



MINUTES

Statutory and Annual Appointments Meeting Wednesday, 12 November 2025

Date: Wednesday, 12 November 2025

Time: 6.00pm

Location: Council Chamber, 15 Stead Street, Ballan

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1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

The CEO opened the meeting with the Council Prayer at 6.00pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

In accordance with Moorabool Shire Council's Governance Rules, the meeting is livestreamed.

4 PRESENT

Cr Moira Berry

Cr Jarrod Bingham

Cr Sheila Freeman

Cr John Keogh

Cr Ally Munari

Cr Tom Sullivan

Cr Paul Tatchell

Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor

Cr Rod Ward

Officers:

Mr Derek Madden

Chief Executive Officer

Mr David Jackson

General Manager Customer Care & Corporate Services

Ms Leigh McCallum

General Manager Community Strengthening

Ms Dianne Elshaug

Coordinator Office of the CEO

Mr Joe Spiteri

Manager Governance & Civic Support

5 APOLOGIES

Nil

6 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

7 BUSINESS

7.1 MAYOR'S REPORT

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

Council's Mayor, Cr. Paul Tatchell, will present his report on the November 2024 to November 2025 Mayoral term.

The former Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell:

Thanks Mr CEO and welcome Councillors, officers, guests.

It's been an interesting year and I'm not good at scripts, so I've just reflected on what we do over a year. And one of the greatest reflections about the role of the Mayor is really you just become the voice of the Council. And at times that can be a very interesting job because you're on your own and you usually have different points of view around the table. That's what we call democracy.

And unfortunately when you have democracy, there are also a lot of chinks in the armour, but in terms of having it or not having it, I think we'd all rather have democracies than not, because it gives us all a voice at the table.

And that voice is supposed to represent the people that we represent, the people that have entrusted us with that privilege.

And it is a privilege. And it's a very important privilege because it gives us an opportunity to shape the way we move forward and to work with the people, and great people that have these fantastic skills. It is one of the most enormous opportunities to work with those people, and have that variance of skills all brought to the table. And then when you see a project come together, you can see all of those increments of that jigsaw that slowly come together piece by piece with people who have done an extraordinary job and use all of their skills and talents to bring it together. And that's what Council is. And that is, I suppose, the only chink of that is the democracy that continues to stall it and push it, shove it, and make it a very complex process at times.

But I'd have to say that over this past year we've seen the fruits of that labour and we've seen some fantastic things happen in the Shire. And if you go back, you know, when I started here 13 years ago and looked at the paddock that was Racecourse Reserve or the MARC stadium, or what was left of the remnants of Mill Hill, or the brilliance of the library that we see today and what was there before. You can acknowledge the amount of work and the amount of effort, consultation, collaboration and the ability where democracy puts the rubber on the road with the people that are actually the brains trust of how we make these things work.

It's incredibly important. The other challenge, of course, that came this year was that we came with two extra Councillors. And as any CEO would say, well, wouldn't that make things easier? Unfortunately not. But it also came with no wards, which added another challenge in a time where we were doing the Moorabuild, where all of a sudden that direct link to the coal face from wards was taken away. And those areas then sort of became conglomerates where people gathered and all these new Councillors would turn up, but probably not as frequently as having a ward Councillor.

But to have nine Councillors and have new Councillors, it also brings new ideas to the table. It brings challenges of course, because it's the steepest learning curve that you'll probably ever come across, because from the day you arrive as a new Councillor you are making decisions that will actually shape the picture that will become this durable Shire of 2100 square kilometres and 1600 kilometres of roads and all the challenges that come with it. But we get there eventually, and a year later we sit here and we'll probably choose a new Mayor and hopefully that'll all come together nicely.

And that is what I'd say to whoever that is, just remember when you get up every morning that it's not about you. It's about the people that you represent. It's about the people that rely on you to make decisions that will then allow them to do their jobs efficiently. It's about making sure that a group of nine people that, under normal circumstances would all have different agendas, thrown in together by the benefits of democracy, will eventually have to come out with a decision and come together as one without using that horrible word team, because it's not a team. You've got nine people that have been thrown in for different reasons. Their agendas are different. A team is somewhere where they've all got the same agenda. So here it becomes a methodology where thoughts and ideas all come together. And hopefully we come out the other end with a good decision, and hopefully we have the mechanics of it that allow the officers with their skillsets to actually build things like libraries and improve things like the Racecourse Reserve and talk about all those other items that come up.

