

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

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

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 the appointment of Mr. David Ashmore as the Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee (the Committee) for the period 1 July 2025 to 1 August 2027. The length of tenure is reflective of remainder of Mr Ashmore's current term as an independent member.

Mr Ashmore's nomination as Chair was unanimously supported by the other independent members.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the appointment of Mr. David Ashmore as the Chair of the Yarra Ranges Council Audit and Risk Management Committee for the period 1 July 2025 to 1 August 2027.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

11 February 2025 Council endorsed the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter (the Charter).

25 March 2025 Council endorsed Mr. Schinck as the Chairperson of Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee through to 30 June 2025.

DISCUSSION

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to establish the Committee. The terms of reference of the Committee are outlined in the Charter.

The Charter requires that the composition of the Committee include:

- Up to five members, three independent members and two councillor representatives.

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

During its meeting of 2 June 2025, the independent members nominated Mr. Ashmore unanimously for the role Chairperson of Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Mr. Ashmore is currently an Independent Member of the Committee. Mr. Ashmore is a highly experienced private and public sector.

Mr. Ashmore brings a wealth of experience and advice to the Committee across a range of domains including, but not limited to risk, financial, fraud, cyber security and auditing management practices. Mr. Ashmore's experience leading and being an independent member for various Council Audit Committee's will ensure the Committee continues to perform at its highest potential and provide oversight and support to Council.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

All financial implications associated with this recommendation are accommodated through existing operational budgets.

Section 12.5 of the Charter states that remuneration will be paid to each Independent Member and the Chair on a per meeting basis, with fees being indexed in alignment with the rate cap each 1 July. From 1 July 2025, the Independent Member Chair remuneration is \$1,825.66 per meeting (excluding GST).

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

The Act requires Council to establish the Committee, appoint Independent Members and a Chair, adopt, and maintain a Charter and provide a bi-annual report to Council.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The appointment of an experienced and qualified Chair for the Committee supports sound financial governance and oversight of Council's risk management practices.

Social Implications

Strong governance and risk management practices, overseen by a capable Committee Chair, help protect Council's ability to deliver critical services and programs to the community. This supports social sustainability by safeguarding Council's capacity to meet community needs over time.

Environmental Implications

Effective risk management and governance overseen by the Committee do support Council's ability to address environmental risks and pursue sustainability initiatives.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement has been undertaken in preparing this recommendation.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

There is no foreseen risk associated with this recommendation.

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

Nil