planning and Development Report for June. The nature of my interest is as follows:

- Cr Andrew Martin is a Director and Financial Advisor of QWool.

As a result of my conflict, I will leave the meeting room while the matter is considered and voted on.

Cr Boyd Johnstone for item 6.4 Request for Special Holidays for 2027 – Office of Industrial Relations - I

Councillor Boyd Johnstone, inform the meeting that I have a conflict of interest in item 6.4 Request for Special Holidays for 2027 – Office of Industrial Relations. The nature of my interest is as follows:

- Cr Boyd Johnstone's partner is the Junior Vice President of Better in Blackall Incorporated.

As a result of my conflict, I will leave the meeting room while the matter is considered and voted on.

Cr Boyd Johnstone for item 10.1.2 DA 03-2023-2024 Minor Change – Barcoo Retirement Village - I

Councillor Boyd Johnstone, inform the meeting that I have a conflict of interest in item 10.1.2 DA 03-2023-2024 Minor Change – Barcoo Retirement Village. The nature of my interest is as follows:

- Cr Boyd Johnstone is the Vice President of the Barcoo Retirement Village Incorporated.

As a result of my conflict, I will leave the meeting room while the matter is considered and voted on.

Cr Boyd Johnstone for item 11.2.7 Planning and Development Report for June - I

Councillor Boyd Johnstone, inform the meeting that I have a conflict of interest in item 11.2.7 Planning and Development Report for June. The nature of my interest is as follows:

- Cr Boyd Johnstone is the Vice President of the Barcoo Retirement Village Incorporated.

As a result of my conflict, I will leave the meeting room while the matter is considered and voted on.

Cr Alina Hart for item 6.4 Request for Special Holidays for 2027 – Office of Industrial Relations - I

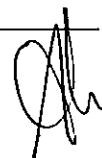
Councillor Alina Hart, inform the meeting that I have a conflict of interest in item 6.4 Request for Special Holidays for 2027 – Office of Industrial Relations. The nature of my interest is as follows:

- Cr Alina Hart is the Vice President of Better in Blackall Incorporated.

As a result of my conflict, I will leave the meeting room while the matter is considered and voted on.

2.1 Confirmation of the General Meeting Minutes**MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone****Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter**

That the minutes of the General Meeting held on 17 June 2026 be taken as read and confirmed, and that the Mayor be authorised to sign same.

GM 2026/07/726**Carried 6/0**

2.2 Confirmation of the Budget Meeting Minutes**MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie****Seconded: Cr Alina Hart**

That the minutes of the Budget Meeting held on 17 June 2026 be taken as read and confirmed, and that the Mayor be authorised to sign same.

GM 2026/07/727**Carried 6/0**

ITEM NO:**3.1****SUBJECT TITLE:****Mayor's Information Report for June**

Information report from the Mayor for Council activities during the month of June.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin**Seconded: Cr David Hardie**

That Council receives the Mayor's report for the month June.

GM 2026/07/728**Carried 6/0**

ITEM NO:**3.2****SUBJECT TITLE:****Material Personal Interest - QWool**

I, Mayor Martin, under section 150EE of the *Local Government Act 2009*, have a material personal interest in the QWool Pty Ltd project.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie**Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter**

That Council note Mayor Martin's Material Personal Interest in the QWool Pty Ltd project and understand that he will exclude himself from any meeting vote or discussion on the matter.

GM 2026/07/729**Carried 6/0**

ITEM NO:**4.1****SUBJECT TITLE:****Councillors' Information Report for June**

The report contains information from the Councillors for activities during the month of June.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin**Seconded: Cr Boyd Johnstone**

That Council receives the Councillors' report for June.

GM 2026/07/730**Carried 6/0**



ITEM NO: 4.2
SUBJECT TITLE: Australian Local Government Association Report

Councillor Hardie along with Mayor Andrew Martin, Councillor Boyd Johnstone and CEO Mike Lollback attended the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra on the 22nd to the 25th June.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That Council receives Councillor Hardie's Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly Report.

GM 2026/07/731

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 5.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Chief Executive Officer's June Report to Council

The report from the Chief Executive Officer is to update Council on matters that do not require a separate or comprehensive report for consideration but emerge as issue of interest to Council and the broader community and may include matters that are beyond the end of the previous month.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council receives the Chief Executive Officer's Information Report for June.

GM 2026/07/732

Carried 6/0

Change to the order of Business.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That the order of business be changed to discuss 7.1 Financial Report for the month of June, 7.2 Fleet Report for the month of June, 11.2.3 Town and Rural Services Report for the month of June, 11.2.4 Roadworks Report for June, and 11.2.5 Assets and Major Projects Report for June.

GM 2026/07/733

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 7.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Financial Report for the month of June

In accordance with s204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a monthly financial report must be presented to the Council. The financial report for June details the Council's current financial position and compares its performance against the adopted budget for 2025-26.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That Council receives the Financial Report for June 2026.

GM 2026/07/734

Carried 6/0

At this point, 9.39 am, Group Manager of Roadworks, Mr Matthew Richardson left the meeting.

At this point, 9.40 am, Group Manager of Roadworks, Mr Matthew Richardson returned to the meeting.

ITEM NO: 7.2
SUBJECT TITLE: Fleet Report for the month of June

The Fleet Report provides information on the operation and serviceability of Council's fleet.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council receive the Fleet Report for June 2026.

GM 2026/07/735

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 11.2.3
SUBJECT TITLE: Town and Rural Services Report for June

Overview of upkeep and maintenance of the townships of Blackall and Tambo.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council receive the Town and Rural Services Report for June.

GM 2026/07/736

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 11.2.4
SUBJECT TITLE: Roadworks Report for June

The Road Works report for June is presented to Council.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That Council receive the Road Works report for June.

GM 2026/07/737

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 11.2.5
SUBJECT TITLE: Assets and Major Projects Report for June

The update on projects is provided to Council.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council receive the Assets and Major Projects Report for June.

GM 2026/07/738

Carried 6/0

Adjournment:

At this point, 10.23 am, the meeting was adjourned for morning tea.

Resumption:

At this point, 10.54 am, the meeting was resumed.

ITEM NO: 6.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Operational Plan Quarterly Report - Fourth Quarter 2025-2026

A quarterly report on the Operational Plan provides advice to the Mayor and the Councillors of progress Fourth Quarter (1 April to 30 June) towards delivering actions in the Operational Plan 2025-2026.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That Council receive the Operational Plan Quarterly Report for the Fourth Quarter of 2025-2026 in accordance with Section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

GM 2026/07/739

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 6.2
SUBJECT TITLE: Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

The Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy has been drafted to support Council's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and aligns with the legislative requirements pursuant to the *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024*, which mandates that entities, including local government, adopt and implement a system for Child Safe Standards.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Boyd Johnstone

That Council adopt the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.

GM 2026/07/740

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 6.3
SUBJECT TITLE: Adoption of Ex-Gratia Payments Policy

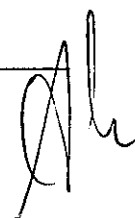
The Ex-Gratia Payments Policy has been created in response to QAO recommendations during the 2025 Audit.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That Council adopt the Ex-Gratia Payments Policy.

GM 2026/07/741

Carried 6/0



At this point, 11.18 am, Interim Assets/Major Projects and Customer & Council Support Manager, Mrs Andrea Saunders left the meeting.

At this point, 11.18 am, Accountant, Mrs Kaylene Carroll left the meeting.

At this point, 11.18 am, Cr Boyd Johnstone and Cr Alina Hart left the meeting due to their conflict of interest in item 6.4 Request for Special Holidays for 2027 – Office of Industrial Relations.

ITEM NO: 6.4
SUBJECT TITLE: Request for Special Holidays for 2027 - Office of Industrial Relations

Each year the Office of Industrial Relations invite local governments to submit requests special holidays for the following year.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Peter Skewes OAM

That Council:

Receive the letter from the Office of Industrial Relations inviting Blackall-Tambo Regional Council to make a request for special holidays for 2027; and

GM 2026/07/742

Carried 4/0

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That Council:

Request a special holiday for the Blackall-Tambo Region for Melbourne Cup Day, Tuesday, 2 November 2027.

GM 2026/07/743

Carried 4/0

At this point, 11.27 am, Accountant, Mrs Kaylene Carroll returned to the meeting.

At this point, 11.27 am, Cr Alina Hart and Cr Boyd Johnstone returned to the meeting.

ITEM NO: 6.5
SUBJECT TITLE: Great Artesian Basin – LGAQ Call For Motions For The 2026 Annual Conference

Under the current regulations there is no requirement for a local government to be notified for licenses that have been granted for drilling into the Great Artesian Basin for exploration or production. While local governments are legally responsible for providing safe drinking water and is subject to extensive reporting, auditing and regulatory requirements, local governments have limited ability to manage risks created by third parties when there is no mandatory notification or consultation process. Council is requesting that LGAQ advocate for a formal framework that requires notification, risk assessment, reporting and clear accountability for any drilling activities that may affect groundwater resources, ensuring local governments can better protect their communities.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That Blackall-Tambo Regional Council proposes a motion to the LGAQ Annual Conference that:



Blackall-Tambo Regional Council requests that the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) advocate to the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and relevant regulatory agencies for the development of a formal framework requiring:

1. Mandatory notification to affected local governments of any proposed drilling, exploration, testing or underground storage activity that may intersect, penetrate or potentially impact the Great Artesian Basin.
2. Risk assessment and consultation requirements to ensure local governments are informed of potential impacts to quality drinking water supplies before approvals are granted.
3. Clear reporting and incident notification protocols where drilling activities have the potential to affect groundwater quality or integrity.
4. Defined accountability and liability provisions ensuring that proponents undertaking drilling activities are responsible for any contamination, remediation, monitoring or regulatory consequences arising from their operations.
5. Inter-agency communication mechanisms are established between the Commonwealth, State and local governments, including resource regulators, water regulators, Queensland Health and any other involved department to ensure that the local government is made aware of any planned exploration, drilling or production that involves the Great Artesian Basin.

GM 2026/07/744

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO:

6.6

SUBJECT TITLE:

**Protection of Commonwealth Disaster Funding -
LGAQ Call for Motions for the 2026 Annual
Conference**

The Commonwealth Government has proposed a move to a 50:50 funding model for the allocation of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This would require Queensland to increase its contribution towards every aspect of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone

Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council proposes a motion to the LGAQ Annual Conference that:

The Commonwealth Government reconsiders its reduction to disaster funding arrangements to a 50:50 funding model with each state and territory.

Further, that the disaster funding from the Commonwealth Government remains as it currently is and provides an assurance that in the event of a disaster the Commonwealth Government will directly partner with each state, territory and local government in assuring that communities are appropriately funded in every aspect of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

GM 2026/07/745

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 6.7
SUBJECT TITLE: The Queensland Audit Office's Selection of External Auditors for Local Governments - LGAQ Call for Motions for the 2026 Annual Conference

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council is proposing a motion to the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference that asks the LGAQ to advocate for change in the process of appointment of external contract auditors by the Queensland Audit Office.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council proposes a motion to the LGAQ Annual Conference that:

The LGAQ advocate for change in the process of appointment of contract external auditors for local governments conducted by the Queensland Audit Office.

GM 2026/07/746

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 8.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Adoption of Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy

The Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy establishes Council's position on the use of AI tools in the workplace. It sets clear expectations for approved use, risk management, data protection, accountability and human-centred decision making.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr Boyd Johnstone

That Council adopt the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy.

GM 2026/07/747

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 8.2
SUBJECT TITLE: Review of Business Continuity and Recovery Plan

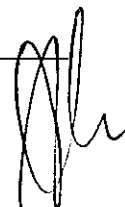
The updated Business Continuity and Recovery Plan provides Council with a structured framework to respond to, manage and recover from significant disruptions that may impact Council operations, services, staff, assets and the community. The Plan identifies critical business functions, recovery priorities, governance arrangements and response procedures to ensure the timely restoration of essential services following an incident.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That Council adopt the revised and updated Business Continuity and Recovery Plan.

GM 2026/07/748

Carried 6/0



ITEM NO: 10.1.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Review of Human Resource Policies

The Group Manager of People, Culture and Safety reviewed several policies relating to Human Resources as part of ongoing policy review process.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council adopt the revised:

- 1. Absenteeism and Abandonment of Employment Policy; and**
- 2. Drug and Alcohol Policy; and**
- 3. Gift and Benefits Policy; and**
- 4. Redundancy Policy; and**
- 5. Performance and Misconduct Policy.**

GM 2026/07/749

Carried 6/0

At this point, 11.59 am, Cr Boyd Johnstone left the meeting due to his conflict of interest in item 10.1.2 DA 03-2023-2024 Minor Change - Barcoo Retirement Village.

ITEM NO: 10.1.2
SUBJECT TITLE: DA 03-2023-2024 Minor Change - Barcoo Retirement Village

A Change Application (Minor Change) has been lodged by Barcoo Retirement Village Incorporated to amend Development Permit DA 03-2023-2024, granted on 20 September 2023 for a Material Change of Use for a Retirement Facility over land at Thistle Street, Blackall, formally described as Lot 4 on SP159849 and Lot 1 on RP608399.

The change is seeking to add one (1) additional independent living unit to the existing approved seven (7) independent living units on the site of the existing Retirement Facility. The change will result in the addition of eight (8) independent living units on the site. The change also results in the inclusion of an adjoining lot, Lot 17 on B13853.

As demonstrated herein, the minor change application has been made in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act. This decision report recommends the change application be approved, subject to the amended conditions stated in the recommendation.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Alina Hart Seconded: Cr David Hardie

The resolution to be laid on the table until the next ordinary meeting and further inquiries to be carried out by the Chief Executive Officer.

GM 2026/07/750

Carried 5/0

At this point, 12.09 pm, Cr Boyd Johnstone returned to the meeting.

At this point, 12.09 pm, Interim Assets/Major Projects and Customer and Council Support Manager, Mrs Andrea Saunders returned to the meeting.

At this point, 12.10 pm, Interim Assets/Major Projects and Customer and Council Support Manager, Mrs Andrea Saunders left the meeting.

At this point, 12.11 pm, Interim Assets/Major Projects and Customer and Council Support Manager, Mrs Andrea Saunders returned to the meeting.

ITEM NO: 11.1.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Director of Lifestyle and Community Services
Report for June

The Director of Lifestyle and Community Services Operations report for May is presented to Council. The report includes Blackall Aerodrome; Libraries; Blackall Neighbourhood Centre Program (Hub); Youth, Sport and Recreation; Tambo Lifestyle & Community Services (Hub); Tourism, Small Business, Communication and Media; Grasslands Gallery and Tambo Heritage Precinct.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That Council receive the Director of Lifestyle and Community Services report for June 2026.

GM 2026/07/751

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 11.1.2
SUBJECT TITLE: Group Manager of Community Policy and
Programs Report for June

The June Community Policy and Programs Operations Report covers activities across the Blackall Neighbourhood Centre Program, Blackall and Tambo Libraries, Youth, Sport and Recreation, Visitor Information and Tourism, Small Business, Communication and Media.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council receive the Group Manager of Community Policy and Programs report for June.

GM 2026/07/752

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 11.1.3
SUBJECT TITLE: Group Manager Community Access and
Infrastructure Report for June

The Group Manager Community Access and infrastructure report for June is presented. The report includes Blackall Airport Operations; Mable; Tambo Lifestyle and Community Hub; NDIS Program; Blackall and Tambo Cemeteries and Council and Community Grants.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Alina Hart Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That Council receive the Group Manager Community Access and Infrastructure report for June.

GM 2026/07/753

Carried 6/0



ITEM NO: 11.2.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Organisational Performance Monthly Report for June

This report provides Council with an update for the Organisational Performance Department which includes an Executive Summary, the Blackall and Tambo Aquatic Centre Reports, Facility bookings, Snap Send Solve, Work Camp applications, Community Bus bookings, miscellaneous activities and outcomes.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council receives the Organisational Performance report for June.

GM 2026/07/754

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 11.2.2
SUBJECT TITLE: People, Culture & Safety Report for June

This report provides Council with an update of the People, Culture and Safety Department outcomes for June.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That the People, Culture and Safety Monthly Report for June be received and noted by Council.

GM 2026/07/755

Carried 6/0

ITEM NO: 11.2.6
SUBJECT TITLE: Manager Environment, Health and Compliance Report for June

The Environment, Health and Compliance branch is a required, public facing function of Council, the branch has direct contact with residents and visitors on a continuous basis. The officers deal with customer requests, licensing, impounding, animal control, pest management, vector control, stock route management, quality drinking water and many other aspects of Council's service provision.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Boyd Johnstone Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That the Environment, Health and Compliance June report be received.

GM 2026/07/756

Carried 6/0

At this point, 12.30 pm, Cr Andrew Martin left the meeting due to his material personal interest in item 11.2.7 Planning and Development Report for June.

At this point, 12.30 pm, Cr Boyd Johnstone left the meeting due to his conflict of interest in item 11.2.7 Planning and Development Report for June.

At this point, 12.30 pm, Cr David Hardie assumed the chair.



ITEM NO: 11.2.7
SUBJECT TITLE: Planning and Development Report for June

The Planning and Development Report provides a summary of building applications, planning and development activities in the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council area.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie **Seconded: Cr Peter Skewes OAM**

That Council receives the Planning and Development Report for June.

GM 2026/07/757

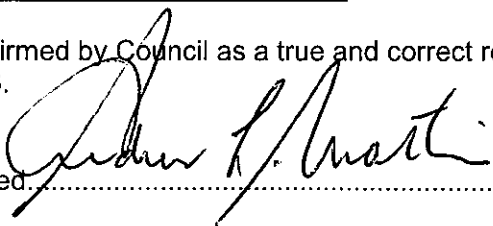
Carried 4/0

CLOSURE:

There being no further business to consider, the Deputy Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 12.31 pm.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Confirmed by Council as a true and correct record at the General Meeting held on 19 August 2026.

Signed  Mayor