



Minutes of the Statutory Post-Election Meeting held on Thursday 11 April 2024 at Council Chambers, 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine

Council acknowledges and shows respect to the Traditional Custodian/owners in whose country we hold this meeting.

Councillors Present:

Ry Collins (Mayor/Chair), Gary Simpson, Jan Clifford, Clay Bauman, John Collins, Michelle Wright, and John Finlay

Council Officers Present:

Warren Bunker (Chief Executive Officer); Julie Wright (Director Community Services and Facilitation); Neil McGaffin (Director Regional Strategy and Planning); Jason Bradshaw (Director Corporate Services); Gary Murphy (Director Infrastructure Services); Greg Martin (Communications and Marketing Manager); James Ngoroyemoto (Manager Governance and Administration); Tailah Jensen (Governance Administration Officer/Minute Taker)

Meeting Schedule:

The meeting commenced at 9:01am.

The meeting closed at 11:26am.

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1 APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies/leaves of absence requests for this meeting.

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## 2 CONDOLENCES

Council acknowledged and observed a minute silence for the recently deceased throughout the Whitsunday Region.

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Mayor Collins advised that the meeting that he would like to start the meeting with a Mayoral Speech:

Good morning Ladies and gentlemen, and esteemed members of our council, our executive leadership team, members of the public and fellow residents of the Whitsundays.

Thank you for being here and as I stand before you today, taking the mantle as your mayor, I'm filled with gratitude and am truly humbled by this incredible opportunity to serve our region that is my home, your home, my inspiration, and our collective opportunity.

For me, this moment is the culmination of a journey deeply rooted in our community—a path paved by the voices, dreams, and tireless efforts of those around me or have placed their faith in the future direction I may provide. I will work tirelessly to ensure this confidence is well placed.

I am mindful and pay respect to those who have led this council before including those returning councillors at this table and recently departed Mayor Julie Hall and Cr Michael Brunker, whose dedication has shaped the Whitsundays into the vibrant community we cherish today. To you, them, and to the tireless advocates in our community who have shown that leadership knows no bounds, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

Our beautiful region, with its breathtaking landscapes and spirited towns, is more than just a backdrop to our lives; it's the heart of our community. It's a place where our residents hope to grow and learn, raise a family, build a career, a business, enjoy the best parts of life and build lasting memories.

During the campaign, I was afforded the invaluable opportunity to engage with and listen to the diverse voices of our Whitsunday community.

I listened to community leaders who shared the challenges their towns face, from managing the balance between development and preserving our natural beauty to enhancing public safety.

I spoke with local business owners who are eager to unlock the full potential of entrepreneurship in the Whitsundays by working closer with council and fostering a more supportive environment for startups and established businesses alike.

I engaged with our youth, vibrant with ambition and ideas, ready to forge their futures right here, in the heart of our region, seeking new avenues for innovation and career development in both our traditional and future industries, some of which we stand on the precipice of.

I heard from those new to the Whitsundays and, for some, to Australia, who have fallen in love with our region are keen to contribute to and feel part of our community as they start anew in this beautiful corner of the world.

I connected with lifelong residents, who apparently are not local unless you are born here who are the backbone of our regional towns, who work tirelessly every day yet face uncertainties about affordability and accessibility in an evolving Whitsundays.

I met with developers and investors ready with an appetite to transform our spaces and opportunities, seeking support, clarity and consistency in our decisions to ensure their ventures can thrive responsibly within our community.

I heard from environmental advocates, urging us to take decisive action to improve our climate resilience, protecting our precious natural assets for future generations.

I was inspired by the volunteers, artists and creators among us, whose talents and visions contribute uniquely to the cultural tapestry that makes the Whitsundays extraordinary.

From every corner of our region, from homeowners to renters, from the young to the elderly, the message was clear: there is a universal desire for good jobs, growth opportunities, safe communities, and a sustainable environment in which to live, work, and raise a family.

