



# Published Minutes

Special Council Meeting

Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Date:	Tuesday 20 May 2025
Time:	11:00 AM
Location:	Council Chambers, Onslow Shire Complex, Second Avenue, Onslow
Distribution Date:	Friday 23 May 2025



**Shire of Ashburton  
Special Council Meeting**

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Dr Garry Hunt PSM  
Chief Executive Officer (Temporary)  
23 May 2025

These minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 May 2025.

Presiding Member

Date

17/6/25

**Disclaimer**

*The Shire of Ashburton warns anyone who has an application lodged with Council must obtain, and should only rely on, written confirmation of the outcomes of the application following the Council meeting, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by Council in respect of the application. No responsibility whatsoever is implied, or accepted, by the Shire of Ashburton for any act, omission, statement, or intimation occurring during a Council meeting.*

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## 1 Declaration Of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 11:08am.

### 1.1 Acknowledgement Of Country

As representatives of the Shire of Ashburton Council, we respectfully acknowledge the local Indigenous people, the traditional custodians of this land where we are meeting upon today and pay our respects to them and all their elders past, present and emerging.

## 2 Announcement Of Visitors

Nil

## 3 Attendance

### 3.1 Present

Elected Members:	SP A Smith Cr K White Cr R de Pledge Cr M Gallanagh Cr L Rumble JP Cr A Sullivan Cr M Lynch Cr B Healy	Shire President  Deputy Shire President, Onslow Ward Ashburton-Tablelands Ward Pannawonica Ward Paraburdoo Ward Paraburdoo Ward Tom Price Ward Tom Price Ward
Employees:	Dr G Hunt PSM J Bray	Chief Executive Officer Manager Governance
Guests:	Nil	
Members of Public:	There were no members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.	
Members of media:	There were no members of the media in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.	

### 3.2 Apologies

Nil

### 3.3 Approved Leave Of Absence

Cr R Kapor                      Tom Price Ward                      From 20 May 2025 to 20 May 2025

## 4 Question Time

### 4.1 Public Question Time

Nil

## 5 Declaration By Members

### 5.1 Due Consideration By Elected Members To The Agenda

Elected Members noted they have given due consideration to all matters contained in this agenda.

### 5.2 Declaration Of Interest

A member who has an Impartiality, Proximity or Financial interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting must disclose the nature of the interest either in a written notice, given to the Chief Executive Officer, prior to the meeting, or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest must not preside at the part of the meeting which deals with the matter, or participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision-making process relative to the matter, unless the disclosing member is permitted to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The following declarations of interest are disclosed –

CEO.1 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment	
Name	Dr Garry Hunt PSM
Nature of interest	Direct Financial
Interest description	I am currently employed as Chief Executive Officer (Temporary).
Name	SP A Smith
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	One of the candidates was an applicant from the previous interview process. I will make my decision without bias.
Name	Cr A Sullivan
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	The applicants are known to me through the previous and current recruitment process. I can act without bias.

Name	Cr K White
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	Know the applicants.
Name	Cr L Rumble JP
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	Know from previous recruitment process.

CEO.2 Appointment of Acting/Temporary Chief Executive Officer	
Name	Dr Garry Hunt PSM
Nature of interest	Direct Financial
Interest description	I am currently employed as Chief Executive Officer (Temporary).
Name	Cr A Sullivan
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	The acting applicants are known to me through previous employment at the Shire of Ashburton. I can act on this item without bias.
Name	Cr L Rumble JP
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	Previous employment in the Shire.

## 6 Announcements By The Presiding Member And Councillors Without Discussion

The Presiding Member thanked Peter Casey of Mills Recruitment for his assistance throughout the recruitment process.

## 7 Petitions / Deputations / Presentations

Nil

## 8 En Bloc Resolutions

### 8.1 Agenda Items Adopted En Bloc

Nil

## 9 Confidential Matters

### Chief Executive Officer's Recruitment and Performance Review Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2025

*Dr Garry Hunt PSM disclosed a direct financial interest in Item CEO.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*SP A Smith disclosed an impartiality interest in Item CEO.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr A Sullivan disclosed an impartiality interest in Item CEO.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr K White disclosed an impartiality interest in Item CEO.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr L Rumble JP disclosed an impartiality interest in Item CEO.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

### CEO.1 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment

<b>File Reference</b>	PE.CE001
<b>Applicant or Proponent(s)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Author</b>	J Bray, Manager Governance
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	G Hunt PSM, Chief Executive Officer (Temporary)
<b>Previous Meeting Reference</b>	<p>Ordinary Council Meeting 20 August 2024 – Item 11/CP.1 – 155/2024</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting 20 August 2024 – Item 11/CP.2 – 156/2024</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting 17 September 2024 – Item 11/CEO.1 – 172/2024</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting 19 November 2024 – Item 18/CEO.1 – 232/2024</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting 10 December 2024 – Item 11/CEO.1 – 247/2024</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting 10 December 2024 – Item 11/CEO.2 – 248/2024</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting 18 March 2025 – Item 12.1 – 027/2025</p>
<b>Disclosure(s) of interest</b>	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Direct Financial
<b>Attachments</b>	1. Selection Report - Shire of Ashburton CEO

**Reason for Confidentiality**

<b>Section under the Act</b>	<i>This matter is to be considered behind closed doors pursuant to s.5.23(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1995 as the subject matter relates to:</i>
<b>Sub-clause and Reason:</b>	<i>"s.5.23(2)(a) a matter affecting an employee or employees."</i>

**Report Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the recruitment process for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shire of Ashburton (Shire).

