

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE **HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on
30 September 2024
At 5.30pm

In the
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
18 Roberts Avenue, HORSHAM



**COUNCILLORS are respectfully requested to attend the Council Meeting
of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held on 30 September 2024
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm**

Order of Business

PRESENT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

1. PRAYER

Almighty God, we pledge ourselves to work in harmony for, the social, cultural and economic well-being of our Rural City. Help us to be wise in our deliberations and fair in our actions, so that prosperity and happiness shall be the lot of our people. AMEN

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the benefit of the broader community and future generations.

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor advised that the meeting will be recorded to maintain a video archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as practicable.

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline to read the following statement:

My role as Mayor is to ensure the Council meeting is conducted in accordance with the Council's Governance Rules (sub rule 69.2). Members of the public do not have a right to address Council and may only do so with the consent of the Chair or by prior arrangement (sub rule 69.1). It is important for a successful Council meeting that the members of the gallery respect the setting and do not disrupt the meeting, particularly during the debate and discussion on Council items (sub rule 69.3). If required, as Chair, I may order the removal of any person (other than a Councillor) who disrupts the meeting or fails to comply with sub rule 69.2 (rule 70).

4. APOLOGIES

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 26 August 2024, 5.00pm on 2 September 2024 and 5.30pm on 16 September 2024 be adopted.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Members of Staff

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers or people engaged under contract to the Council providing a report or advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests in the matter, including the type of interest.

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CLOSE



KIM HARGREAVES
Acting Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Author's Name:	Belinda Johnson	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Chief Financial Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Finance	File Number:	F18/A14/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendices

Financial Statement 2023-2024 (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Performance Statement 2023-2024 (**Appendix 9.1B**)

Purpose

To seek Council's in-principle approval of the Financial and Performance Statements for 2023-2024 and authorise their submission to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

Summary

- The Annual Financial and Performance Statements for 2023-2024 have been prepared and presented to the auditor.
- The Annual Financial and Performance Statements for 2023-2024 have been reviewed by Council's Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2024.
- They are now presented to Council with a recommendation from the Audit and Risk Committee that Council approves in-principle the 2023-2024 Financial Statements and Performance Statement for Horsham Rural City Council, subject to any changes that are recommended or agreed by the Auditor in accordance with Section 98(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*
- In accordance with section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, nominates the Mayor, Councillor Robyn Gulline and Councillor Penny Flynn to certify and approve the 2023-2024 Financial Statements and Performance Statement in their final form.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Provide in-principle approval of the Financial and Performance Statements for 2023-2024 and authorise their submission to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office [VAGO].
2. Authorise Mayor Cr Robyn Gulline and Cr Penny Flynn to certify the Statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by VAGO or their sub-contractors, Crowe, have been made, pursuant of section 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

REPORT

Background

The Annual Financial and Performance Statements for the financial year 2023-2024 were prepared and presented to the Council's external auditor, Crowe via email on 13 September 2024. The Financial Statement (**Appendix 9.1A**) and Performance Statement (**Appendix 9.1B**) have been forwarded to the Victorian Auditor-General's office for review, and minor changes to notes and presentation of the Statements may be required/requested.

It is recommended that Council provide its in-principle approval on the Statements in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Statements will form part of the Council's Annual report which is required, by legislation, to be presented at an open Council meeting within 4 months of the end of the financial year. No changes other than those which might be recommended by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office are anticipated.

Discussion

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the Statements at its meeting on 23 September 2024. Representatives from Crowe, the external auditors appointed by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office, discussed the Statements and presented their audit findings at that meeting.

Specifically the Audit Committee adopted the following recommendations.

That the Audit and Risk Committee recommends that Council:

- Approves in-principle the 2023-2024 Financial Statements and Performance Statement for Horsham Rural City Council, subject to any changes that are recommended or agreed by the Auditor in accordance with Section 98(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;
- Makes provision, that if there is any significant change prior to certification of the 2023-2024 Financial Statements or Performance Statement, they be referred to the Audit and Risk Committee for endorsement; and
- In accordance with section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, nominates The Mayor, Councillor Robyn Gulline and Councillor Penny Flynn to certify and approve the 2023-2024 Financial Statements and Performance Statement in their final form, after any changes recommended or agreed with the Auditor and the Audit and Risk Committee, have been made on behalf of Council.

Options to Consider

Council can decide not to provide in-principle approval for the financial statements but doing so would make Council non-compliant with the requirements of the legislation. Where there are any issues identified with the statements they will be addressed in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office noting they will be referred back to the Audit and Risk Committee for endorsement as part of that process as outlined above.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The cost of the audit is included in the 2023-2024 Budget

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 – Leadership

Preparation of the Annual Financial and Performance Statements are a statutory requirement.

Risk Implications

There is a requirement for the Council to adopt its Annual Financial and Performance Statements in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, and, to not to do so may result in loss of reputation and concern about Council's financial management capabilities.

Conclusion

The Financial and Performance Statements for 2023-2024 have been completed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with the reference to relevant Accounting Standards. They are now presented, with the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee, that they be approved in-principle by the Council.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor)

Committee Representation	
27/08/24	Wimmera Southern Mallee Board Meeting
23/09/24	Audit and Risk Committee meeting
Other Council Activities	
27/08/24	ABC Wimmera Radio interview (phone)
27/08/24	Attended the Federation University Innovation Series Event - Communities in Transition - Change and Opportunity
28/08/24	Attended the "Hello Red Planet" performance at Horsham Town Hall
30/08/24	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
3/09/24	Chaired Wesley Fundraising Committee meeting
10/09/24	WSM Wind Energy ad Farm Business Information Day at Longerenong College
12/09/24	Attended MAV Annual Conference and Gala Dinner where I received the Mayor Emeritus Award
13/09/24	Attended the "Tamara Dean: Leave Only Footprints and Ian Kemp: Neverlasting" Photography exhibition openings at Horsham Art Gallery
15/09/24	Attended the Wimmera District Scout ARAP
17/09/24	ABC Wimmera Radio interview (phone)
17/09/24	Welcomed 11 new Australians at Citizenship Ceremony
18/09/24	Attended the opening of the Haven Homes social housing project
23/09/24	Attended the Kalkee Rec Reserve AGM
27/09/24	Laid wreath at National Police Remembrance Day

Cr Penny Flynn

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
23/09/24	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - Council Office
Other Council Activities	
Date	Description
01/09/24	Celebrating Sr Jacinta 70th year as a Brigidine Sister and her 90th Birthday – Parish Hall
06/09/24	Farewell Morning Tea for CEO Sunil Bhalla – Council Office
11/09/24	Horsham Special School Senior Formal – Horsham Town Hall
16/09/24	End of Term Assembly Acknowledging Sr Jacinta – St Brigid’s College
17/09/24	Citizenship Ceremony – Council Office

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
10/09/24	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting - online
Other Council Activities	
02/09/24	Council meeting – Council Chambers
09/09/24	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
16/09/24	Council meeting – Council Chambers
17/09/24	Citizenship Ceremony

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
10/09/24	Municipal Monitor meeting
11/09/24	Local Government Working Group on Gambling meeting
12/09/24	2024 MAV Annual Conference & Dinner – <i>Celebrating our work, reimagining the future, and creating optimism for what’s ahead.</i> Building thriving communities, 2023 ALGA Vic Award winners, Confronting the climate crisis and Combating disinformation. Conference speakers: Fabian Dattner, Elaine Chia, Jess Scully, Linda Scott (GAICD), Tiffany Crawford, Dan Cowdell, Ben Hart, Ika Trijsburg, Matteo Bonotti, Mario Peucker, Illaria Walker and many other guests, hosts and sponsors.
Other Council Activities	
27/08/24	Horsham Red Cross 110 years celebration welcome speech
6/9/24	CEO Farewell – Council Chambers
09/09/24	Council briefing
17/09/24	Citizenship Ceremony (Citizenship Day)
23/09/24	Council briefing
27/09/24	National Police Remembrance Day 2024 - St Michael & John's Catholic Church

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Council Briefing meetings held on 9 and 23 September 2024 at 5.00pm.

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Informal Meetings of Councillors – Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Sealing of Documents
- 13.3 Inward Correspondence
- 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION