



Clarence City Council Annual General Meeting 2024 Minutes

**MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024
7.00 PM**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS BLIGH STREET, ROSNY PARK ON MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024**

PRESENT:

The Meeting commenced at 7.03pm with the
Mayor (Cr B A Blomeley) in the Chair and with Councillors:

A Ritchie (Deputy Mayor)
H Chong
J Darko
E Goyne
D Hulme
B Hunter
R James
W Kennedy
T Mulder
J Walker
B Warren; present

APOLOGIES:

Nil

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer
(Mr I Nelson)

Chief Financial Officer
(Ms J Murrell)

Head of Infrastructure and Natural Assets
(Mr R Graham)

Head of City Planning
(Mr D Marr)

Head of Governance
(Ms C Shea)

Head of Strategic Development, Communications and
Engagement
(Ms G Wicks)

Head of Community and Culture
(Ms T Cockburn)

Head of Regulatory Services
(Mr R Brennan)

Executive Officer to the CEO
(Ms J Ellis)

The Meeting closed at 7.31pm.



1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor made the following statement:

“Before proceeding, I pay my respects to the Mumirimina people as the traditional and original custodians of the lands on which we meet, and I acknowledge the continuing connection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to the skies, land and waterways.

I pay respect to Elders past and present.”

2. Declare meeting open

The Mayor declared the Meeting open at 7.03pm and welcomed those present.

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being livestreamed and that what is said at the meeting was not protected by privilege. A link to the Agenda is available via Council’s website.

3. Introduction of Councillors

The Mayor introduced the Councillors present at the Meeting.

4. Apologies from Councillors

Nil.

5. Meeting Procedures

The Mayor referred to the Procedural information contained in the Agenda.

6. Confirmation of Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting

Decision:	MOVED: Cr James SECONDED: Cr Goyne
	“That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 4 December 2023, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed”.
	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



7. Annual Report

A. ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

• GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Mayor tabled the Annual Report and provided a general overview of Council's achievements and highlights which occurred during the year.

On behalf of Council the Mayor thanked the Chief Executive Officer and his staff for their dedication and their professional advice and support provided to Council and the City of Clarence.

The Mayor conveyed his appreciation to his fellow councillors, for another year of dedication, hard work and commitment to the community.

B) PRESENTATION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Chief Executive Officer provided a summary of the operational activities of the council over the past 12 months. He acknowledged the efforts of all council staff, and conveyed his thanks and appreciation for their continued efforts.

The Chief Executive Officer also thanked the Mayor and Councillors for their on-going support over the past year.

C) PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer gave a detailed overview of the Financial Statements in the Annual Report and Council's overall financial performance.

D) SUMMARY OF ANY SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

The Mayor advised the Meeting that there were no submissions on the Annual Report received prior to the meeting.

As there had been no submissions received no discussion occurred in respect to this item.

E) DISCUSSION ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

As there had been no submissions received no discussion occurred in respect to this item.



F) MOTION TO ADOPT ANNUAL REPORT

Before putting the Motion the Mayor invited questions from Councillors regarding the Annual Report.

Cr Warren pointed out that several of her committee representative appointments had been missed from the list on Page 13 and asked if that and the typographical error at the bottom of Page 22 – “they HPC” instead of “the HPC” could be corrected.

ANSWER

The Mayor advised that both matters would be rectified.

Cr Walker asked the following questions.

Question 1

Can you talk me through Page 56 Other Expenses, it says councillor related expenses - 549,000 this year and then it is 86,000. Now 86 is probably a number I can get my head around but can you explain the 463,000 difference – yes, there would have been an overlap of old councillors and new councillors but I would like to understand the difference?

ANSWER

The Chief Financial Officer took the question on notice.

Question 2

On Page 46 Repayment of Interest Bearing Loans and Borrowings and that is listed as \$5.505 million, I think the Chief Financial Officer might have illuminated around the loans that were pre-paid that were about to start bearing interest but I want some clarification because it says the term interest bearing loan. Could I have an understanding of how much that repayment was interest vs how much was principal?

ANSWER

The Chief Financial Officer took the question on notice.



Question 3

I don't pretend to be a maths scientist but looking back at the previous reports in 2021 the population was listed as 58,726 in the 2021/22 report that went up by several thousand to be 62,396 as the ABS estimate so I think at that time there was some understanding that the numbers had been under counted but I think that had been rectified In 2021-22 so it goes from in 2021-22 - 62,396 and in 2022-23 it is listed as 63,138 so that is an increase in population of 742. In 2023-24 the ABS estimates are going from that 63,138 to 63,663 so that's up by 552 Could you confirm for me that that is a decrease in nominal growth and a decrease in the percentage growth in the City of Clarence in as far as the rising numbers go?

ANSWER

The Chief Financial Officer advised that she would need to take the question on notice as she had not prepared the population figures.

Question contd

So 742 versus 152 and the base is changing can we not agree that is a decrease in raw numbers from the year before while going up at a slower rate and surely if the base is now higher then surely the percentage increase has to have slowed as well?

ANSWER

The Mayor advised that the question would be taken that on notice.

Cr James asked the following question.

The Chief Financial Officer mentioned in her presentation that there was \$41 million for capital works carryover from the 2022-23 year and then she mentioned that the capital program for 2023-24 has \$63 million. Of that 63 is there a \$41 million carryover that has been incorporated in that \$63 million?

ANSWER

(Chief Financial Officer) Yes that is correct.



There being no further questions it was:

Decision: **MOVED:** Cr Kennedy **SECONDED:** Cr Ritchie

“That subject to the amendments being made as requested by Cr Warren, the 2023/24 Annual Report and 2023/24 Financial Report be received”.

CARRIED

FOR

Cr Blomeley
Cr Chong
Cr Darko
Cr Goyne
Cr Hulme
Cr Hunter
Cr James
Cr Kennedy
Cr Mulder
Cr Ritchie
Cr Warren

AGAINST

Cr Walker (abstained)

- 8. Report of Activities and Achievements of Council Committees and Authorities**
No reports were provided.

- 9. Motions on Notice – none received**

- 10. Questions on Notice – none received**

- 11. Questions without Notice**
The Mayor invited Questions from members of the public present. No questions were received.

- 12. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.31pm.