Ararat Rural City

MINUTES

STATUTORY MEETING

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

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

Ararat Rural City

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 Rob Armstrong, Cr Peter Joyce, Cr Teli Kaur, Cr Luke Preston, Cr Bob Sanders, Cr Bill Waterston, Phuong Au – Chief Executive Officer, Chandra Willmott – Chief Operating Officer, Thomas Duncan – Theatre Technical Officer

The Chief Executive Officer, Phuong Au 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 R 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 WATERSTON
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.

1.3 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION

That the apology of Cr Jo Armstrong be accepted.

MOVED CR WATERSTON
SECONDED CR KAUR

That the apology of Cr Jo Armstrong be accepted.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5450/26

SECTION 2 – ELECTION OF MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
DEPARTMENT: **CEO'S OFFICE**
REFERENCE: **32688**

The process of election of the Mayor will take place in accordance with section 25 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 4 of Council's Governance Rules.

Nominations were invited for the position of Mayor on Thursday 5 November 2026 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Tuesday 10 November 2026.

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 JOYCE
SECONDED CR SANDERS

That Council adopt a Mayoral Term of 1 year.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5451/26

2.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr Sanders as Mayor.

MOVED CR KAUR
SECONDED CR JOYCE

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

That Council elect Cr Sanders as Mayor.

CARRIED 6/0
5452/26

SECTION 3 – ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
DEPARTMENT: **CEO'S OFFICE**
REFERENCE: **32689**

3.1 DECISION TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Council may establish the office of Deputy Mayor under the Local Government Act 2020. The Act does not require Council to do so.

Where Council does not establish the office of Deputy Mayor and an Acting Mayor is required, sections 20A(3) and 20B of the Local Government Act 2020 require Council to appoint a Councillor to be the Acting Mayor for a period specified by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to establish the office of Deputy Mayor for the 2026/2027 term.

MOVED CR WATERSTON
SECONDED CR JOYCE

That Council resolves to establish the office of Deputy Mayor for the 2026/2027 term.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5453/26

The process of election of the Deputy Mayor will take place in accordance with section 27 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 4 of Council's Governance Rules.

Nominations were invited for the position of Deputy Mayor on Thursday 5 November 2026 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Tuesday 10 November 2026.

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 KAUR
SECONDED CR WATERSTON

That Council adopt a Deputy Mayoral Term of 1 year.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5454/26

3.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr Kaur as Deputy Mayor.

MOVED CR SANDERS
SECONDED CR WATERSTON

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

That Council elect Cr Kaur as Deputy Mayor.

CARRIED 6/0
5455/26

SECTION 4 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

4.1 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 32690

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides clarity on Council representation on the various Council Committees for 2026/2027.

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.

This report relates solely to the appointment of Councillor representatives to Council's internal committees. Appointments to external organisations, advisory bodies, and regional committees will be considered separately at a future meeting.

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 Internal Committees for the Council term 2026/2027 as listed below:

Council Committees		
Audit and Risk Committee	*Two Councillors*	
CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Committee	*Mayor, Deputy Mayor and One Councillor*	

MOVED CR JOYCE
SECONDED CR WATERSTON

That Council determine the appointment of Council Delegates to Internal Committees for the Council term 2026/2027 as listed below:

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 6/0
5456/26

4.2 FIXING OF MEETING DATES 2026/2027

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 32691

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to set Council Meeting dates for 2026/2027 Council term.

It is proposed to keep the scheduling of future Council meetings to the last Tuesday of each month except in January 2027 due to the Australia Day public holiday.

This report outlines the proposed dates for the ensuring 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
- The January 2027 Meeting to occur one week prior due to Australia Day

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 2026/2027.

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 2026/2027.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2026/2027 as follows:*
   6.00pm - Tuesday 24 November 2026;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 19 January 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 23 February 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 30 March 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 27 April 2027;
   6.00pm – Tuesday 25 May 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 29 June 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 27 July 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 31 August 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 28 September 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 26 October 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 9 November 2027 (Statutory Meeting); and
2. *Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2026/2027 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.*

MOVED CR KAUR
SECONDED CR WATERSTON

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2026/2027 as follows:**
   6.00pm - Tuesday 24 November 2026;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 19 January 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 23 February 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 30 March 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 27 April 2027;
   6.00pm – Tuesday 25 May 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 29 June 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 27 July 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 31 August 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 28 September 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 26 October 2027;
   6.00pm - Tuesday 9 November 2027 (Statutory Meeting); and
2. **Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2026/2027 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.**

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5457/26

SECTION 5 - CLOSURE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 6:07pm.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PAGES 14387 - 14396 ARE CONFIRMED AND ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

MAYOR – CR BOB SANDERS