These stories, sometimes aligning, sometimes diverging, have reinforced my belief that inclusive governance, one that is grounded in the community's voices, respects and considers all perspectives, leads to the most thoughtful and effective decisions. As your Mayor, I commit to continuing this dialogue, to listen to all points of view to deepen my understanding of every facet of our community's needs and aspirations.

As we look to this future, our vision, guided by the collective wisdom and aspirations of our community, should be to lead a council united in purpose. Together, we will represent and advocate for the interests of all residents across the region, championing a future where economic and social growth drives us toward a prosperous future for all.

In moving forward, our plans will be ambitious yet essential. Crafted from the fabric of our shared experiences and the lessons of our past, aimed at securing a resilient, thriving Whitsundays. I will seek to foster economic growth, ensuring our businesses flourish, and our sectors diversify. Developing strong plans for future Infrastructure development that will enhance our daily lives and support our economic ambitions, while sustainability remains at the core of our actions, protecting the natural beauty that defines us. I will support a culture of accountability and innovation, prioritizing actions that deliver quality of life gains, making

council operations transparent and community-focused. As we aim to advance our community, working hand in glove with other levels of government to address affordable housing, enhancing healthcare, and supporting educational opportunities, ensuring every resident can thrive.

Today, as I accept the role of mayor, I am reminded of the power of collaboration, the importance of listening, and the transformative impact of a strong shared vision. The road ahead will be marked by challenges, but with a united council and an engaged community, there is no limit to what we can achieve together.

Thank you once again for entrusting me with this honor. Let's take this journey together, for the Whitsundays, for our residents, and for the generations to come.

Let us begin. Thank you.

3.1 - Declaration of Office

PURPOSE

To record for historical purposes that Councillors complied with the applicable legislation before acting in Office.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council note that, as a result of the 2024 Local Government Elections conducted by the Electoral Commission Queensland, the Chief Executive Officer took the Declaration of Office from each successful candidate prior to the meeting, in accordance with section 169 of the Queensland *Local Government Act 2009*; section 254 of the *Local Government Regulations 2012*.

RESOLUTION SPE2024/04/11.1

Moved By: CR M WRIGHT

Seconded By: CR J CLIFFORD

That Council note that, as a result of the 2024 Local Government Elections conducted by the Electoral Commission Queensland, the Chief Executive Officer took the Declaration of Office from each successful candidate prior to the meeting, in accordance with section 169 of the Queensland *Local Government Act 2009*; section 254 of the *Local Government Regulations 2012*.

MEETING DETAILS

The motion was Carried 7 / 0.

CARRIED

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## 3.2 - Appointment of Deputy Mayor

### PURPOSE

To select the Deputy Mayor who will act as Mayor when the Mayor is absent or unavailable to undertake the mayoral duties, and to support the Mayor as required with civic responsibilities.

### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint Cr xx as Deputy Mayor in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

### RESOLUTION SPE2024/04/11.2

Moved By: CR J COLLINS

Seconded By: CR G SIMPSON

That Council appoint Cr Wright for the full 2024-2028 term as Deputy Mayor in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009.

### MEETING DETAILS

The motion was Carried 7 / 0.

**CARRIED**

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3.3 - Council Meeting Dates Schedule 2024

PURPOSE

Council needs to determine an appropriate arrangement for holding Ordinary Meetings that complies with the Local Government legislation and reflects the way it wishes to conduct the business of Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the schedule of Ordinary Meeting dates for the remaining 2024 calendar year as follows:

- a. 24 April 2024 in Proserpine
- b. 29 May 2024 in Bowen
- c. 26 June 2024 in Proserpine
- d. 24 July 2024 in Bowen
- e. 28 August 2024 in Proserpine
- f. 25 September 2024 in Bowen
- g. 30 October 2024 in Proserpine
- h. 27 November 2024 in Bowen
- i. 11 December 2024 in Proserpine

