

## AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBER

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Report Author: Executive Officer Governance, Risk & Compliance  
Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services  
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

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*The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.*

### CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

### SUMMARY

This report recommends extending Mr. Stephen Schinck's final term as an Independent Member and Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee (the Committee) from 31 May 2025 to 30 June 2025 due to the rescheduling of the May Committee meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

***That Council endorse the extension of Mr. Stephen Schinck's term as an Independent Member and Chair of the Yarra Ranges Council Audit and Risk Management Committee from 31 May 2025 to 30 June 2025.***

### DISCUSSION

#### ***Purpose and Background***

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to establish an Audit and Risk Management Committee as an Advisory Committee to Council. The terms of reference of the Committee are outlined in the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter (the Charter) which has been approved by Council and published on Council's website.

The Charter requires that the composition of the Committee include:

- Up to five members.
- Three Independent Members.
- Two Councillor Representatives.

Council is required to appoint a Chairperson for the Committee, the Chairperson being one of the Independent Members.

Mr. Stephen Schinck is an Independent Member of the Committee and the current Committee Chairperson. Mr. Schinck has 16 years' experience as a senior executive in the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) and has held executive management roles in corporate planning and governance, human resource strategy, asset management and operations, organisational risk management, internal audit and financial management and planning.

Mr. Schinck is also the current Chair of the Audit and Risk Committees (ARC) for Energy Safe Victoria and Safe Transport Victoria, and an Independent Member of the ARC's for the Victorian Labour Hire Authority and Murrindindi Shire Council.

Mr. Stephen Schinck is currently serving as an Independent Member and Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee, with his final term set to conclude on 31 May 2025.

Depending on other business demands, availability of Council staff and Committee members the prescheduled Committee meeting of 19 May 2025 may need to be rescheduled into early June. Extending Mr. Schinck's tenure for a month will ensure continuity in leadership, meeting practice and allow for a proper closure of Mr. Schinck's tenure. As such, it is proposed to extend his term by one month.

### ***Recommended option and justification***

It is recommended that Council endorse the extension of Mr. Schinck's final term from 31 May 2025 to 30 June 2025. This extension is purely administrative and does not involve any additional meetings or remuneration.

The proposed extension will allow Mr. Schinck to chair the rescheduled May meeting and ensure a smooth transition of leadership. This approach maintains the integrity of the Committee's oversight function and supports good governance practices.

### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

During its meeting of 11 February 2025 Council approved the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter (the Charter).

During its meeting of 24 September 2024 Council endorsed Mr. Schinck as the Chairperson of Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee for the period commencing 1 October 2024 to 31 May 2025.

### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

There are no financial implications associated with this recommendation. The extension does not require any additional remuneration or meetings beyond those already scheduled.

## **APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES**

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan: The appointment of an Independent Chair to the Committee links to the Council's Key Strategic Objective – High Performing Organisation and meets Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **RELEVANT LAW**

It is a legislated requirement that Council establish an Audit and Risk Management Committee, appoint Independent Members and a Chair, adopt, and maintain a Charter and provide a biannual report to Council.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The brief extension of Mr. Schinck's term has no direct sustainability implications. However, it ensures continuity in the Committee's risk management and governance oversight, which indirectly supports Council's long-term sustainability across economic, social, and environmental domain.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement was undertaken for this administrative extension.

## **COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought for this appointment.

The reappointment of Mr. Schinck as Committee Chair provides continuity and builds on the Committee's existing knowledge and processes. This supports continuous improvement in the Committee's oversight capabilities and effectiveness.

Mr. Schinck's extensive experience chairing audit and risk committees for other government entities presents opportunities for cross-pollination of best practices and innovative approaches to governance and risk management. His leadership can help drive ongoing refinement and enhancement of the Committee's operations.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Extending Mr. Schinck's term mitigates the risk of a leadership gap in the Committee and ensures the rescheduled May meeting is chaired by an experienced leader. This approach maintains the Committee's effectiveness in providing independent assurance to Council regarding risk management

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **ATTACHMENTS TO REPORT**

NIL