



# **MAYORAL MINUTES 10 DECEMBER 2024**

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# MAYORAL MINUTES

**MAYORAL MINUTE**

**ITEM NO. 1**

**FILE NO: 24/319273  
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

**MAYOR'S DIARY**

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**THAT COUNCIL:**

- 1) Note the Mayoral appointments for the period 27 November to 10 December 2024.
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**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the Mayoral appointments for the period 27 November to 10 December 2024.

This Mayoral Minute aims to inform the Council and community of the key engagements of the Mayor for the preceding period. This is an initiative I wanted to introduce this term to provide a clear record of the engagements undertaken through the Mayoral office.

**27 November**

- Volunteer Recognition function.
- Meeting with Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation.
- Mayor and General Manager strategic advocacy planning meeting with the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils.
- Filmed Council meeting wrap up.
- Annual Awards Judging Panel.

**28 November**

- Site inspections at Salamander Way.
- Newcastle Airport Partnership Company 3 and Newcastle Airport Partnership Company 4 meetings.

**29 November**

- Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Pty Ltd Board meetings.
- Site visit for next Tomaree Lodge Engagement Committee meeting.

**2 December**

- Port Stephens Hunter Police District Awards.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Meeting with Communications staff.
- Facilities & Infrastructure Quarterly Councillor Information Session for East Ward.

## **ORDINARY COUNCIL - 10 DECEMBER 2024**

- Facilities & Infrastructure Quarterly Councillor Information Session for West Ward.
- Regis Port Stephens event.

### **3 December**

- Traffic Committee.
- NBN interview on Newcastle Airport.
- Executive Team catchup.
- Positive Behaviour for Learning Citizenship Awards.
- Business Paper review.

### **4 December**

- Facilities & Infrastructure Quarterly Councillor Information Session for Central Ward.
- St Philip's Christian College event.

### **5 December**

- Ingenia Natura Development site inspection.
- Councillor Induction Session – Peak Season Compliance.

### **6 December**

- KDAu Sod Turning event, Astra Aerolab.
- Filmed a video for Medowie Road, Williamtown.
- Rivergum Grandparents as Parents Group Christmas function.
- Meeting with Ministers Jenny Aitchison and Kate Washington re speed zone limits.

### **8 December**

- Carols at the Bay.

### **9 December**

- Communications staff meeting.
- Meeting with Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member for Paterson.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Meeting with Gummipingal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Group.
- Koala Vehicle Strike Subgroup meeting re Koala sign locations.

### **10 December**

- Hunter River High School Presentation Ceremony.
- Facilities & Infrastructure staff meeting.
- Hunter Global meeting – increasing international tourism in the Hunter.
- Executive Team catchup.
- Business paper and meeting process catchup.
- Pre-Council briefing.
- Public Access and Ordinary Council meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**MAYORAL MINUTE**

**ITEM NO. 2**

**FILE NO: 24/333071  
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

**MEDOWIE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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**THAT COUNCIL:**

- 1) Acknowledges and supports the NSW Government's investment in the construction and opening of a new Medowie Public High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie.
- 2) Acknowledges that NSW School Infrastructure held a community drop-in session on 27 November 2024 where a number of concerns were raised by the Medowie community.
- 3) Acknowledges that Council shares a number of these concerns, specifically those relating to the impact of the project on local infrastructure including traffic safety and management, pedestrian and cycleway connections, on-site car parking provision, on-site stormwater management and site drainage.
- 4) Requests a meeting with the State Member for Port Stephens and NSW School Infrastructure to raise these concerns and seek assurances that these concerns will be considered and suitably addressed as part of the project.

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**BACKGROUND**

Council has been working collaboratively with the NSW Department of Education and NSW School Infrastructure in relation to the new Medowie Public High School planned for 6 Abundance Road, Medowie.

A number of concerns have been raised with NSW Schools Infrastructure by Council staff, specifically relating to impacts on local infrastructure including traffic safety and management, pedestrian and cycleway connections, on-site car parking provision, on-site stormwater management and site drainage.

The recent changes to [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Transport and Infrastructure\) 2021](#) allow for the State to 'self- assess' the approval and construction of new public schools and buildings up to 4 storeys in height, without needing a development application. With these legislative changes in place, the opportunity for Council to impose conditions on the development to suitably respond to impacts is no longer available.

The project has now progressed to community engagement and consultation on the masterplan developed by NSW School Infrastructure. A community drop-in session was held by NSW School Infrastructure at Medowie Public School on Wednesday 27 November 2024. A number of concerns were raised by community members at this

session with limited information or commitment to addressing these concerns being provided. Council also received a number of phone calls from community members the day after the drop-in session.

With the delivery and operation of the new Medowie Public High School scheduled for Term 1 2027, it is critical that Council and community concerns are considered and suitably addressed as part of the planning and design of the project. If these concerns are not addressed, there is a significant risk that Council will be left to address local infrastructure shortfalls at significant cost without an allocated budget.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.