Richmond Valley Council

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

30 June 2026

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MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2026 AT 6PM

Please note: these minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council Meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.

PRESENT: Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Sam Cornish, Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Sandra Humphrys and Cr John Walker.

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Ryan Gaiter (Director Organisational Services), Jenna Hazelwood (Chief of Staff), Tina Kao (Director Planning and Sustainable Communities), Ben Zeller (Director Infrastructure Services & Projects), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor), Simon Breeze (IT Support Coordinator)

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country by reading the following statement on behalf of Council:

"Richmond Valley Council recognises the people of the Bundjalung Nations as Custodians and Traditional Owners of this land and we value and appreciate the continuing cultural connection to lands, their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region in the past, present and future."

2 PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

3 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 300626/1

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys
Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That the apology received from Cr Lyndall Murray be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

4 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2026

RESOLUTION 300626/2

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19 May 2026.

CARRIED

6 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Cr Robert Hayes referred to Item 18.1 Questions on Notice, specifically Question 4 Draft Flood Risk Management Study and Plan and enquired if the briefings mentioned have been scheduled?

The General Manager advised Councillors have been invited to attend a briefing with Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (NRRI), CSIRO & NEMA on Monday 20 July at 3pm.

7 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cr John Walker declared a non-pecuniary, significant conflict in relation to Item 14.1 Draft Casino CBD Master Plan, due to his employer, Casino RSM Club Ltd and Casino RSM Properties Ltd being listed as owners of a catalyst project site identified in the Master Plan and potential impacts between the Club's real estate activities and the outcomes of the Plan, and indicated that he would leave the meeting while this matter was being considered and determined.

8 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

9 MAYOR’S REPORT

9.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 12 MAY - 10 JUNE 2026

RESOLUTION 300626/3

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow
Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 12 May – 10 June 2026.

CARRIED

10 DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

11 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

11.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

RESOLUTION 300626/4

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That items 16.1 and 16.2 identified be determined without debate.

CARRIED

12 GENERAL MANAGER

12.1 CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE: IMPACTS OF DISALLOWANCE MOTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025* which prescribed the *2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW* has been disallowed by the NSW Legislative Council, following concerns with some of the provisions of the new Code.

The disallowance means that the amended regulation, and the Code it prescribed, are no longer in force and Council will need to take action to ensure it complies with these changes.

This will require rescission of Council's December 2025 resolution adopting the new Code, which will have the immediate effect of reinstating the former Code. As a result, the former provisions allowing Councillors to attend meetings by audiovisual link, and to conduct pre-meeting briefing sessions, will again be in force.

RESOLUTION 300626/5

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow
Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council

1. Rescinds it's December 2025 decision (resolution 161225/11) to adopt the Richmond Valley Council Code of Meeting Practice 2025.
2. Notes that, as a result of this rescission, the previous Code of Meeting Practice, adopted in August 2025 (resolution 190825/12) is re-instated.
3. Further notes that the Office of Local Government is currently drafting an updated Model Code of Meeting Practice and that further advice will be provided to Council in due course.

CARRIED

12.2 DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2026/2027 (INCLUDING DRAFT FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2026/2030), DRAFT REVENUE POLICY 2026/2027 AND DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/2036

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its Ordinary Meeting on 19 May 2026, Council resolved to place the Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates), Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan on public exhibition. The Operational Plan outlines the actions that Council will implement over the next 12 months to deliver the priorities of the Community Strategic Plan, provide essential services and build the infrastructure our community needs to support continued growth in housing and employment.

This report provides information regarding public submissions received by Council during the exhibition period and details minor amendments that have been made to the Draft Financial Estimates.

RESOLUTION 300626/6

Moved: Cr Robert Hayes
Seconded: Cr John Walker

That Council:

1. Notes the public exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan 2026/27 and associated Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan and the public submissions received in response;
2. Adopts the Draft Operational Plan 2026/2027 (including Financial Estimates 2026/2030), Revenue Policy 2026/2027 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/2036, as presented with this report;
3. In respect of the general land rates contained in the 2026/2027 Draft Revenue Policy, Council in accordance with Sections 535 and 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* makes the following General Rates for the 2026/2027 financial year:

Residential	$310.00	22.12%	0.00398
Rural Residential (sub-category)	$310.00	25.36%	0.00250
Business	$360.00	8.52%	0.01183
Farmland	$360.00	16.25%	0.00276

4. In relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council makes and imposes the maximum charge for interest, as determined by the Minister for Local Government and in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993,* as follows:
    (i) for the 2026/2027 financial year, 9.5% per annum;
5. In respect of annual charges and user charges for Waste Management, Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Management Service Charges, in accordance with Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes these charges as detailed in the 2026/2027 Draft Revenue Policy to apply to the 2026/2027 financial year.

CARRIED

13 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Nil

Having declared a pecuniary interest in Item 14.1, Cr John Walker left the meeting at 6:24 pm.

