



# **SPECIAL MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**2 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING.....	1
2	PRESENT .....	1
3	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	1
4	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA .....	1
5	OFFICERS' REPORTS .....	2
5.1	PLACE OF LAST RESORT - PROJECT PLAN.....	2
6	CLOSED SESSION .....	5
7.1	PROPERTY MATTER	
7	CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS.....	6
7.1	PROPERTY MATTER .....	6
8	CLOSURE OF MEETING.....	7

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**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 232 BOLSOVER STREET, ROCKHAMPTON  
ON TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 9:00AM**

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**1 OPENING**

- 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

**2 PRESENT**

Members Present:

The Mayor, Councillor A P Williams (Chairperson)  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M D Wickerson  
Councillor S Latcham  
Councillor E W Oram  
Councillor C R Rutherford  
Councillor M A Taylor  
Councillor G D Mathers  
Councillor E B Hilse

In Attendance:

Mr E Pardon – Chief Executive Officer

**3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Nil

## 5 OFFICERS' REPORTS

### 5.1 PLACE OF LAST RESORT - PROJECT PLAN

**File No:** 16381

**Authorising Officer:** Damon Morrison - Acting General Manager Community Services

**Author:** Doug Scott - Acting Manager Parks

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#### SUMMARY

*This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Place of Last Resort Project Plan, which outlines the establishment of a temporary site to support individuals experiencing homelessness in the Rockhampton Region. The plan includes site selection, governance, planning compliance, budget, and community engagement. The Music Bowl in Parkhurst has been identified as the preferred location. The project proposes a staged implementation, beginning with temporary use while the Material Change of Use (MCU) process is undertaken.*

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT:

1. Council endorse the Place of Last Resort Project Plan as attached to the report including the following amendments.

##### Stage One A

- Engage and consult with neighbouring properties around the potential use of the site and seek feedback over any likely objection to a formal MCU
- Engage and consult with Service providers on preliminary design of site to ensure safety of occupants as well as understanding their ability to provide wrap-around care.

##### Stage One B

- Prepare detailed costs and budget
- Establishment of Site Rules for approximately 50 occupants
- Complete hazard assessment and identify and mitigate risks
- Implement traffic management plan
- Provision of internal services are in place (water, cleaning & maintenance etc)
- Service providers are able to provide wrap-around care

##### Stage Two

- Undertake capital repairs to the site in preparation for opening
  - Open site for use
  - Begin MCU process
2. Council approve the commencement of community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Procedure and Matrix and run concurrently with Stage One A and Stage One B of the Project plan; and

3. A further report be presented to Council detailing the feedback and outcome of the community consultation and draft copy of the site's operational plan and associated capital and operational costs prior to stage two of the project plan coming to Council for formal adoption of the service.

**Moved by:**                    **Councillor Mathers**  
**Seconded by:**            **Councillor Rutherford**

Mayor Tony Williams indicated an alternative motion that he intends to move after the motion under consideration has been dealt with.

THAT Council:

1. Recognise and acknowledges the significant challenge many people across the community are facing to obtain and retain secure housing;
2. Recognises and acknowledge the impact this has on people, particularly to their confidence, dignity and health, and the impact of the housing crisis is having on the broader community;
3. Recognises that all levels of government have a role to play in dealing with these issues, and commits to working with State and Federal Governments to take real and tangible action; and
4. Endorse the following action plan to help support rough sleepers whilst new investments in housing are delivered over the coming years:
  - a. Partner with the State and/or Federal Government to develop and deliver a Gympie-style emergency housing hub using temporary infrastructure such as caravans, tiny homes and demountables
  - b. Partner with the State and/or Federal Government to develop and deliver a dignity hub in Rockhampton similar to hubs in other centres to provide personal care and amenity facilities to people sleeping rough
  - c. Partner with State and Federal Governments to deliver additional social and affordable housing stock in the region
  - d. Establish a Housing Working Group to guide, advocate and inform Council's actions in this space

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT:

1. Council endorse the Place of Last Resort Project Plan as attached to the report including the following amendments.

### Stage One A

- Engage and consult with neighbouring properties around the potential use of the site and seek feedback over any likely objection to a formal MCU
- Engage and consult with Service providers on preliminary design of site to ensure safety of occupants as well as understanding their ability to provide wrap-around care.

Stage One B

- Prepare detailed costs and budget
- Establishment of Site Rules for approximately 50 occupants
- Complete hazard assessment and identify and mitigate risks
- Implement traffic management plan
- Provision of internal services are in place (water, cleaning & maintenance etc)
- Service providers are able to provide wrap-around care

Stage Two

- Undertake capital repairs to the site in preparation for opening
  - Open site for use
  - Begin MCU process
2. Council approve the commencement of community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Procedure and Matrix and run concurrently with Stage One A and Stage One B of the Project plan; and
  3. A further report be presented to Council detailing the feedback and outcome of the community consultation and draft copy of the site's operational plan and associated capital and operational costs prior to stage two of the project plan coming to Council for formal adoption of the service.

**Moved by:** Councillor Mathers

**Seconded by:** Councillor Rutherford

**DIVISION:**

Councillors Mathers, Rutherford, Taylor, Oram and Hilse voted in the affirmative.

Councillors Williams, Wickerson and Latcham voted in the negative

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 6 CLOSED SESSION

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**9:51AM**

THAT Council move into Closed Session pursuant to section 254J(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and the meeting be closed to the public to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with section 254J(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, for the reasons indicated.

#### **7.1 Property Matter**

In accordance with section 254J(3)(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

**Moved by: Councillor Oram**

**Seconded by: Councillor Wickerson**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**10:10AM**

THAT pursuant to s5.12 Council Meeting Procedures the meeting moves out of Closed Session and be opened to the public.

**Moved by: Councillor Mathers**

**Seconded by: Councillor Oram**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 7 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

### 7.1 PROPERTY MATTER

**File No:** 15956

**Authorising Officer:** Megan Younger - Manager Corporate and Technology Services  
Marnie Taylor - General Manager Organisational Services

**Author:** Kellie Roberts - Coordinator Property and Insurance

In accordance with section 254J(3)(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

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### SUMMARY

*Coordinator Property & Insurance reporting on a property matter.*

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT the Chief Executive Officer (Coordinator Property & Insurance) be authorised to proceed with Option 2 as outlined in the report.

**Moved by:** Councillor Latcham

**Seconded by:** Councillor Wickerson

**MOTION CARRIED**



## **8 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:10am.

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SIGNATURE

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CHAIRPERSON

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DATE