



Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, 30 January 2024

**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, Leanne Hurst

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.

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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

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YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE 596TH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

1 COUNCIL MEETING OPENED

Councillor Sophie Todorov (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 Sophie Todorov (Mayor)
Councillor David Eastham (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Jim Child
Councillor Andrew Fullagar
Councillor Fiona McAllister
Councillor Johanna Skelton
Councillor Len Cox OAM

Officers

Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Andrew Hilson, Director Corporate Services
Kath McClusky, Director Planning & Sustainable Futures
Phil Murton
Leanne Hurst, Director Communities

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies for this meeting were received from Councillors Tim Heenan and Richard Higgins.

5 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Mayoral Announcements for this meeting.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Moved: Cr Todorov

Seconded: Cr Child

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 12 December 2023, as circulated, be confirmed.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

7 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.

8 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.

QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

Michael Ritter of Montrose asked;

Now that the Housing Strategy 2023 has passed the Community Engagement/Feedback phase in December 2023, when is Council planning to finalise this document and will it need further signoff by the responsible minister, and if so how long might that take.

Kath McClusky, Director Planning and Sustainable Futures:

Thank you for your question, Michael.

The community engagement period on the draft Yarra Ranges Housing Strategy closed on 11 December 2023. Council officers are now reviewing submissions. The submission will be summarised into a community engagement outcomes report which will be uploaded to the project webpage.

The community engagement outcomes report will also inform any updates to the Housing Strategy. It is planned for the updated Housing Strategy to be presented to Council in mid-2024 to be considered for Adoption.

If adopted by Council, we will then commence a Planning Scheme Amendment to implement the Housing Strategy. The amendment is anticipated to take at least 12 to 18 months to complete, as it includes further consultation with the community and approval of the Minister for Planning.

Therefore, we estimate the completion of the Planning Scheme Amendment to occur in mid-2025, however this is dependent on the timing of the Minister's decision and could take longer.

SUBMISSIONS TO COUNCIL

There were no Submissions listed on the Agenda for this meeting.

9 PETITIONS

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

9.1 Petition to Council

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Julia Lamonica spoke in support of the recommendation included in the officer report.

Moved: Cr McAllister

Seconded: Cr Child

That the following General Petition be received and noted and referred to the appropriate officer.

Request that Council take immediate and effective action regarding the inadequate drainage system, and the management thereof, resulting in recurrent flooding in Coldstream.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10 BUSINESS PAPER

10.1 Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee - Membership Appointments

SUMMARY

The Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC) is comprised of community representatives, Councillors, Council staff and agency representatives. Community volunteers, selected for their demonstrated interest or expertise in environmental matters serve for three years, providing local knowledge and insight about a broad range of environmental topics.

Since the original SEAC appointments made at the 23 November 2021 Council meeting, there have been five resignations from the Committee. An interim recruitment process has been conducted for the final year of the Committee's term in line with the Terms of Reference. Expressions of interest were sought from community with 15 responses received including five from young people. There are five members recommended for Council approval, inclusive of two young people.

Cr McAllister left the meeting at 7.26pm prior to a vote being taken.

Moved: Cr Skelton

Seconded: Cr Fullagar

That

1. *Council*

(a) *Formally appoint the recommended individuals to the Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee for the 2024-2025 term.*

(b) *Note that the Terms of Reference be updated at the end of the current Committee term in 2025.*

2. *The Confidential Attachment to this report remain confidential indefinitely as they relate to matters specified under section 3(1)(f) of the Local Government Act 2020.*

The motion was Carried unanimously.

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.

12 ITEMS THROUGH THE CHAIR

12.1 Disallowed Petitions to Council

Cr Child highlighted that the administration disallowed recent petitions submitted to the Council due to non-compliance with Governance Rules. Cr Child requested that the lead petitioners be informed of the proper procedures for submitting a petition to the Council.

12.2 Citizenship Ceremony and Community Awards

Cr Todorov noted the Citizenship Ceremony held on Friday 26 January 2024, held at the Yarra Ranges Council Civic Centre, where 60 residents of Yarra Ranges became Australian citizens. Cr Todorov also noted the Community Awards held on the same day and congratulated all recipients of awards on the day.

12.3 Australia Day Honours 2024

Cr Fullagar congratulated his father-in-law, Trevor Ricketts for his Australia Day Honours, and his extraordinary lifetime of service to the Monbulk community. Cr Fullagar noted that Trevor arrived in Australia, from England, at age 16 with sponsorship from a local Monbulk couple.

Cr Fullagar highlighted the following achievements over Trevor's lifetime: vice president and founding member of the Monbulk Men's Shed, president of the Monbulk Rotary Club, president and life member of the Monbulk Ranges Soccer Club, club trustee of the Monbulk District Senior Citizen Club, president of the Monbulk Business and Traders Association, Board Member of the Monbulk Sewage Authority, member of the liaison committee of Sherbrooke and Lilydale Council, president of the Monbulk Scouts Parents Committee, treasurer of the Monbulk High School Committee, president of the Monbulk Primary School Committee and a Justice of the Peace.

Cr Fullagar congratulated all Yarra Ranges Council residents who received Australia Day Honours.

12.4 Australia Day Honours 2024

Cr Todorov congratulated Vincent John Feeney, recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to secondary education.

13 REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

Cr Skelton

- Attended the Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at the Yarra Ranges Council Civic Centre. Cr Fullagar also attended the meeting.

14 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

In accordance with Clause 87 of the Meeting Procedures and Use of Common Seal Local Law 2015, as prescribed by Section 14(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Documents for Signing and Sealing received for this meeting.

15 INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Eastham

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

Cr McAllister returned to the meeting at 7.41pm prior a vote being taken.

Moved: Cr Todorov

Seconded: Cr Eastham

That in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to matters specified under section 3(1), as specified below.

17.1 Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Financial Options

Item 17.1 is Confidential under the terms section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to: (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Councils position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at: 8.27 pm.

Confirmed this day, Tuesday, 13 February 2024.

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Councillor Sophie Todorov (Mayor)