The Chief Executive Officer's Recruitment and Performance Review Committee (Committee) is requested to consider the CEO Selection Panel's recommendation as detailed in Attachment 1, recommend the appointment of the preferred candidate to Council and endorse the proposed terms of the contract of employment.

**Committee Recommendation**

That the Chief Executive Officer's Recruitment and Performance Review Committee recommends that Council:

1. Notes the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Panel recommendation as detailed in Attachment 1.
2. Approves the making of an offer of employment to Applicant B.
3. Approves the proposed terms of the contract of employment to be entered into by the Shire of Ashburton and the preferred applicant, as tabled at the meeting.
4. Notes that where the preferred applicant negotiates terms different to the proposed terms approved by Council as per point 2 above, a further report must be presented to Council to approve the terms of the negotiated contract.



**Council Decision                      067/2025**

**Moved                                      Cr K White**

**Seconded                                Cr R de Pledge**

**That Council:**

- 1.    Notes the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Panel recommendation as detailed in Attachment 1.**
- 2.    Approves the making of an offer of employment to Applicant B.**
- 3.    Approves the proposed terms of the contract of employment to be entered into by the Shire of Ashburton and the preferred applicant, as tabled at the meeting.**
- 4.    Notes that where the preferred applicant negotiates terms different to the proposed terms approved by Council as per point 2 above, a further report must be presented to Council to approve the terms of the negotiated contract.**

**For:                      A Smith, K White, R de Pledge, M Gallanagh, L Rumble JP and M Lynch**

**Against:              A Sullivan and B Healy**

**Carried By Absolute Majority 6/2**

## CEO.2 Appointment of Acting/Temporary Chief Executive Officer

*Dr Garry Hunt PSM disclosed a direct financial interest in Item CEO.2 (detailed in Item 4.2).*

*Cr A Sullivan disclosed an impartiality interest in Item CEO.2 (detailed in Item 4.2).*

*Cr L Rumble JP disclosed an impartiality interest in Item CEO.2 (detailed in Item 4.2).*

*Chief Executive Officer (Temporary) left the room at 11:15am.*

<b>File Reference</b>	PE.CE001
<b>Applicant or Proponent(s)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Author</b>	J Bray, Manager Governance
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	J Bray, Manager Governance
<b>Previous Meeting Reference</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting 10 December 2024 – Item 18/CEO1 – 268/2024
<b>Disclosure(s) of interest</b>	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil

### ***Reason for Confidentiality***

<b>Section under the Act</b>	<i>This matter is to be considered behind closed doors pursuant to s.5.23(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1995 as the subject matter relates to:</i>
<b>Sub-clause and Reason:</b>	<i>“s.5.23(2)(a) a matter affecting an employee or employees.”</i>

### **Report Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to consider the appointment of an Acting/Temporary Chief Executive Officer, commencing 12 June 2025 until such time as a contract of employment has been entered into for the vacant substantive role for a permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shire of Ashburton (Shire).

The Chief Executive Officer's Recruitment and Performance Review Committee (Committee) is requested to recommend to Council the appointment of an Acting/Temporary CEO from 12 June 2025.

**Committee Recommendation**

That the Chief Executive Officer's Recruitment and Performance Review Committee recommends that Council:

1. Appoints Chantelle McGurk, Director Community Development as the acting Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Ashburton for the period 12 June 2025 to 13 July 2025 (inclusive).
2. Appoints Dr Garry Hunt PSM as the temporary Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Ashburton for the period 14 July 2025 to 29 August 2025 (inclusive), acknowledging that this appointment may be terminated early if the substantive position of Chief Executive Officer is filled following the completion of the statutory recruitment process.
3. Authorises the Shire President to execute the employment contract and any relevant correspondence appointing the temporary Chief Executive Officer as detailed in point 2 above, within the salary Band Level 2.

**Council Decision                      068/2025**

**Moved                                      Cr M Lynch**

**Seconded                                  Cr B Healy**

**That the Chief Executive Officer's Recruitment and Performance Review Committee recommends that Council:**

1. **Appoints Chantelle McGurk, Director Community Development as the acting Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Ashburton for the period 12 June 2025 to 13 July 2025 (inclusive).**
2. **Appoints Dr Garry Hunt PSM as the temporary Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Ashburton for the period 14 July 2025 to 29 August 2025 (inclusive), acknowledging that this appointment may be terminated early if the substantive position of Chief Executive Officer is filled following the completion of the statutory recruitment process.**
3. **Authorises the Shire President to execute the employment contract and any relevant correspondence appointing the temporary Chief Executive Officer as detailed in point 2 above, within the salary Band Level 2.**

**For:                      A Smith, K White, R de Pledge, M Gallanagh, L Rumble JP, A Sullivan, M Lynch and B Healy**

**Against:              Nil**

**Carried By Absolute Majority 8/0**

*Chief Executive Officer (Temporary) returned to the meeting at 11:17am.*

## **10 Next Meeting**

The next Special Council Meeting will be held at 1:00pm on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at Council Chambers, Onslow Shire Complex, Second Avenue, Onslow.

## **11 Closure Of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 11:18am.