



**NORTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2026

Maree Bricknell
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER



QUALIFIED PERSONS ADVICE

The Local Government Act 1993 Section 65 provides as follows:

- (1) A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
- (2) A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –
 - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing –
 - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
 - (ii) that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee;
 - and
 - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

I therefore certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendation provided to the Council in or with this Agenda:

- i) the advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and
- ii) where any advice is directly given by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.

LIVESTREAMING AND RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ordinary and Special Council Meetings held in Council's Chambers at 13 Smith Street, Longford will be audio live streamed and recorded and made on the internet via Council's website www.nmc.tas.gov.au.

The recording will be uploaded to Council's website as soon as possible and no later than four business days after the Council meeting (not including the day of the meeting). A link to the streaming service and recording of meetings will be made available on Council's website for ease of access.

Closed Council Meetings will not be live streamed or recorded.

A copy of the recording of the meeting will be placed on Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting, the Closed Council session of the meeting will be redacted.

Regulation 33(4) provides that "*a Council may determine any other procedures relating to the audio recording of meetings it considers appropriate*".

In addition to the Live Streaming Policy, Council is to audio record meetings to assist Council officers in the preparation of minutes of proceedings.

The provision for audio recording of Council meetings in this policy:

- only applies to formal Council meetings (ordinary meetings, special meetings and Annual General meetings);
- does not apply to closed sessions of Council;
- does not apply to Committees of Council;
- the recording will not replace written minutes and a transcript of the recording will not be prepared by Council;
- the recording may be used by Council staff to assist with the preparation of the minutes;
- the minutes of a meeting, once confirmed by Council, prevail over the audio recording of the meeting;

A member of the public may only use an audio recorder, or any other recording and/or transmitting device, to record the proceedings of a meeting of Council with the written permission of the General Manager for the express purpose proposed. The Northern Midlands Council reserves the right to revoke such permission at any time.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, Northern Midlands Council claims copyright ownership of the content of recordings of Council meetings ("the Recordings").

The Recordings may not be uploaded, displayed, transcribed and/or reproduced without the written permission of the General Manager for the express purpose proposed.

The Northern Midlands Council reserves the right to revoke such permission at any time. Apart from uses permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, all other rights are reserved.

Requests for authorisations, including authorisations for the use of recordings, should be directed to the General Manager, 13 Smith Street, Longford TAS 7301.

Maree Bricknell
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER



GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

EXPECTATIONS OF COUNCILLOR CONDUCT

- The *Code of Conduct for Elected Members Policy* sets out the standards of behaviour expected of Councillors with respect to all aspects of their role, including the following:
 - Councillors acknowledge the importance of high standards of behaviour in maintaining good governance and therefore agree to conduct themselves in accordance with the standards of behaviour set out in the Policy;
 - Councillors are to be respectful in their conduct, communication and relationships with members of the community, fellow Councillors and Council employees in a way which builds trust and confidence in Council;
 - Councillors' actions must not bring the Council or the office of a Councillor into disrepute;
 - Councillors must treat all persons fairly, must not cause any reasonable person offence or embarrassment, and must not bully or harass any person;
 - Councillors must listen to, and respect, the views of other Councillors in Council meetings, and endeavor to ensure that issues, not personalities, are the focus of debate;
 - Councillors must show respect when expressing personal views publicly and the personal conduct of a Councillor must not reflect, or have the potential to reflect, adversely on the reputation of the Council;
- Pursuant to section 28(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Councillors must not direct or attempt to direct an employee of the council in relation to the discharge of the employee's duties;
- Pursuant to section 40 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the chairperson may suspend a councillor from part or all of the meeting if the councillor makes a personal reflection about another councillor or an employee of the council and refuses to apologise; or interjects repeatedly; or disrupts the meeting and disobeys a call to order by the chairperson.

MEETING CONDUCT

- People attending Council Meetings are expected to behave in an appropriate manner.
- The following is not acceptable:
 - Offensive or inappropriate behaviour;
 - Personal insults; and
 - Verbal abuse.
- Pursuant to section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, it is an offence if a member of the public hinders or disrupts a council meeting.
- In the case of any inappropriate outburst or derogatory behaviour, an apology from the offending party or parties will be requested. Anyone at the meeting, if they feel offended in any way by any such behaviour specified above, should immediately bring the behaviour to the notice of the Chairperson by the way of a Point of Order.
- The Chairperson has the right to evict from a meeting any person who is not behaving to an appropriate standard.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 5.00PM IN PERSON AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13 SMITH STREET, LONGFORD.

1 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert, Cr Alison Andrews AM, Cr Richard Archer, Cr Matthew Brooks, Cr Richard Goss and Cr Andrew McCullagh.

In Attendance:

Miss Maree Bricknell - Acting General Manager, Mr Damien Wilson - Assistant Works Manager, Mr Trent Atkinson - Project & Building Compliance Manager, Ms Erin Miles - Strategic Project Officer, Ms Kristy Nutting - Executive Officer, Miss Tatiana Paniagua – Executive Officer, Mr Ben Badcock - IT Officer, Ms Sharon Roberts - Executive Assistant.

APOLOGIES

Cr Dick Adams OAM and Cr Paul Terrett.



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3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders past and present.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

In accordance with

- part 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993*,
 - in particular, section 48(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- regulation 10(3)(f) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*;
- schedule 1, part 2 of the *Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024*; and
- section 28U of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires compliance with the Code of Conduct

the Mayor requests Councillors and staff to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, an interest in any item on the Agenda.



5 ITEMS FOR THE CLOSED MEETING

MINUTE NO. 26/040

DECISION

Cr Archer/Cr Lambert

That Council move into the "Closed Meeting" with the Acting General Manager, Assistant Works Manager, Project & Building Compliance Manager, Strategic Project Officer, Executive Officers and Executive Assistant.

Carried Unanimously

RECOMMENDATION

That Council move into the "Closed Meeting" with the Acting General Manager, Assistant Works Manager, Project & Building Compliance Manager, Strategic Project Officer, Executive Officers and Executive Assistant to discuss Closed Council Items.

Item	Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 Reference
Land Acquisition/Purchase	17(2)(f)

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 - Part 2 – Meetings

17. Closed Meetings:

(2) *A part of a meeting may be a closed meeting when one or more of the following matters are being, or are to be, discussed at the meeting:*

(a) *personnel matters, including complaints against an employee of the council;*

(b) *industrial relations matters;*

(c) *information that, if disclosed, is likely to confer a commercial advantage or impose a commercial disadvantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposes to conduct, business;*

(d) *commercial information of a confidential nature that, if disclosed, is likely to –*

(i) *prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or*

(ii) *confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council; or*

(iii) *reveal a trade secret;*

(e) *contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal;*

(f) *the security of –*

(i) *the council, councillors and council staff; or*

(ii) *the property of the council;*

(g) *proposals for the council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land;*

(h) *information that is –*

(i) *of a personal and confidential nature; or*

(ii) *provided to the council on the condition that it be kept confidential;*

(i) *requests by councillors for leave of absence;*

(j) *notifications by councillors of leave of absence for parental leave;*

(k) *matters relating to actual or possible litigation taken, or to be taken, by or involving the council or an employee of the council;*

(l) *the personal hardship of any person who is resident in, or is a ratepayer in, the relevant municipal area.*



6 CLOSURE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council move out of the "Closed Meeting".

Council RESOLVED to move out of the "Closed Meeting"; and Mayor Knowles closed the meeting at 6:11pm.

MAYOR _____ DATE _____