14 PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

14.1 DRAFT CASINO CBD MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Draft Casino CBD Master Plan* (draft Master Plan) is a 25-year strategy for a vibrant, connected, walkable and investment-ready CBD. It provides a framework for more diverse housing and business opportunities, public realms that support everyday life, community events and long-term local pride, while supporting growth and retaining heritage values and local character.

The plan is intended to be implemented in stages, providing the basis for future decisions about capital works, grant funding, land use planning, design guidance, catalyst site activation and long-term investment attraction. It provides a vision for the Casino CBD to instil growth, clarity on its purpose in servicing the community and confidence to encourage business investment.

The Draft Master Plan is presented to Council for endorsement for exhibition and consultation.

RESOLUTION 300626/7

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow
Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council endorses the *Draft Casino CBD Master Plan* for public exhibition for a period of 30 days.

.**CARRIED**

Cr John Walker returned to the meeting at 6:34 pm.

15 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES & PROJECTS

Nil

16 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

16.1 COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION 2026/2027

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each financial year, the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determines the minimum and maximum remuneration payable to Mayors and Councillors for carrying out their duties. The determination by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is pursuant to Sections 239 and 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council has received notification that the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined that the Mayoral and Councillor Fees are to increase 3.7% for the 2026/2027 financial year.

RESOLUTION 300626/8

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Sets the Mayoral Allowance for the 2026/2027 financial year effective from 1 July 2026 at $52,560 per annum.
2. Sets the Councillor Fee for the 2026/2027 financial year effective from 1 July 2026 at $24,080 per annum.

CARRIED

16.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MAY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the status and performance of its cash and investment portfolio in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* s.625, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.212, Australian Accounting Standard (AASB 9) and Council's Investment Policy.

The value of Council's cash and investments as at 31 May 2026 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
$25,375,797	$35,000,000	$6,250,000	$3,000,000	$19,327,372	$88,953,168

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments at 31 May 2026 was 9.18% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for May of 4.48% (annualised), which is Council's benchmark.

RESOLUTION 300626/9

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing the performance of its cash and investments for the month of May 2026.

CARRIED

17 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

RESOLUTION 300626/10

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr John Walker

Recommended that the following reports submitted for information be received and noted.

CARRIED

17.1 WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE OFF REARDONS LANE

RESOLUTION 300626/11

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr John Walker

That Council notes the withdrawal of the proposed road closure adjoining Reardons Lane, Swan Bay.

CARRIED

17.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 MAY 2026 TO 31 MAY 2026

RESOLUTION 300626/12

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr John Walker

That Council receives and notes the Development Applications report for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026.

CARRIED

17.3 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MAY 2026

RESOLUTION 300626/13

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr John Walker

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of May 2026.

CARRIED

17.4 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE 27 MAY 2026

RESOLUTION 300626/14

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr John Walker

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Meeting held on 27 May 2026.

CARRIED

17.5 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM - 2 JUNE 2026

RESOLUTION 300626/15

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr John Walker

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Local Transport Forum held on 2 June 2026.

CARRIED

18 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

19 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

19.1 Tender REGPRO372526RVC - Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards

This matter relates to (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

19.2 Tender VP501329 – Casino Sewer Mains Rehabilitation

This matter relates to (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

These matters are considered to be confidential under Section (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of these matters in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

The General Manager reported that no written representations had been received in respect of the items listed for consideration in Closed Council.

The Chair called for representations from the gallery.

There were no verbal representations from the gallery in respect of this item.

The Chair advised that under section 10A Local Government Act 1993, the media and public are to be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be discussed is classified.

RESOLUTION 300626/16

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That:

1. Council enters Closed Council to consider the business identified in Item 19, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis the business to be discussed is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10(2) as outlined above. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) Local Government Act 1993

CARRIED

Council closed its meeting at 6.39pm

The open Council meeting resumed at 6.44pm

20 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL

The resolutions of the Closed Council meeting was read by the Director Organisational Services (Item 19.1) and the Director Infrastructure Services & Projects (Item 19.2)

19.1 Tender REGPRO372526RVC - Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards

That Council:

1. Declines all tenders for *REGPRO372526RVC - Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards* due to all submissions failing to meet Council's requirements.
2. Advises Local Government Procurement that Council wishes to use Local Government Procurement contract NPN117-2 to engage Ampol Limited as Council's local supplier for Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards which will provide competitive pricing and fuel supply security.

19.2 Tender VP501329 – Casino Sewer Mains Rehabilitation

That

1. Council accepts the tender from Interflow Pty Ltd which represents the best value for Council at $542,713.85 (exc. of GST), subject to the successful agreement to commercially acceptable terms and conditions of Contract; and
2. The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget and affixing the seal of Council where necessary; or
3. If a suitable agreement cannot be reached with Interflow Pty Ltd, reject all Tenders and applies Clause 178 (3)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to authorise the General Manager to enter into direct negotiations with suitably qualified and experienced Contractors with a view to provide Council with the best outcome from a financial and delivery perspective, and to finalise terms of the contract or agreement and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

The Meeting closed at 6.47pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON