



26 September 2024

## MINUTES

### Ordinary Council Meeting

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Date: Wednesday 25 September 2024

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Council Chamber  
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

Council: Cr Brett Ireland – Mayor  
Cr Wendy Bywaters – Deputy Mayor  
Cr Melanie Albrecht  
Cr Debra Nelson  
Cr Robert Gersch  
Cr Ron Ismay

Officers: Monica Revell – Chief Executive Officer  
Petra Croot – Director Corporate & Community Services  
Ram Upadhyaya – Director Infrastructure Services

The recommended decisions in all reports on this agenda are not prohibited decisions as defined in clause 111 of the Election Period Policy.

## **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Community**

Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.



## **Public Access**

This meeting is open to members of the public and will be livestreamed from Council's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil)

## **Live Streaming Statement**

This meeting will be streamed live on the internet and the recording of this meeting will be published on Council's website and/or social media pages after the meeting.

Members of the public attending this meeting may be filmed.

By remaining in the public gallery once the meeting commences, members of the public give their consent to being filmed, and for the recording of them to be made publicly available and used by Council.

Information about the broadcasting and publishing recordings of Council meetings is available in the Council's Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy is available on the Council's website.

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1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY & LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Cr B Ireland opened the meeting at 3:00pm by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and by reading out the live streaming statement.

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2 APOLOGIES

Petra Croot (Director Corporate & Community Services)

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3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

A Councillor or Officer with a conflict of interest in an item on the Agenda must indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- the item for which they have a conflict of interest;
- whether their conflict is general or material; and
- the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Declaration of material or general conflict of interest must also be advised by Councillors and Officers at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

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4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2024 at the Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

MOTION: CRS R Gersch/R Ismay

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2024 at the Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 1

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5 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

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6 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Attachment Number: 2

Introduction:

As required under S33(9) of Hindmarsh Shire Council's Governance Rules, the attached Assembly of Councillors Records are presented as attachments to the Council agenda for the information of Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.

MOVED: CRS R Ismay/D Nelson

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 2

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7 PLANNING PERMITS

Nil.

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8 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

8.1 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Attachment Numbers: 3 – 4

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the audited End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024 and for Council to adopt the statements pending no material change to the reports presented.

Discussion:

The Local Government Act 2020 requires a resolution of Council to adopt the In-Principle Financial Statements and In-Principle Performance Statement. The Act also requires a resolution of Council to appoint two Councillors to sign these documents in their final form on behalf of Council, under Section 99 (2) and (3).

The Financial Report and Performance Statements were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the applicable accounting standards. Copies of the Statements were provided to Crowe (external auditor acting for the Victorian Auditor-General's Office). The audit of the Statements has now been completed.

The Financial Report and Performance Statements were presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee meeting on Wednesday 18 September 2024, with the recommendation being, pending no material change to the Statements, that Council approve In-Principle the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024 and authorise any two Councillors to sign the Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.

At the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18 September the Committee recommended, pending no material changes to the Statements that Council approves in principle the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024, and authorises any two Councillors to sign the Financial Statements and Performance Statement in their final form.

Once finalised and certified by Council, the Auditor General will prepare the formal report on the Financial Report and Performance Statements for inclusion in Council's Annual Report 2023/2024.

The 2023/2024 Financial Statements show a comprehensive deficit of \$3.846 million which includes loss on the valuation of footpaths and Kerb and Channel of \$2.949 million following

a revaluation completed in 2024 by a qualified external contractor.

Total revenue for the financial year was \$19.927 million, a decrease of \$3.665 million from the previous financial year. The decrease is due to Council receiving the 2023/2024 Financial assistance grants in advance before 30 June 2023.

Total expenditure for the financial year was \$20.824 million, an increase of \$1.31 million from the previous financial year. The increase can be attributed to an increase in depreciation to account for completed capital projects, a repayment of community care grant funding received in the previous financial year but not fully expended at the conclusion of delivering the services, a significant increase in the running costs of plant and equipment, increases in the costs of materials, an increase in the Workcover premium, as well as increasing kerbside recycling costs.

As at 30 June 2024, Council held \$11.612 million cash at bank. This is higher than 2022/2023 due to the redemption of long-term deposits and a number of grant funded capital works projects not being complete.

Capital works expenditure was \$7.239 million for 2023/2024, a decrease of \$1.863 million from 2022/2023. This is due to several vehicles ordered in 2023/2024 not being able to be delivered until 2024/2025, not receiving funding to complete works on roads damaged in the October 2022 floods, and several grant funded projects not being complete including the Llew Schilling Silo.

#### Options:

Council must comply with its obligations under the Local Government Act 2020 by passing the resolutions required by Section 99. Council has the option of nominating which Councillors certify the Financial Statements and the Performance Statements or appoint all Councillors to certify with any two Councillors to sign.

#### Link to Council Plan:

##### Theme Four:

Good governance practices – ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020.

Long-term financial sustainability – continue to focus on responsible financial management in budgeting and long-term financial planning.

#### Financial Implications:

There are no unbudgeted financial implications in this process. The statements outline financial performance for the previous year but costs for their production are part of normal operating expenditure.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	Council to monitor expenditure during the financial year to ensure that the Council remains financially sustainable. End of Year Financial Report presents Council position as at 30 June.
Governance	External audits ensure oversight of Council's compliance under the Local Government Act 2020.

Relevant legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community engagement:

N/A

Gender equality implications:

This process does not have a direct and significant impact on the community, therefore a Gender Impact Assessment is not required under the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 130(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

Following signing of the final form of the Statements, the Statements will be included in Council's Annual Report for 2023/2024 as well as being available on Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, pending no material changes to the Statements, Council:

1. approves in principle the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024; and
2. authorises Mayor Cr Brett Ireland and Deputy Mayor Cr Wendy Bywaters to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.



MOVED: CRS R Gersch/D Nelson

That, pending no material changes to the Statements, Council:

1. approves in principle the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024; and
2. authorises Mayor Cr Brett Ireland and Deputy Mayor Cr Wendy Bywaters to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.

CARRIED

Attachment Numbers: 3 – 4

## 9 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 9.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachment Number: 5

Introduction:

The following Hindmarsh Shire Council Advisory Committees held meetings on the following dates:

- Rainbow Township Advisory Committee  
General meeting on 19 August 2024

A copy of the minutes for this meeting is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

Next Steps:

Advisory Committee Minutes will be published on Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Rainbow Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 July 2024.

MOVED: CRS R Ismay/M Albrecht

That Council notes the minutes of the Rainbow Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 July 2024.

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 5

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9.2 AUDIT AND RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachment Number: 6

Introduction:

The Hindmarsh Shire Audit and Risk Advisory Committee held a meeting on 18 September 2024. The purpose of this report is to note the minutes of this meeting, including endorsement of the Financial Report 2023/2024 and Performance Statement 2023/2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 18 September 2024.

MOVED: CRS M Albrecht/D Nelson

That Council notes the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 18 September 2024.

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 6

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9.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments Numbers: 7 – 12

Introduction:

The following Hindmarsh Shire Community Asset Committee held a meeting on the following dates:

- Rainbow CIVIC Centre Community Asset Committee  
Annual meeting on 20 August 2024 (Attachment 7)  
General meeting on 20 August 2024 (Attachment 8)
- Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee  
General meeting on 20 August 2024 (Attachment 9)
- Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

General meeting on 26 August 2024 (Attachment 10)

A copy of the minutes for each meeting are included as an attachment for the information of Council.

Additionally in accordance with financial reporting requirements, this report presents the following documents:

- Rainbow CIVIC Centre Community Asset Committee Financial Report 2023-2024 (Attachment 11)
- Antwerp Hall Community Asset Committee Financial Report 2023-2024 (Attachment 12)

This report also notes the resignation of Matthew Steen from the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:
  - a) Rainbow Civic Centre annual meeting held on 20 August 2024;
  - b) Rainbow Civic Centre general meeting held on 20 August 2024;
  - c) Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum general meeting held on 20 August 2024;
  - d) Yurunga Homestead general meeting held on 26 August 2024;
2. notes the following financial reports:
  - a) Rainbow CIVIC Centre Financial Report 2023-2024;
  - b) Antwerp Hall Financial Report 2023-2024.
3. notes the resignation of Matthew Steen from the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum committee.

MOVED: CRS R Ismay/W Bywaters

That Council:

1. notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:
  - a) Rainbow Civic Centre annual meeting held on 20 August 2024;
  - b) Rainbow Civic Centre general meeting held on 20 August 2024;
  - c) Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum general meeting held on 20 August 2024;
  - d) Yurunga Homestead general meeting held on 26 August 2024;
2. notes the following financial reports:
  - c) Rainbow CIVIC Centre Financial Report 2023-2024;
  - d) Antwerp Hall Financial Report 2023-2024.
3. notes the resignation of Matthew Steen from the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum committee.

CARRIED

Attachment Numbers: 7 – 12

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10 LATE REPORTS

None.

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11 MEETING CLOSE

Cr Brett Ireland declared the meeting closed at 3:12pm.

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