



Council Meeting

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, 19 November 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 and waterways.

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: Gareth Ward

Chirnside Ward: Richard Higgins

Lyster Ward: Peter McIlwain

Melba Ward: Mitch Mazzarella

O'Shannassy Ward: Jim Child

Ryrie Ward: Fiona McAllister

Streeton Ward: Jeff Marriott

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, Kim O'Connor

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>

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CONTACT US

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YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE XXX COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.02 PM COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

1 COUNCIL MEETING OPENED

The Chief Executive Office, Tammi Rose, declared the meeting open.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chief Executive Office then read the Acknowledgement of Country, and welcomed all present.

3 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors

Councillor Jim Child
Councillor Fiona McAllister
Councillor Tim Heenan
Councillor Richard Higgins
Councillor Len Cox OAM
Councillor Jeff Marriott
Councillor Mitch Mazzarella
Councillor Peter Mcilwain
Councillor Gareth Ward

Officers

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer
Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Kath McClusky, Director Planning & Sustainable Futures
Leanne Hurst, Director Communities
Kim O'Connor, Director Corporate Services

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies received for this meeting.

5 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.

SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one year or two year term. This must be done before the election of the Mayor takes place.

The term of office of the Mayor also applies to the election of the Deputy Mayor, whose office has been established by Council under section 20A of the Act.

This report is submitted for Council's consideration by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the requirements of sub-Rule 6.1 of Council's Governance Rules.

In accordance with Governance Rule 29.1, Cr Child and Cr McAllister spoke to the Motion.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr McAllister

That, in accordance with the requirements of section 26(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a one (1) year term.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

In Favour: Cr Heenan, Cr Higgins, Cr Ward, Cr Mcilwain, Cr Mazzarella, Cr Child, Cr McAllister, Cr Marriott and Cr Cox.

Against: Nil

7 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council.

Cr Mazzarella nominated Cr Child to be elected as Mayor.

Cr Ward seconded the nomination.

Cr Child advised the Chief Executive Officer that they accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Child elected as Mayor for a term of one year.

8 MAYORAL RESPONSE

The Mayor thanked Cr Mazzarella and Cr Ward for their nominations and read the following statement:

I wish to sincerely thank my fellow Councillors for their unanimous support in electing me for a fourth term as Mayor of the Yarra Ranges Council. I'm extremely honoured and proud to once again be able to lead a Council that will be passionate in their collaborative approach to represent their constituents but also to protect and enhance this amazing place that we call home, Yarra Ranges.

I wish to acknowledge Sophie Todorov for her exceptional role as Mayor for the past twelve months, I also extend our sincere thanks to David Eastham as Deputy Mayor for the past 12 months and of course to my fellow Councillors who have represented our Yarra Ranges communities over the past Council Term of four years.

Now we have a new Council, and I extend an extremely warm welcome to Councillor Jeff Marriot (Streeton Ward), Councillor Mitch Mazzarella (Melba Ward), Councillor Peter Mcilwain (Lyster Ward) & Councillor Gareth Ward (Chandler Ward). I am sure you will have no regrets on the decision you've made to represent the residents of Yarra Ranges.

Together in the coming year we will be delivering more than 120 services to our community and delivering them with passion and a keen eye on how we're able to keep costs down while still meeting the needs of more than 150,000 residents, thousands of businesses, and countless visitors. I'm proud to say that we'll be able to do this while navigating the challenges of the past pandemic, while assisting and facilitating storm and flood recovery of our communities, and while facing a dual impact of inflation and rate capping.

Visitors to the Yarra Ranges region are expected to double to over 9 million per annum in the next decade. We will be advocating for Federal & State Government to support vital services and projects that strengthen our communities, provide quality infrastructure, and create local jobs for local people. That's why we're asking for the continued support of our

Ridges and Rivers projects - consisting of the Yarra Valley Trail, RidgeWalk, and Warburton Mountain Bike Destination. These projects, on completion will deliver 500 jobs and \$80M per year into the local economy. That's a boost our businesses need.

We as Council will be shortly finalising the development of the 2025-2029 Council Plan and the longer-term Asset and Finance Plans. These plans outline the high-level priorities for Council, including how we manage our finances and assets. The goal of these key plans is to advance Yarra Ranges towards the future outlined in the Community Vision. We as Council and community are building this Council Plan and together we can deliver it.

I'd also like to thank our Chief Executive Officer Ms Tammi Rose and the staff of the Yarra Ranges Council who have contributed so much to our communities through the challenging periods of post pandemic, and ongoing storm & flood recovery.

In closing there is one other person I must thank, who keeps me on track (especially in recent times), a confidant and makes everything happen at home and she is also in the Chamber tonight. Teresa, with much love thank you.

Thank you all.

9 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council.

Cr Heenan nominated Cr Higgins to be elected as Deputy Mayor.

Cr Cox seconded the nomination.

Cr Higgins advised the Mayor that they accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Cr Higgins elected as Deputy Mayor for a term of one year.

10 DEPUTY MAYORAL RESPONSE

Cr Higgins thanked Councillors for their support and confidence in being elected to the Deputy Mayor role and acknowledged the importance of collaboration between the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and all Councillors, and welcomed new thoughts and ideas.

Cr Higgins acknowledged the challenges ahead with both Federal and State elections in the coming years. Cr Higgins welcomed continued community contribution to Council.

In accordance with Governance Rule 29.1, Cr Higgins spoke to the Motion.

Moved: Cr Heenan

Seconded: Cr Higgins

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 22 October 2024, as circulated, be confirmed.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

*In Favour: Cr Heenan, Cr Higgins, Cr Ward, Cr Mcilwain, Cr Mazzarella,
Cr Child, Cr McAllister, Cr Marriott and Cr Cox.*

Against: Nil

QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL**QUESTION 1****Ray Lister of Kallista asked;**

At the previous meeting of Council the Storm Water Management Plan was passed, I support a Plan but have reservations about various details. I am particularly concerned about the timeliness of specific actions.

At that meeting Mr. Phillip referenced several times that while the Plan was being developed "it would be BAU". Business As Usual has not achieved much in the past so can Mr. Phillip clarify how YRC intend to support communities in flooding hot spots now.

Hjalmar Phillip, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure

Thank-you for your question Ray.

The recently adopted Stormwater Management Plan provides strategic direction for managing stormwater and drainage challenges with clear objectives and actions.

The comment 'Business as Usual' referred to the existing services and budget allocation to manage Council's vast drainage network, which includes almost \$3.5M of capital budget to upgrade and renew drainage assets and approximately \$21M of operating budget to maintain roads and drainage infrastructure.

Specific to drainage these budgets are spread across a vast drainage network over 790 km in total, containing over 29,000 pit structures, over 20 km of minor culverts and a significant interface with the Melbourne Water management waterways, open channels and underground drainage.

This maintenance and response work specifically for these assets includes works such as proactively inspecting and clearing pits and drains, maintaining table drains, responding to community service requests, there were over 3400 last year, as well as associated engineering and planning.

Thanks again for your question Ray

QUESTION 2

Eric Burgess of Upwey asked;

In order to reduce traffic around Upwey South Primary School, what has the council done to promote and improve active transport options (walk/bike/scooter) for students to get to school?

QUESTION 3

Eric Burgess of Upwey asked;

In the proposed Morris Road parking study prepared by council, it is suggested to remove the school bus parking area. Where does the council propose buses park when required by the school for excursions?

Hjalmar Phillip, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure

Thank you for your questions regarding active travel, traffic and parking around Upwey South Primary School.

A Draft Parking Plan for the Upwey South Primary School is being developed to address traffic concerns raised by the community. It has been shared with the school to gather initial feedback. However, wider community consultation has not yet commenced.

Council Officers are currently incorporating initial feedback, which includes issues such as active transport and the school bus parking requirements. Once finalised, we will share the updated plan with the wider school community and nearby residents as part of a public consultation process, which is planned to begin in the coming weeks.

Council recognises the importance of traffic safety especially around school sites and we appreciate your patience and input as we work to develop a plan that addresses the needs and concerns of all stakeholders.

A council officer will be in touch with you to answer any further questions.

QUESTION 4

Michelle de Lima of Lilydale, asked

How much money have Yarra Ranges Council spent on security guards present at Yarra Ranges Council meetings, such as tonight, for the period of 1.1.24 to 24.9.2024 inclusive of GST? It is of interest to me as a shareholder and current investor in Yarra Rangers Council of the services that you provide to myself and the rate payers to understand how the money is being managed, and where there are opportunities, as you say, Mayor managing and keeping the costs down and looking at opportunities for quality infrastructure spend. Thank you.

Kim O'Connor, Director Corporate Services,

Thank you for your question.

Council takes the health and safety of staff, Councillors and community members with the utmost seriousness. For the period in question Council spent approximately \$15,450 engaging security guards to ensure workplace safety is maintained during Council meetings.

QUESTION 5

Michelle de Lima of Lilydale, asked

The context for this is a number of the new Councillors in this room have given a commitment to support the rebuild of the Kilsyth pool. What is planned to be constructed, developed or to be built for the Kilsyth Pool site?

Kath McClusky, Director Planning & Sustainable Futures

Thank-you for your question Michelle.

At the moment there are no immediate plans for the Kilsyth Pool site. The next step for the site is to develop a master plan, which will inform any future development of that site.

At this stage the master planning process is anticipated to commence in the next 12 to 18 months. This process will have a number of stages of consultation, so there will be consultation upfront. There will be a draft plan that is prepared, and then that draft plan will go out for community consultation prior to it being adopted, if Council choose to do that. Thank you.

SUBMISSIONS TO COUNCIL

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

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at: 7.27 pm.

Confirmed this day, Tuesday, 26 November 2024.

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Councillor Jim Child (Mayor)