So having said that, we also have our challenges, or the EPA challenge when we all know that's unfair. We all know that that's wrong, but we still have to deal with it. They put a massive hole in the budget, and that caused no end of issues in terms of how we rebalance that budget to make sure that the residents that were actually given the, the ideal that, that these things would come together, would all of a sudden they have to be trimmed a little.

We also had to come to terms with coming out of COVID and this new world that we live in that's now ruled by these screens and the way that we've changed and how we do that. And also the enormous task of when you've got 3% compounding growth to have a project going forward, to make sure that you can get more out of that buck that you're trying to get out without overtaxing people. It's an enormous challenge, and it's a challenge that's borne by everybody.

And it's a challenge that will continue to plague the three levels of government in terms of expenditure and knowing what our core business is. And I think what we are at is we're at the crossroads where we're going to see some of those challenges come to fruition, where we've gone through this enormous period of build, but we've also noticed there's been an enormous period of debt out there in state governments, federal governments. It has a flow on effect, and it will have an effect on how we adjudicate going forward. So it's incredibly important that we acknowledge that. So acknowledge the things that we do well, the things we've done well, but also be prepared to take up that challenge and make sure that as we move forward we can actually continue to produce with whatever limited resources that we have. And that's one of the great challenges, and not always when it's going well, and sometimes when your back's to the wall, is when we as a Council, as a small Council, have always punched above its weight limit, is always tested. But it's when we are challenged with those things that we've always proven to be very good, whether it be through the disasters that we've had, over the periods of fires, floods, the economic disasters, the COVID situation we've always managed to bring this thing together and make sure that we can do it, and when we turn to a GBAC meeting? And you say, well really, it's the amount of work that's going on behind the scenes,

it should never be forgotten. And when they say, how can the Shire that's so large and have so much road network still manage to get through when, you know, when someone's got 200kms of roads in Ballarat and 20 types of budget and winter because they can't fill a pothole. Our guys are out there every day trying to make that work, and work with what we've got and not be too fussed about it.

So I'm going to close this up pretty shortly. The other thing is that we're one, all of us know, and I love looking at the people here today, because you come into a lifestyle of public service and it's the most extraordinary thing, and they're the most extraordinary people because they never get a lot of thanks. When it all goes wrong, it's terribly wrong. You are continually being pushed and shoved by the democracy as it plays out. You never know quite what's going to happen on a Wednesday night, but you deal with it on the Thursday morning.

You manage to do these things despite the fact that when you pick up the phone, probably nine times out of ten it's probably not going to be overly pleasant. But you get up every morning and think, my role in life is to make someone else's life better, and that makes it all worthwhile. All of a sudden it's not about money, it's not about anything else. It's purely when you could walk down the street even in the darkest moment and say, well, gee, we're going to be alright. And people are, our people in this community are happy, generally. I mean, I could not be any prouder of those people than when we, it's not when you go to cut a ribbon either, I mean our job really is to make sure there's just more ribbon to cut at the end of the day, the cutting of the ribbon it's just time to move on to the next thing.

But we celebrate it in weird ways. But honestly we know that as soon as we leave that ribbon cutting, that those guys have gone straight back to work and they're trying to move on to the next thing. And we saw that the other day when the amount of phone calls and emails we got from our summit on illegal dumping. And here we are, we've got all of our crew bringing together all these skill sets that don't probably all match perfectly, but we still manage to pull it off.

And those people are walking out the door and they say, gee, they must have a magnificent media team down there, but we've got everyone there, you know, from the caterer through to the CEO. We'll make it happen. And isn't it fantastic when they ring you the next day and say, why can't we do it? Or why can't we learn from it? Or when we send our people up to Sydney to pick up awards because of this little Shire down here has come up with some brilliant ideas. And I see one of the people here that was up there during the year and I get really excited about that because I think we could sit around whinging, we can sit around complaining, and we could sit around and say, well, yeah, it could be better. But at the end of the day, we work with what we've got, and we do the very best we can with it.

So in closing, there's a couple of things. One, I've done this job a few times now, and I've been very, very fortunate, very, very privileged. And I never take that for granted, but I could tell you that I cannot do this with Di. I am absolutely convinced that, and I know she hates this, but I can tell you after doing it so many times that without Di Elshaug I'm worth nothing because you just can't function without Di. You turn up and things, everything's always perfect. Everything's where you need it. When things go wrong, she fixes it very quickly. You wouldn't even know it was happening. So I can honestly say that, you know, the five times I've been Mayor, that the person I rely on most and the person I respect the most, and the person that I literally could not do this job without was Di, and her ability to make sure that all of the team is all working for the same purpose, to make it just happen seamlessly. And I see a lot of those people here today, so thank you Di.

But the last thing I want to talk about is the CEO. We've been incredibly lucky. I mean, the funny thing about life, you get lucky every now and then. But we landed this guy a few years ago now, and we were probably struggling. We had a previous CEO who was conservative, and making sure we got our books in order and we were ready to go, and we just needed that next person to take us somewhere else. And this guy turned up; he's very funny in an interview. I'm not sure that's what he's supposed to do, but the proof's always in the pudding. And from the very day that Derek Madden started here, we started to move forward in a different direction. And it was exciting because all of a sudden there was some energy about how we were going to move forward. And we took chances and he always asked for 10 times more than I thought we'd ever get close to. But every time he did it, he did it knowing he was backing himself, backing his team and backing this Council. And he has a brilliant reputation all around Victoria and I heard someone say it the other day, you've got the best CEO in Victoria. Well, that's a compliment indeed. And I can tell you as the Mayor that's worked with him a couple of times, and we've travelled a bit, he has one of the most unassuming minds. And you think, if you're really thinking about this, he's really concentrating. And then all of a sudden he just comes in with this brilliance that comes out of nowhere, and he's mastered since the EPA incident, he's the master of the one liner.

So he'd ring you up at 10 o'clock at night and say "Hey Tatch, the radio will ring you tomorrow, throw this one out and see what the Minister thinks of that. And so it's been an absolute pleasure!

It's been an extraordinary journey. It's been fantastic to work with the eight new Councillors. It's always challenging in the first year of any Council, but I have to say, despite the few bumps we've had along the road, we got there in the end, and here we sit today.

So all I say to whoever the new Mayor is, get behind him or her, stay behind them, whatever happens tonight the most important thing you can do is to continue to back the people that are here because they've already exceeded, they've already done well, they've already got a proven track record. And all we need to do is keep pushing and make sure that we support, we can complain all we like, but at the end of the day it's much easier to just get behind people and push them along.

So, thank you very much. I feel incredibly privileged to be here tonight. Thank you.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That the Mayor's Report for the Mayoral term of November 2024 to November 2025 be received.

CARRIED

7.2 EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**Author:** **Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office****Authoriser:** **Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments:** **Nil**

Prior to calling for nominations for position of Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer called upon any Councillor who wish to express appreciation to the outgoing Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell for his term in office.

Councillors Rod Ward, Ally Munari, Tom Sullivan, Moira Berry, Sheila Freeman, John Keogh, Steve Venditti-Taylor and Jarrod Bingham expressed their appreciation to the outgoing Mayor for his term of office.

The Chief Executive Officer also thanked Cr Tatchell for his term in office and presented him with a gift from Council.

7.3 DETERMINING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF MAYOR

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

To determine the term of office of Mayor in accordance with section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and clause 4.1.2 of Council's Governance Rules.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Governance Rules, prior to the election of the Mayor, Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a 1 year or a 2 year term.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That Council, in accordance with section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, resolve that the term of office for the Mayor elected be for a period of one (1) year.

CARRIED

7.4 ELECTION OF MAYOR

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

In accordance with Part 4.4 of Council's Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor for the 2025/26 Council year.

Cr Ally Munari nominated Cr Moira Berry.

Cr Tom Sullivan nominated Cr Paul Tatchell.

Cr John Keogh nominated Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor.

The Chief Executive Officer called for a vote by Councillors.

After two rounds of voting, and with an absolute majority vote, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor the duly elected Mayor for the 2025/26 Council year.

Following the declaration, the newly elected Mayor assumed the Chair and made a brief acceptance speech:

Thank you to my fellow Councillors for the opportunity to do this role. I've had a bit of talk with Paul, and I'd like to thank him again and for all he has done. He's had a lot of personal challenges that he's faced this year and it's a credit to him that he still fronts up. He still does his job. If I can be half as good a Mayor as you have been, I'll have done a really good job.

Obviously as your Mayor I'm committed to serving the people of Moorabool with integrity, transparency and respect. The role is not about prestige, it's about service. We're here because the community has entrusted us to represent their best interest to listen and deliver and to advocate on their behalf. We face a lot of challenges and we've pretty much got to unite together to get the best results.

To all my fellow Councillors I thank you and as I say it's been an interesting ride over the last 12 months and to all the staff as well that have helped me along the way and to Joe and Derek I'd thank them as well.

I'd also like to thank Tom, John and Sheila who've really been by my side from the start. And I'd like to thank everyone else.

The Mayor assumed the role of Chairperson.

7.5 DETERMINATION TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR AND TERM OF OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

To consider the establishment of an office of Deputy Mayor and, if so resolved, to determine the role of Deputy Mayor to be elected for a 1 year or a 2 year term.

BACKGROUND

As provided for in section 21 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), the role of the Deputy Mayor, if resolved to be established, is to perform the role of the Mayor and may exercise any of the powers of the Mayor should the following occur:

- The Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or
- The Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason, including illness; or
- The office of Mayor is vacant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Section 20A of the Act states that a Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.
- If it is resolved to establish an office of Deputy Mayor, in accordance with sections 27(2) and 26(3) of the Act, before the election of a Deputy Mayor can be held, a Council must determine by resolution whether the Deputy Mayor is to be elected for a 1 year or a 2 year term.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Sheila Freeman

That Council establish an office of Deputy Mayor and determine that the Deputy Mayor be elected for a one (1) year term.

CARRIED

7.6 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

In accordance with Part 4.4 of Council's Governance Rules, the Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2025/26 Council year.

Cr Moira Berry nominated Cr Jarrod Bingham.

Cr John Keogh nominated Cr Sheila Freeman.

Cr Paul Tatchell nominated Cr Ally Munari. Cr Munari declined the nomination.

The Mayor called for a vote by Councillors.

After an absolute majority vote, the Mayor declared Cr Jarrod Bingham the duly elected Deputy Mayor for the 2025/26 Council year.

8 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

8.1 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to formally note the prevailing Mayoral and Councillor allowances that apply to the elected representatives of Moorabool Shire Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal released the Allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) through an Annual Adjustment Determination 2025, effective from 1 July 2025.
- As a designated Category 2 Council, the current maximum Mayoral, Deputy Mayor (if elected) and Councillor Allowances are set at \$115,347, \$57,673 and \$35,049 effective 1 July 2025 inclusive of 12% superannuation, being the equivalent of superannuation guarantee contribution.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Allowances released by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal for a designated Category 2 Council.**
- 2. Notes the payment of annual allowances is not to exceed more than one month in advance.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as an elected official.

Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020* stipulates that Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance in accordance with a Determination of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal. On 1 July 2025, in accordance with section 23A of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019 (Vic) (VIRTIPS Act), the Tribunal made the Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) through an Annual Adjustment Determination 2025, effective from 1 July 2025.

PROPOSAL

The Determination is the Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) and is made under Part 3 of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019 (Vic) by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.

Mayoral, Deputy Mayor (if elected) and Councillor Allowances are set at \$115,347, \$57,673 and \$35,049 effective 1 July 2025 inclusive of 12% superannuation, being the equivalent of superannuation guarantee contribution.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts**Priority 4.2: Align services and resources to sustainably meet the needs of our community**

The proposal is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision for the application of Mayoral and Councillor allowances has been made in Council's Annual Budget.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no identified Risks or OH&S implications as a result of presenting this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

As the nature of this report is procedural, there is no requirement to undertake any specific consultation.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Chief Executive Officer – Derek Madden

In providing this advice to Council as the Chief Executive Officer, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Dianne Elshaug

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council note the prevailing Mayoral and Councillor allowances.

8.2 COUNCIL MEETING FRAMEWORK AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to allow Council to formally consider and determine its meeting schedule for the 2026 year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The adoption of a meeting schedule provides greater certainty and advance notice for the residents of Moorabool of its Council meeting cycle.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr John Keogh

That Council:

1. Adopt the following meeting framework and meeting schedule to be convened and undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governances Rules:
 - a) Ordinary Council Meetings to commence in February 2026 and held thereafter on the first Wednesday of each calendar month, commencing at 6.00pm, with meetings to be held in the Council Chambers, Ballan as follows:

4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May, 3 June, 1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December, 16 December 2026.
 - b) Development Assessment Committee (Delegated Committee of Council) meetings to commence in February 2026 and held thereafter on the third Wednesday of each calendar month, commencing at 6.00pm, with meetings to be held in the Council Chambers, Ballan as follows:

18 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 9 December 2026.
 - c) Moorabool Growth Management Committee (Delegated Committee of Council) meetings to commence in March 2026 and held thereafter on the first Wednesday of every third calendar month, commencing at 3.30pm with the meetings to be held in the Council Chambers, Ballan as follows:

4 March, 3 June, 2 September, 2 December 2026.
 - d) A Statutory Meeting of Council to be held on 11 November 2026 in Council Chambers, Ballan.

2. **Provides public notice, as required by Council's Governance Rules, indicating the time, date and venue for convening Council Meetings and Council Delegated Committee Meetings.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to amend the 2026 Meeting Schedule as required and provide notice of the change to the public in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The primary activity of the elected Council is to make decisions on policy matters and set strategic direction, whilst leaving the administrative arm of Council to implement policy and strategic direction, providing accountability and reporting back to the Council and its community.

Integral to good decision making is the provision of community consultation which acts as a guide to the decision-making processes of the elected Council. Thus it is important that the conduct of the business of Council is open to the public and conducted in a transparent manner and providing a platform for community input.

PROPOSAL

The following framework has been developed to provide for the efficient and effective conduct of the business of Council, in a manner which enables a transparent and interactive decision-making process involving Moorabool Shire Council and the community, leading to effective decision-making protocols.

1. Council Meetings

One Council Meeting to be held each calendar month, on the first Wednesday, commencing at 6.00pm with meetings to be held in the Council Chambers, Ballan.

The Council Meeting generally considers matters listed under the service areas of CEO, Community Assets & Infrastructure, Community Strengthening and Customer & Corporate Services relating to policy and statutory obligations in addition to statutory planning and strategic land use planning.

2. Council Delegated Committee Meetings

a. Development Assessment Committee

One Development Assessment Committee meeting to be held each calendar month, on the third Wednesday, commencing at 6.00pm with meetings to be held in the Council Chambers, Ballan.

The Development Assessment Committee generally considers matters, within certain delegation, associated with planning applications made under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

b. Moorabool Growth Management Committee

The Moorabool Growth Management Committee will convene four times a year, on the first Wednesday of every third month, commencing at 3.30pm. These meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, Ballan.

The purpose of the Moorabool Growth Management Committee is to guide urban and rural growth planning within all settlements and related infrastructure across the Shire in accordance with Moorabool 2041.

3. Statutory Meeting of Council

At a meeting of the Council that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council.

The election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by the Council that is as close to the end of the term as determined by Council as is reasonably practicable.

Together with electing a Mayor, it is also general practice to present to an annual meeting matters associated with the term of a Mayor, including electing a Deputy Mayor (should Council wish to do so).

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

Priority 4.3: Focus resources to deliver on our service promise in a sustainable way

The proposal is not provided for in the Council Plan 2025-2029 and can be actioned by utilising existing resources.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of presenting this report.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no identified Risks or OH&S implications as a result of presenting this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Once adopted by Council, meeting dates will be advertised via Council's website and various advertising methods including traditional print and via social media.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Chief Executive Officer – Derek Madden

In providing this advice to Council as the Chief Executive Officer, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Dianne Elshaug

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the 2026 Council Meeting Framework and Meeting Schedule will meet Council's business requirements and therefore is recommended for adoption by Council.

9 MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 6.56pm.

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CHAIRPERSON