



Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, 24 October 2023

**Council Chamber - Civic Centre
and via Videoconference**

Information for Councillors and the community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands. We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region. We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



COUNCIL VISION

Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we care for country, how inclusive and connected our communities are, and how sustainable balanced growth makes this the best place in the world.

VALUE OF HISTORY

We acknowledge that history shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.

COUNCILLOR COMMITMENT

We'll be truthful, represent the community's needs, be positive and responsive and always strive to do better.

OUR COUNCILLORS

Billanook Ward: Tim Heenan
Chandler Ward: David Eastham
Chirnside Ward: Richard Higgins
Lyster Ward: Johanna Skelton
Melba Ward: Sophie Todorov

O'Shannassy Ward: Jim Child
Ryrie Ward: Fiona McAllister
Streeton Ward: Andrew Fullagar
Walling Ward: Len Cox

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & DIRECTORS

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose
Director Built Environment & Infrastructure,
Hjalmar Philipp
Director Communities, Jane Price

Director Corporate Services, Andrew Hilson
Director Planning and Sustainable Futures,
Kath McClusky

GOVERNANCE RULES

All Council and Delegated Committee meetings are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-documents/Policies-strategies/Governance-rules>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

Members of the community can participate in Council meetings in any of the following ways:

- making a verbal submission for up to 5 minutes on matters not listed on the agenda.
- submitting a question.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a specific item on the agenda. For planning applications and policy issues, the Chair will invite one person to speak on behalf of any objectors and one person to speak on behalf of the applicant. For other matters on the agenda, only one person will be invited to address Council, unless there are opposing views. At the discretion of the Chair, additional speakers may be invited for items of large interest.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a petition to be presented at a meeting.

For further information about how to participate in a Council meeting, please visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-meetings/Submissions-questions-petitions-to-Council>

LIVE STREAMING AND RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Council and Delegated Committee meetings will be live streamed and recorded with the video recording being published on Council's website. Council will cease live streaming at the direction of the Chair or prior to any confidential items being considered.

Opinions or statements made during the course of a meeting are those of the particular individuals. Council does not necessarily endorse or support the views, opinions, standards or information contained in the live streaming or recording of meetings. While Council will use its best endeavours to ensure the live stream and Council's website are functioning, technical issues may arise which may result in Council temporarily adjourning the meeting or, if the issue cannot be resolved, adjourning the meeting to another date and time to be determined.

A person in attendance at the meeting must not operate film, photographic, tape-recording or other equipment to reproduce sound and/or images at any meeting without first obtaining the consent of the Chair.

The Minutes produced after each Council Meeting form the official record of the decisions made by Yarra Ranges Council.

VIEWING THIS AGENDA ON A MOBILE DEVICE



The free modern.gov app enables you to download papers for our meetings on Apple, Android and Windows devices. When you first open the app you will be asked to 'Subscribe to Publishers' – simply select Yarra Ranges Council from the list of councils. The App allows you to select the meetings you are interested in and it will then automatically keep itself updated with all the latest meeting agendas and minutes.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

In the case of an emergency during a meeting held at the Civic Centre, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale, you should follow the directions given by staff and evacuate the building using the nearest available exit. You should congregate at the assembly point at Hardy Street car park.

CONTACT US

Post	PO Box 105, Anderson Street
Telephone	1300 368 333
Facsimile	(03) 9735 4249
Email	mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Index to Minutes

ITEM	PAGE NO
1. COUNCIL MEETING OPENED	5
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	5
3. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT	5
4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
5. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	5
6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	6
7. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	6
8. QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	6
9. PETITIONS	8
10. BUSINESS PAPER	9
10.1 2022-2023 Annual Report	9
10.2 2022-2023 Annual Financial Statements and 2022-2023 Performance Statement - Adoption in Principle	10
10.3 YR-2020/104 - 5 Seymour Street, Seville - Planning Report	11
10.4 Draft Yarra Ranges Aquatics and Leisure Strategy	12
10.5 Draft Housing Strategy – Endorsement for Public Consultation	14
10.6 EO17308 Water Tank Infrastructure Specialist Panel	15
10.7 CT7063 Provision of Fire Slashing Services - Update	16
10.8 Proposed Changes to Healthy Ageing Services	17
11. COUNCILLOR MOTIONS	20
12. ITEMS THROUGH THE CHAIR	20
13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES	21
14. DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING	22
15. INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS	22
16. URGENT BUSINESS	22
17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	22
18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	23

YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE 592ND COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.05 PM COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

1 COUNCIL MEETING OPENED

Councillor Jim Child (Mayor) declared the meeting open.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor then read the Acknowledgement of Country, and welcomed all present.

3 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors

Councillor Jim Child (Mayor)

Councillor Sophie Todorov (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Andrew Fullagar

Councillor Fiona McAllister

Councillor David Eastham

Councillor Richard Higgins

Councillor Johanna Skelton

Councillor Len Cox OAM

Officers

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer

Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure

Jane Price, Director Communities

Amanda Kern, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures

Ben Waterhouse, Acting Director Corporate Services

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An apology for this meeting was received from Councillor Tim Heenan.

5 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Mayoral Announcements for this meeting.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Todorov

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 10 October 2023 as circulated, be confirmed.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Chapter 7, Rule 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no disclosures of conflicts of interest made for this meeting.

QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 57 and 59, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

QUESTION 1

Wendy Wright of Wandin North asked;

The council's own Strategy reveals 60% of the 7,000 (4,200+) residents who completed the survey wanted WEEKLY rubbish collection to remain. 65% of webinar attendees (less than 200) would consider FORTNIGHTLY collection.

Why did Councillors choose to ignore the majority of community feedback?

Amanda Kern, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures:

Thank you for your question, Wendy.

The decision to transition to fortnightly collection was based on a range of considerations, including community sentiment. Council's Community Resource Recovery and Waste Plan is based on waste industry research, best practice for FOGO collections, other sector insights and community feedback.

The collection frequency adopted in our Plan is designed to maximise the recovery of organic material from landfill and ensure that we can meet Recycling Victoria targets by 2030, and that the service provides the best value for the community.

We are committed to providing education to the community throughout the roll out of this new service to help all residents better understand the service and its benefits.

QUESTION 2

Dean Hurlston of Malvern East asked;

Can Council please explain how it can IMPOSE, MANDATE AND ENFORCE a service on the community when the legislation says it must provide it, HOW can Council compel residents to accept this service and pay for it, is this not an imposition of a non opt out TAX?

Amanda Kern, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures:

Thank you for your question, Dean, we understand this question relates to the introduction of FOGO services.

All Councils are required to provide the services and work towards the reduction targets outlined by Recycle Victoria.

Councils can charge fees for a range of services such as waste, recycling or food and organic services.

QUESTION 3

Dean Hurlston of Malvern East asked;

Can Council explain to residents how the mandatory opt in FOGO service responds to the diverse needs of the community, given it has no consideration of those who compost or do not require the service?

Amanda Kern, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures:

Thank you for your question, Dean.

Council understands the diversity of our community. The FOGO service is intended to complement those currently composting. You can place certain items into your FOGO bin that some home composting systems can't accept such as cooked foods, meat, bones, dairy and citrus.

The FOGO service maximises the recovery of organic material from landfill and ensures that we can meet Recycling Victoria policy targets to be achieved across the state by 2030 and provides the best outcomes for the Community.

Council is committed to reviewing of how the system is working following its 6-month implementation to ensure it best meets community needs and delivers on the broader environmental targets.

QUESTION 4

Wendy Wright of Wandin North asked;

Does the State legislation Circular Economy (waste reduction and recycling) Act 2021 specify the FREQUENCY at which rubbish collection is to be provided OR is this a decision of the Council because of it's Community Waste Plan and adopted policy?

Amanda Kern, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures:

Thank you for your question, Wendy.

Councils are required to provide the services and work towards the reduction targets set by Recycle Victoria.

Collection frequency is the decision of Council. This was included in the Community Waste and Resource Recovery plan which went out for community consultation and has been formally adopted by Council.

The collection frequency adopted is designed to maximise the recovery of organic material from landfill and ensure that we can meet Recycling Victoria policy targets to be achieved across the state by 2030.

QUESTION 5

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer:

Councillors for completeness, we received a fifth question. Firstly, I would like to note that the fifth question that missed the submission deadline is relating to the matter already listed for tonight's agenda. The question is regarding the Kilsyth Pool, and the submitter will be contacted by one of our officers in the coming days for a formal response and the question reads;

Why is council going to spend more money trying to build a new aquatic facility in Lilydale when the bones of an aquatic centre that needs renovating is already available at Kilsyth?

SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Waste Collection and Circular Economy Policy

Darryn Fisher spoke regarding the Waste Collection and Circular Economy Policy and the need for Council to address issues with the current system and the need for change with the implemented service.

9 PETITIONS

There were no Petitions received for this meeting.

10 BUSINESS PAPER

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rule 46 of the Governance Rules, the Mayor called for a motion to alter the order of business.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr McAllister

That the item listed at 10.8 on the Agenda be considered after the item listed as 10.3.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.1 2022-2023 Annual Report

SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Annual Report has been prepared to provide the community transparent reporting on our financial and non-financial achievements for the last financial year in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Annual Report has also been developed to share with the community the story of successes and challenges Yarra Ranges Council faced in delivering on the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

The 2022-2023 Annual Report has three components: the Report of Operations, the audited Performance Statement and the Financial Report. This paper covers the Report of Operations (Part 1). The Performance Statement and Financial Report (Part 2) are presented as another agenda item.

The Annual Report will be made available online and in the foyer of the Lilydale Civic Centre.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr McAllister

That Council endorses the Yarra Ranges Annual Report 2022-2023 (Part 1) and notes its completion in accordance with Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.2 2022-2023 Annual Financial Statements and 2022-2023 Performance Statement - Adoption in Principle

SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement are presented to Council for approval in principle, prior to final consideration by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) and their agent (Crowe Australasia). Crowe has completed a review of the Financial Statements and the Performance Statement and all supporting information, with the statements reflecting the outcomes of the audit. Crowe expects to issue an unqualified audit opinion (subject to final signoff by VAGO).

These statements have been reviewed and endorsed in principle by Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) on Monday 2 October 2023 and have verbal and draft audit clearance from Crowe for presentation to Council.

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to approve in principle each of the statements and to authorise two Councillors to certify each of the statements in their final form subject to any changes recommended, or agreed to, by VAGO being made.

It is recommended the two Councillors authorised to certify the statements be the Councillor representatives on the ARMC, being Cr Jim Child and Cr Fiona McAllister.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Fullagar

That Council

- 1. Approve in principle the 2022-2023 Annual Financial Statements and the Performance Statement attached to this report.*
- 2. Authorise the Principal Accounting Officer to make any changes recommended by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office or Crowe Australasia.*
- 3. Authorise Councillors Child and McAllister to certify the Annual Financial Statements and the Performance Statement in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office have been made.*

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.3 YR-2020/104 - 5 Seymour Street, Seville - Planning Report

SUMMARY

The proposal is to subdivide the land into six lots in two stages, construct four dwellings, and associated removal of vegetation.

The application was referred to the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water, Comdain Gas, SP AusNet, Department of Transport and Planning an (DTP) and internally by Council's Engineering Traffic and Drainage Departments, Environmental Department, Arborist and Warburton/Lilydale trail working group. All referral assessments determined no overarching concerns with the proposal, subject to conditions.

Two (2) objections and two (2) petition objections have been received, with a total of 49 signatures. Objector concerns primarily relate to existing traffic conditions at corner/intersection of Howard Street and Seymour Street where vehicle users are having near traffic accidents and waste collection trucks are blocking traffic flow, waterway flooding and hard rubbish left on nature strips, and general amenity impacts with more development.

The proposed subdivision complies with the Scheme's minimum lot sizes, is compliant with Clause 55 ResCode current standards and relevant objectives Design and Development Overlay objectives and Council's Multi Unit Development Design Guidelines. The vegetation removal meets objectives set out in related policies and controls.

Overall, the proposed development and design response complies with relevant policies, provisions, and prescribed design standards of the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme.

It is recommended the application be approved subject to conditions.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Joanna Mauger spoke in objection to the recommendation included in the officer report.

Cr McAllister left the meeting at 7.48pm and returned to the meeting at 7.48pm prior to a vote being taken.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Michael Hales, on behalf of the applicant, spoke in support of the recommendation included in the officer report.

Moved: Cr Eastham
Seconded: Cr Skelton

That Council resolve to approve Planning Application YR2020/104 for Staged six (6) lot subdivision, construction of four (4) dwellings, associated fencing and vegetation removal at 5 Seymour Street, Seville (Lot 1 on Title Plan 884246) and issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit subject to the conditions in Attachment 1 to the report.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.4 Draft Yarra Ranges Aquatics and Leisure Strategy

SUMMARY

Following detailed evaluation of Yarra Ranges' current aquatic and leisure facility performance, comprehensive industry research and extensive community engagement, this report presents the draft Yarra Ranges Aquatic and Leisure Strategy and seeks approval for community consultation.

This report also recommends permanent closure of Kilsyth Centenary Pool, following its temporary closure in March 2023 due to significant structural defects posing an unacceptable risk to community. The recommendation to permanently close follows discussions with affected users, broader community consultation and comprehensive data analysis as part of the aquatics strategy development which identified:

- Significant overlapping catchment with neighbouring municipality (e.g. AquaHub is 4 km from Kilsyth Centenary Pool).
- Costly repairs to aging infrastructure, with no guarantee of success or extension of asset life.
- Declining usage, high operating and renewal costs.
- Services and assets that do not meet community expectation.

Discussions with the Lilydale Swim Club have been ongoing throughout the temporary closure. Council can support existing users of Kilsyth Centenary Pool by:

- Continuing discussions with neighbouring aquatic services to accommodate displaced users.
- Supporting additional programs and capacity for existing users in other aquatic facilities within Yarra Ranges.
- Supporting Lilydale Swim Club to train at other Aquatic Centres within Yarra Ranges.
- Providing financial support to Lilydale Swim Club to support the lane hire costs at aquatic facilities in nearby Councils.

Following decommissioning, a master planning process for Kiloran Park is proposed, which could investigate options for water play in the area.

The aquatics strategy also recommends Council progress a detailed business case for an urban facility, examining operating and funding models, including private sector investment.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, John Phillips spoke in objection to the recommendation included in the officer report.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Jean Allen spoke in objection to the recommendation included in the officer report.

Cr Fullagar moved a motion alternate to that printed in the agenda.

Moved: Cr Fullagar

Seconded: Cr McAllister

That Council

- 1. Approve the release of the draft Yarra Ranges Aquatics and Leisure Strategy for community consultation.*
- 2. Approve the permanent closure of Kilsyth Centenary Pool.*
- 3. Make the Kilsyth Centenary Pool site safe as part of decommissioning works.*
- 4. Following decommissioning, maintain the site as open space, in line with current Public Park and Recreation land use, pending community consultation regarding its future use.*

The motion was Carried.

10.5 Draft Housing Strategy – Endorsement for Public Consultation

SUMMARY

Council is preparing a new Housing Strategy to replace the current 2009 Housing Strategy. The new Housing Strategy, once adopted, will guide the location, intensity and design of new residential development in Yarra Ranges for the next 15 years. The Housing Strategy will also articulate Council's policy on affordable, social, and sustainable housing and provide a framework for residential planning controls in the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme.

The preparation of a new Housing Strategy is timely given the current housing crisis in Australia and urgency for action on housing deficiencies, and recent notable announcements by the Victorian Government. It is noted that the proposed Draft Housing Strategy remains relevant and aligned with the directions and intent of these State announcements.

A Housing Strategy Review Discussion Paper and supporting documents, including a draft Neighbourhood Character Study, were placed on public exhibition for one month from 1 March 2022 to 5 April 2022. A number of community engagement activities were undertaken to enable input.

Based on the feedback received, a draft Housing Strategy has been prepared (Attachment 1) for public consultation in November and December this year.

Moved: Cr Todorov

Seconded: Cr Fullagar

That Council

- 1. Endorse the Draft Housing Strategy for public consultation from 30 October 2023 to 11 December 2023.*
- 2. Endorse the proposed approach to community engagement contained in this report.*
- 3. Support proceeding with initial work on a Social and Affordable Housing Policy.*

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.6 EOI7308 Water Tank Infrastructure Specialist Panel

SUMMARY

This report summarises the evaluation process and seeks Council approval for the establishment of a panel of pre-qualified Water Tank Infrastructure Specialists. Yarra Ranges Council has set potable water use reduction targets across the organisation and increasingly requires rainwater tanks across its facility portfolio. Council is also participating in an innovative research program called the Monbulk Creek Smart Water Network which requires rainwater tank installations.

The Monbulk Creek Smart Water Network (MCSWN), aims to support vulnerable platypus populations in the Monbulk Creek by regulating the water levels and reducing the impacts of peak high and low stormwater events on the aquatic ecology. These environmental flows will be regulated using remote technology and real-time monitoring controlling release from rainwater tanks and the Belgrave Lake and Birdsland Lake reservoirs.

The tanks supplied under the MCSWN will be grant funded but facilitated through council. The anticipated expenditure of the MCSWN project, combined with future tank installations at facilities, has triggered the need for this EOI3708 Water Tank Infrastructure Specialist Panel.

This item has been included in the public agenda to facilitate the openness and transparency in Council's decision making. Confidential attachments have been included with the report which contain commercially sensitive information that is not to be disclosed while the meeting is open to the public.

Moved: Cr Skelton

Seconded: Cr Eastham

That

1. *Council appoints the following contractors to EOI3708 Water Tank Infrastructure Specialists panel (subject to the satisfactory compliance checks) for the initial period of three (3) years:*
 - *BPC Projects Pty Ltd.*
 - *Plumbtrax Pty Ltd.*
 - *ODM Plumbing Pty Ltd.*
 - *EJ's Plumbing Pty Ltd.*
2. *The Director of Planning and Sustainable Futures be delegated authority to extend the panel term by one (1) period of three (3) years, a potential maximum panel term of six (6) years.*
3. *The confidential attachments to this report remain confidential indefinitely as they relate to matters specified under sections 3(1), (g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020.*

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.7 CT7063 Provision of Fire Slashing Services - Update

SUMMARY

This report summarises the process undertaken by Council Officers to seek to comply with the alternate motion unanimously carried at the Council Meeting on 23 May 2023 with regards to contract CT7063 Provision of Fire Slashing Services. The alternate motion sought changes to the contract specification with regard to slashing within *Fence to Fence* areas (New Contract Specification).

Yarra Ranges Council have an existing exemption under the *Road Safety Act 1986* from the State Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for slashing, with clear parameters regarding what is appropriate and how this is determined alongside authorised fire prevention duties under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*. The fire slashing program, along with all applicable Council activities, are detailed within Council's annual fire readiness program (see Attachment 3).

Upon investigation and consultation with the DEECA Native Vegetation Regulation Team, Officers have identified that the New Contract Specification is beyond the scope of Council's existing exemption under the above acts and incapable of being implemented by Council. This report provides an update to Council on how we will execute contract CT7063 in line with the original contract specification as presented to Council on 23 May 2023.

Moved: Cr McAllister

Seconded: Cr Eastham

That Council

1. *Note the current practice of fire slashing will be executed in line with the original CT7063 contract wording:*

Where accessible, all exotic grasses shall be cut with side arm or box slasher for fence-to-fence slashing leaving any indigenous grasses, shrubs and trees, including regenerating species, in areas other than batters and table drains.

As Council is incapable of implementing a full fence to fence slashing treatment on indigenous vegetation outside of Council's existing exemption.

2. *Note a further report will come to Council outlining Council Fire Preparedness activities, including confirmation of the locations of Neighbourhood Safer Places.*

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.8 Proposed Changes to Healthy Ageing Services

SUMMARY

Council has provided a range of services funded through the Australian Government's Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) since 2015. The Australian Government is in the process of reforming the overall national aged care system, implementing a range of system changes prior to fully replacing the CHSP with a new program in 2025.

An internal review of the three programs that continue to be delivered by Council's Healthy Ageing Unit has recently been completed. These programs are Meals, Transport and Social Support Group and are predominantly funded by the Australian Government through the CHSP program, with the State Government funding a very small proportion of the overall Meals program.

It is no longer essential for Council to provide these services as other funded providers of Transport and Social Support Group operate in the municipality, and there is an opportunity to establish a sustainable delivered Meals service that would increase the benefits of the current Meals program. These programs operate at a cost to Council and there is an opportunity for Council to re-invest and develop activities that other organisations do not provide that will support healthy ageing.

It is recommended that Council inform the Australian Government that it will transition out of providing these three activities and that Council renegotiate with the State Government alternative use of funding currently received to increase social inclusion and connection.

It is also recommended that Council support the ongoing investment of the current approved Council budget (\$816,000) for Healthy Ageing in activities that will benefit a greater proportion of the older community.

The possibility that Council will transition out of providing these services has been communicated to funders and current clients and the staff and volunteers involved in the provision of these programs have been consulted.

Jane Price, Director of Communities, read the following letter from Carole Corcoran.

Dear Jim,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 8 September 2023. I wish to have my objections read and recorded at the meeting being held on 24 October 2023 and for the Council to take note of, whilst they are considering the report about the services they wish to remove from the Yarra Valley.

Transport

I live in the Upper Yarra area of the Yarra Ranges Council and rely on the Council Transport to get to Medical appointments, in the future Social Activities such as travel to Wandin Senior Citizens for example, because I do not live along or near the bus service that travels along Warburton Highway it would be nearly impossible for me to access this service, besides the fact that I cannot get onto the bus because of having knee problems and not able to walk long distances, if I attempted to walk to the bus stop, I would need to walk down a steep gravel road to Warburton Highway and then along a very narrow grass verge (which would put me in danger of being hit by speeding cars as there is very little space to walk safely) to reach the bus stop nearest me. Many of the older citizens and

ratepayers of this area do not have access to cars and like me and other people living in the outer areas are unable to get to or onto the bus service, which runs approximately hourly along the Warburton Highway.

Regarding the comment that service providers could undertake the supply of transport, many of our seniors are not members of My Aged Care, or if they are their Service Providers charge excessive amounts for this Service, I recently was charged \$150.00 for a one-way trip to Mitcham Private Hospital for example. We are not able to access Taxis even if we book them, they will not travel further than Wood Yallock and just fail to turn up at all leaving us stranded. One of my friends who lives in Wood Yallock needed to get to St Vincents Hospital in East Melbourne and was able to get a taxi to pick her up and wait for her, the round-trip cost her \$700.00.

I therefore am lodging my objection to the removal of the Transport that is already provided by the Council as it is a necessary service and needed for ratepayers in the Upper Yarra.

Meals on Wheels

I do not use this service, but some of our members do and this is definitely needed by both senior and disabled members of our community.

Social Support Group

Most of our Community live in isolated areas of the Yarra Ranges Councils on large properties and farms and the need for social support is very necessary in order to combat social isolation and loneliness, especially after the effect the storms of 2021 and the Covid-19 lockdowns had on all of us.

Unlike the metropolitan part of the Yarra Ranges, i.e. Lilydale, Chirnside Park etc., which has access to multiple types of public transport, i.e. regular Trains, Buses and Taxis that service these areas much more regularly than our hourly bus, we in the Yarra Valley are in need of greater support from the Council for these ratepayers and residents in the Yarra Valley area. I strongly object to the removal of this service.

I hope the Council will consider my letter and objections whilst making their decisions as well as realise that the residents in the Yarra Valley area of the Yarra Ranges need more support rather than removing the support we already have in place.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Vicki Williams spoke in objection to the recommendation included in the officer report.

The Mayor moved a motion to extend the Council Meeting until 10:30pm

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Higgins

That, in accordance with Rule 21 of the Governance Rules, the meeting be extended by 30 minutes to 10.30pm.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

Cr Child moved a motion alternate to that printed in the agenda.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Todorov

That Council

1. *Transition out of being a provider of Meals, Transport and Social Support Group by 30 June 2024.*
2. *Notify the Australian Government that Council:*
 - (a) *Will transition out of providing the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) activities of Meals, Transport and Social Support Group by 30th June 2024.*
 - (b) *Will explore opportunities to partner and transition the existing CHSP Meal Service to a suitable CHSP Meal Provider that will implement a volunteer-based delivery model and enable social connection and client wellbeing checks.*
 - (c) *Seeks to continue delivering CHSP Sector Support & Development.*
3. *Notify the State Government that Council:*
 - (a) *Will cease to be a meals provider for the Home & Community Care Program for Younger People.*
 - (b) *Will seek to invest the funding received through the Home & Community Care Program for Younger People (HACCPYP) in new initiatives that will increase social inclusion and connection.*
4. *Develop a transition and communication plan to ensure clients and staff receive regular information and can provide feedback about the transition.*
5. *Provide an in-principle commitment to continue to invest the current approved Healthy Ageing Unit budget (\$816,000) in activities that support Healthy Ageing.*
6. *Consider a proposed model for how Council will support Healthy Ageing at a future Council meeting.*
7. *Officers investigate options to enable vulnerable residents in remote areas of the municipality to access transport as part of Council's future Healthy Ageing model.*

The motion was Carried.

11 COUNCILLOR MOTIONS

In accordance with Chapter 3, Division 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Councillor motions listed on the agenda for this meeting.

12 ITEMS THROUGH THE CHAIR

12.1 Mooroolbark Heights Reserve

Cr Cox met with community user of the Mooroolbark Heights Reserve. Discussions were held regarding the current state of the facilities and the issues that sporting groups are having with the facilities.

The Mayor referred the matter to the Director Built Environment and Infrastructure for further investigation.

12.2 The Living Stories

Cr Todorov attended the Living Stories of Mental Health event held at Japara Neighbourhood House on Saturday, 14 October 2023. Cr Todorov spoke of the stories of people living in the Yarra Ranges with experience in mental health challenges. The Mayor also attend the event.

12.3 Traffic Conditions in Warburton

The Mayor raised the current traffic issues in Warburton including speeding and the potential need for timed parking Warburton Water World carpark.

The Mayor referred the matter to the Director Built Environment and Infrastructure for further investigation.

12.4 Final Council Meeting as Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council

The Mayor informed councillors that this meeting would be his last as Mayor.

The Mayor spoke of the events that had occurred over the previous two year including a State and Federal election, the passing of a Monarch and the Storm Recovery.

The Mayor went on to note the achievement of Council over the past two years, and thanked his fellow Councillors and Officers for the support he has received while holding the office of Mayor.

12.5 Final Council Meeting of Cr Child as Mayor

Cr Fullagar thanked the Mayor for his leadership over the past 2 years and congratulated him on behalf of all Councillors.

12.6 Final Council Meeting of Cr Child as Mayor

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose thanked the Mayor for his leadership over the past 2 years and congratulated him on behalf of all Officers.

12.7 Final Council Meeting of Cr Child as Mayor

Cr Cox thanked the Mayor for his leadership over the past 2 years and congratulated him for the work he has done.

Cr McAllister left the Meeting at 10.08pm.

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer, left the meeting at 10.08pm and returned to the meeting at 10.08pm.

13 REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

Cr Skelton

- Attended the Municipal Association of Victoria Annual Conference 2023 on Thursday 12 October 2023 at the Sofitel Melbourne. Cr Child Todorov also attended the Conference.
- Attended the Indigenous Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at the Yarra Ranges Council Civic Centre.

Cr Fullagar

- Attended the Your Library Board Meeting held on Thursday 19 October 2023 at the Your Library Head Office, Scoresby.

Cr Cox

- Attended the Disability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 October 2023 at the Yarra Ranges Council Civic Centre.

14 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY

It is requested that the following documents be signed and sealed:

- (a) Letter Under Seal – Rosa Owen
- (b) Letter Under Seal – Grant Shanks

A letter under seal has been prepared in recognition of Rosa Owen who has retired after 17 years of service with Yarra Ranges Council, and Grant Shanks who has retired after 44 years of service with Yarra Ranges Council.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Higgins

That the following listed documents be signed and sealed:

- (a) Letter Under Seal – Rosa Owen
- (b) Letter Under Seal – Grant Shanks

The motion was Carried unanimously.

15 INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Fullagar

That the records of the Informal Meetings of Councillors, copies of which are attached to the report, be received and noted.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

16 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Business received for this meeting.

17 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Confidential Items listed on the agenda for this meeting.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at: 10.26 pm.

Confirmed this day, Tuesday, 14 November 2023.

.....

Councillor Jim Child (Mayor)

