



Ararat Rural City

MINUTES

STATUTORY MEETING

Tuesday 11 November 2025

**Held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)**

Commenced at 6.04pm

Council:

**Cr Jo Armstrong
Cr Rob Armstrong
Cr Peter Joyce
Cr Teli Kaur
Cr Luke Preston
Cr Bob Sanders
Cr Bill Waterston**

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/araratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

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PRESENT: Cr Jo Armstrong, Cr Rob Armstrong, Cr Peter Joyce, Cr Teli Kaur, Cr Luke Preston, Cr Bob Sanders, Cr Bill Waterston, Dr Tim Harrison – Chief Executive Officer, Chandra Willmott – Governance & Risk Lead, Thomas Duncan – Theatre Technical Officer

The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Tim Harrison opened the meeting.

SECTION 1 - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council's Facebook page from 6pm and on Council's website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement - CR J ARMSTRONG

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer - CR SANDERS

Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge - CR JOYCE

We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

SECTION 2 - ELECTION OF MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 24777

The process of election of the Mayor will take place in accordance with the section 25 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 2 - Part B of Council's Governance Rules. The Governance Rules state that any nominations for the office of Mayor must be, in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer and seconded by a Councillor.

Nominations were invited for the position of Mayor on Thursday 6 November 2025 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Tuesday 11 November 2025.

The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors to be declared.

2.1 MAYORAL TERM

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt a Mayoral Term of 1 year.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR SANDERS

That Council adopt a Mayoral Term of 1 year.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion

CARRIED 7/0
5241/25

2.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr _____ as Mayor.

MOVED CR WATERSTON
SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

Nomination received for Cr Bob Sanders; no other nominations for Mayor were received.

That Council elect Cr Bob Sanders as Mayor.

CARRIED 7/0
5242/25

SECTION 3 - ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND RISK LEAD
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 24778

3.1 DECISION TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Council has no obligation to elect a Deputy Mayor as per the Local Government Act 2020. Council's Governance Rules 2022 Clause 8 states:

"If Council has not established an office of Deputy Mayor and it becomes required to appoint an Acting Mayor, it can do so by:

- 1.1 resolving that a specified Councillor be so appointed; or
- 1.2 following the procedure set out in Rules 5 and 6 (inclusive) of this Chapter, at its discretion"

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine if it wishes to elect a Deputy Mayor for the 2025/2026 term.

MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR WATERSTON

That Council determine if it wishes to elect a Deputy Mayor for the 2025/2026 term.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 7/0
5243/25

The process of election of the Deputy Mayor will take place in accordance with the section 27 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 2 - Part B of Council's Governance Rules. The Governance Rules state that any nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor must be, in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer and seconded by a Councillor.

Nominations were invited for the position of Mayor on Thursday 6 November 2025 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Tuesday 11 November 2025.

The Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors to be declared.

3.2 DEPUTY MAYORAL TERM

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt a Deputy Mayoral Term of 1 year.

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR JOYCE**

That Council adopt a Deputy Mayoral Term of 1 year.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

**CARRIED 7/0
5244/25**

3.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr as Deputy Mayor.

**MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR WATERSTON**

Nomination received for Cr Teli Kaur; no other nominations for Deputy Mayor were received.

That Council elect Cr Teli Kaur as Deputy Mayor.

**CARRIED 7/0
5245/25**

SECTION 4 - REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

4.1 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES/ORGANISATIONS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 24779

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides clarity on Council representation on the various Council Committees and external bodies that Council will be represented for 2025/2026.

DISCUSSION

Council is represented on a range of committees, which are convened by external bodies and on various internal committees.

It is important to have a consistent representation on these Committees and Organisations during the Council term.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at their centre through effective financial management, well measured risk management, and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

Budget Implications

Costs for Councillors attending (travel expenses) are included in the current budget allocations.

Policy/Relevant Law

Council is required to have delegates on various bodies and committees, this report will outline those delegations.

Sustainability Implications

Economic, social and environment matters were taken into account when preparing this report.

Risk Assessment

A definitive list will clarify who is the Council appointed representatives/s to any particular body or Committee.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Representation on these Committees and Organisation will ensure that Council is kept up to date with relevant legislative and sector changes.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Councillors and Chief Executive Officer will discuss the proposed Councillor Delegates on Committees and Organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine the appointment of Council Delegates to Committees and Organisations for the Council term 2025/2026 as listed below:

Committee or Organisation with Council Representation	Basis of Representation	Council Delegate
National/State/Regional Bodies		
Municipal Association of Victoria Delegate	One Councillor	
Municipal Association of Victoria Substitute Delegate	One Councillor	
Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum	Mayor	Mayor
Western Highway Action Committee	One Councillor	
Rail Freight Alliance	One Councillor	
Council Committees		
Audit and Risk Committee	Two Councillors	
CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Committee	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and One Councillor	

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That Council determine the appointment of Council Delegates to Committees and Organisations for the Council term 2025/2026 as listed below:

Committee or Organisation with Council Representation	Basis of Representation	Council Delegate
National/State/Regional Bodies		
Municipal Association of Victoria Delegate	One Councillor	Cr Jo Armstrong
Municipal Association of Victoria Substitute Delegate	One Councillor	Cr Bob Sanders
Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum	Mayor	Cr Bob Sanders
Western Highway Action Committee	One Councillor	Cr Peter Joyce
Rail Freight Alliance	One Councillor	Cr Bill Waterston
Council Committees		
Audit and Risk Committee	Two Councillors	Cr Bob Sanders and Cr Peter Joyce
CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Committee	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and One Councillor	Cr Bob Sanders, Cr Teli Kaur and Cr Luke Preston

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion

CARRIED 7/0
5246/25

4.2 FIXING OF MEETING DATES 2025/2026

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 24780

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to set Council Meeting dates for 2025/2026 Council term.

It is proposed to keep the scheduling of future Council meetings to the last Tuesday of each month.

This report outlines the proposed dates for the ensuing 12 months and is presented to Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION

The proposed Council Meetings dates outlined in the recommendation are to be considered for the ensuing twelve months.

Further proposed changes to the schedule are as follows:

- There will be no December Council Meeting

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2025-2029:

6 STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at their centre through effective financial management, well measured risk management, and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

Budget Implications

Advertising of Council Meeting dates is allocated in the Annual Budget 2025/2026.

Policy/Relevant Law

Schedule set for Council Meetings, meetings advertised and placed on Council website as required under the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

None identified.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer briefed Council on proposed Council Meeting dates.

Following adoption of this report an advertisement will be placed in a local newspaper and on Council's website advising the community of the Council Meeting schedule for 2025/2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2025/2026 as follows:*
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 November 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 January 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 24 February 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 31 March 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 April 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 May 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 June 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 July 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 August 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 29 September 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 October 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 10 November 2026 (Statutory Meeting); and
2. *Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2025/2026 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.*

MOVED CR JOYCE SECONDED CR PRESTON

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2025/2026 as follows:**
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 November 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 January 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 24 February 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 31 March 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 April 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 May 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 June 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 July 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 August 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 29 September 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 October 2026;
6.00pm - Tuesday 10 November 2026 (Statutory Meeting); and
2. **Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2025/2026 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.**

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

**CARRIED 7/0
5247/25**

SECTION 5 - CLOSURE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 6:13pm.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PAGES 11805 - 11814 ARE CONFIRMED AND ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

MAYOR - CR BOB SANDERS