

The History of the Eyre County Council

Originally, the Eyreton area was managed by the Eyreton Road Board. In 1864, the Provincial Government passed 'The Roads Districts Ordinance No. 1' which gave the Road Boards responsibility concerning roads, drainage and development, as well the power to levy rates to fund these activities.

This system continued until the 1900s, when a series of Acts was passed to overhaul local government. 'The Ashley Subdivision, and the Waimakariri-Ashley Water-supply Board Act, 1911', abolished the seven Road Boards and created five Counties, these being Ashley, Eyre, Kowai, Oxford and Rangiora.

On 23 April 1912, the Eyre County Council was elected and came into being. Those first elected were Richard Evans, Richard Dixon, James Wright, C. Morgan (Eyreton Riding) and F.G. and H. J Horrell (West Eyreton Riding). Its headquarters were in the former Eyreton Road Board Office. The clerk, treasurer and surveyor of the former Road Board since 1873, Robert Wright, continued on in this position as engineer-clerk with the new County Council until 1916, completing 43 years services for the district.

On 1 April 1989 the Eyre County Council merged with the Rangiora District Council.

Chairmen of the Eyre County Council

Richard Evans	1912-17
F.G Horrell	1917-23
Richard Evans	1923-26
R.O Dixon	1926-28
C.E Baynon	1928-29
H.E Evans	1929-32
F.L Parnham	1932-35
H.E. Evans	1935-36
H.A Bennett	1936-41
J.E. Horrell	1941-58
C.M. Harman	1958-62
J.E. Horrell	1962-65
C.M. Harman	1965-68
S.J. Cowens	1968-80
C.H. Tyson	1980-83
W.T Norris	1983-89

Engineer-clerks of the Eyre County Council

R.W Wright	(1873) – 1916
R.Powrie	1916-22
A.W Newton	1922-37
G.Treleaven	1937-54
F.N Parnham	1954-(62 ?)

County Clerks of the Eyre County Council

L.P Southen	(1962 ?) -77
M.S. Craighead	1977-83
J. S. Barrow	1983-89

Sources Used

Hawkins, D. N. *Beyond the Waimakariri*
, Eyre County Council minutes, Waimakariri District Council archives