RESOLUTION SPE2024/04/11.3

Moved By: CR J CLIFFORD

Seconded By: CR C BAUMAN

That Council confirms the schedule of Ordinary Meeting dates for the remaining 2024 calendar year as follows:

- a. 24 April 2024 in Proserpine
- b. 29 May 2024 in Bowen
- c. 26 June 2024 in Proserpine
- d. 24 July 2024 in Bowen
- e. 28 August 2024 in Proserpine
- f. 25 September 2024 in Bowen
- g. 30 October 2024 in Proserpine
- h. 27 November 2024 in Bowen
- i. 11 December 2024 in Proserpine

MEETING DETAILS

The motion was Carried 7 / 0.

CARRIED

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### **3.4 - Representation on Statutory Committees - 2024-2028 (Audit and Risk Committee, Local Disaster Management Group and The Greater Whitsunday Council of Mayors)**

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide Council with an opportunity to nominate representatives to sit on Statutory Committees (Audit and Risk Committee and Disaster Management Group) to comply with legislation, and the Greater Whitsunday Council of Mayors to allow the Mayor to represent Whitsunday Regional Council.

#### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council nominate:

1. Cr xx and Cr xx to serve on the Audit and Risk Committee
2. Cr xx and Cr xx as proxy members of the Audit and Risk Committee
3. Cr xx and Cr xx to serve on the Disaster Management Group
4. Mayor Ry Collins to serve on the Greater Whitsunday Council of Mayors

#### **RESOLUTION SPE2024/04/11.4**

**Moved By: CR J COLLINS**

**Seconded By: CR M WRIGHT**

That Council nominate:

1. Cr Finlay and Mayor Ry Collins to serve on the Audit and Risk Committee
2. Cr Simpson and Cr Wright as proxy members of the Audit and Risk Committee
3. Cr Collins and Mayor Ry Collins to serve on the Disaster Management Group
4. Mayor Ry Collins to serve on the Greater Whitsunday Council of Mayors

#### **MEETING DETAILS**

The motion was Carried 7 / 0.

**CARRIED**

The Meeting closed at 11.26am.

Confirmed as a true and correct recording this 24 April 2024.

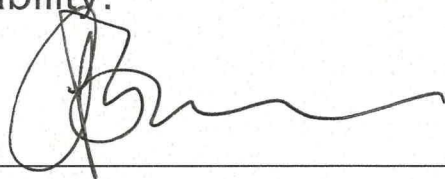
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**Cr Ry Collins  
MAYOR**



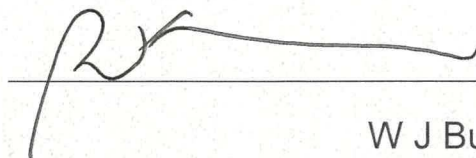
# Declaration of Office

I, Clayton Stuart Bauman, having been elected as a councillor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, declare that I will faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of the office, in accordance with the local government principles and code of conduct for councillors under the *Local Government Act 2009*, to the best of my judgment and ability.



Clayton Stuart Bauman

*I, Warren John Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council, confirm that I witnessed this declaration on 3 April 2024 and will keep a record of this declaration.*



W J Bunker



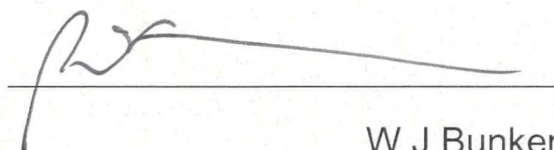
# Declaration of Office

I, Gary William Simpson, having been elected as a councillor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, declare that I will faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of the office, in accordance with the local government principles and code of conduct for councillors under the *Local Government Act 2009*, to the best of my judgment and ability.



