

2026 COUNCIL MEETING DATES - CONSIDERATION FOR ADOPTION

Report Author: Senior Governance Officer
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

It is a requirement that Council set the date, time and place of all Council meetings. This report provides a proposed schedule of Council meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year.

Once considered by Council the meeting schedule will be formally advertised, and details placed on Council's website. Historically, Yarra Ranges Council meetings have been held on a fortnightly cycle, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, commencing at 7:00 pm.

This report proposes to retain a fortnightly Council meeting cycle throughout 2026. Except for April and September where only one Council meeting will be scheduled per month and with a break provided over the Christmas period.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Adopt the 2026 schedule of Council meetings as follows:**
27 January 2026, 10 February 2026, 24 February 2026, 10 March 2026, 24 March 2026, 28 April 2026, 12 May 2026, 26 May 2026, 9 June 2026, 23 June 2026, 14 July 2026, 28 July 2026, 11 August 2026, 25 August 2026, 8 September 2026, 13 October 2026, 27 October 2026, 10 November 2026, 24 November 2026, 8 December 2026.
- 2. All Council meetings to commence at 7:00 pm at the Yarra Ranges Council Office, Lilydale, Victoria, unless otherwise specified in a public notice.**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake all statutory requirements that apply to meetings of Council.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

There are no related Council decisions relevant to this item.

DISCUSSION

Under the provisions of the Yarra Ranges Governance Rules, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings. Council meetings have historically been held on a fortnightly cycle, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, commencing at 7:00pm. It is recommended that Council adopt the schedule of Council meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year to allow for planning and consistency with current practice.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Costs associated with holding Council meetings can be met from within approved budgets.

RELEVANT LAW

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2020 and Section 12 of Council's Governance Rules, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

There are no economic impacts associated with the approval of the schedule of Council meetings.

Social Implications

Council meetings, whether held in person or virtually, provide members of the community with an opportunity to participate in local democracy. Participation enables a greater understanding of Council's decision-making process and promotes open and transparent government. Given the size of the municipality and the distance some members of the community are required to travel, virtual participation enables community members to conveniently participate and engage in meetings without leaving their homes. It is recommended that this practice is continued into 2026.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental impacts associated with adopting the schedule of Council meetings.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been no public consultation undertaken in respect of the recommendations within this report. Once adopted, the meeting schedule will be formally advertised, and details placed on Council's website.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not relevant.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

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