Gary William Simpson

*I, Warren John Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council, confirm that I witnessed this declaration on 4 April 2024 and will keep a record of this declaration.*

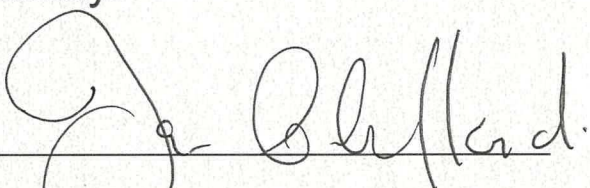


W J Bunker

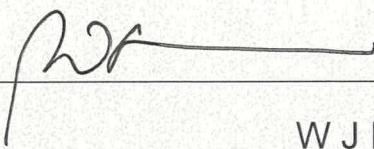


# Declaration of Office

I, Janet Louise Clifford, having been elected as a councillor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, declare that I will faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of the office, in accordance with the local government principles and code of conduct for councillors under the *Local Government Act 2009*, to the best of my judgment and ability.

  
Janet Louise Clifford

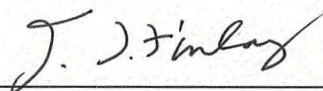
*I, Warren John Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council, confirm that I witnessed this declaration on 3 April 2024 and will keep a record of this declaration.*

  
W J Bunker



# Declaration of Office

I, John Thomas Finlay, having been elected as a councillor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, declare that I will faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of the office, in accordance with the local government principles and code of conduct for councillors under the *Local Government Act 2009*, to the best of my judgment and ability.



John Thomas Finlay

*I, Warren John Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council, confirm that I witnessed this declaration on 11 April 2024 and will keep a record of this declaration.*

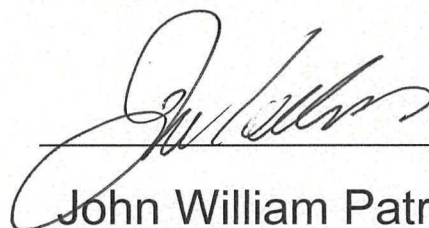
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W J Bunker



# Declaration of Office

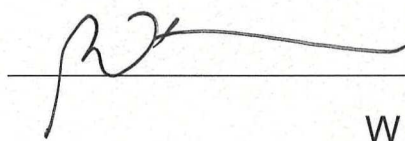
I, John William Patrick Collins, having been elected as a councillor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, declare that I will faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of the office, in accordance with the local government principles and code of conduct for councillors under the *Local Government Act 2009*, to the best of my judgment and ability.



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John William Patrick Collins

*I, Warren John Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council, confirm that I witnessed this declaration on 11 April 2024 and will keep a record of this declaration.*



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W J Bunker



# Declaration of Office

I, Michelle Elizabeth Wright, having been elected as a councillor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, declare that I will faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of the office, in accordance with the local government principles and code of conduct for councillors under the *Local Government Act 2009*, to the best of my judgment and ability.

*m. e. wright*

Michelle Elizabeth Wright

*I, Warren John Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council, confirm that I witnessed this declaration on 3 April 2024 and will keep a record of this declaration.*

*W J Bunker*

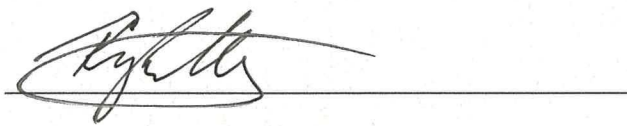
W J Bunker



Whitsunday  
Regional Council

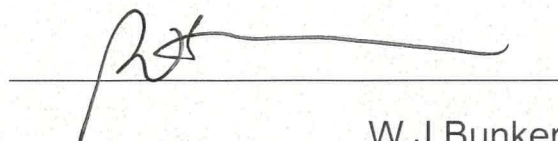
# Declaration of Office

I, Ry Collins, having been elected as a councillor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, declare that I will faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of the office, in accordance with the local government principles and code of conduct for councillors under the *Local Government Act 2009*, to the best of my judgment and ability.



Ry Collins

*I, Warren John Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council, confirm that I witnessed this declaration on 3 April 2024 and will keep a record of this declaration.*



W J Bunker