



Ararat Rural City

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 20 October 2020

To be held in the Alexandra Oval Community Centre
1 Waratah Avenue, Ararat

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Jo Armstrong
Cr Gwenda Allgood
Cr Bernardine Atkinson
Cr Peter Beales
Cr Bill Braithwaite
Cr Frank Deutsch
Cr Fay Hull

Our Vision

Our communities, our opportunities

Our Mission Statement

We will demonstrate leadership through social responsibility, openness and transparency by actively working with our community to achieve shared goals.

Our Values

- Respect** - Respect for each other and the wider community.
- Excellence** - Striving for ongoing professionalism and organisational excellence.
- Passion** - Passion for our people, community and services.

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.

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

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SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

As per the guidelines issued by the Minister for Local Government, from 1 May 2020 to 1 November 2020 (the prescribed period) Councils do not need to provide for members of the public to physically attend meetings. Providing public access to livestreamed events satisfies the public attendance test during the prescribed period.

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and now live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream will be available to view on Ararat Rural City Council's Facebook page from 6pm and on Council's website, www.ararat.vic.gov.au from Thursday morning following the Council Meeting.

You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/araratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement

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

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

We will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the municipal district of the Ararat Rural City Council and faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us under the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government Act 1989 or any other act to the best of our skill and judgment.

1.3 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION (if required)

That the apology of Cr be accepted.

1.4 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed.

Local Government Act 1989 Section 79 (2) A Councillor or member of a special committee who has a conflict of interest and is attending the meeting of the Council or special committee must make a full disclosure of that interest -

- (a) by either -
 - (i) advising the Council or special committee at the meeting of the details required under paragraph (b) and (c) immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting; or
 - (ii) advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing of the details required under paragraphs (b) and (c) before the meeting; and
- (b) classifying the type of interest that has given rise to the conflict as either -
 - (i) a direct interest: or
 - (ii) an indirect interest and specifying the particular kind of indirect interest under section 78, 78A, 78B, 78C, 78D or 78E; and
- (c) describing the nature of the interest; and
- (d) if the Councillor or member advised the Chief Executive Officer of the details under paragraph (a) (ii), the Councillor or member must make a disclosure of the class of interest only to the meeting immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting.

Local Government Act 1989 Section 80(C) A person who is providing advice or a report to a meeting of the Council or a special committee, and who has a conflict of interest in a matter to which the advice or report relates, must disclose the constituting the conflict of interest when providing the advice or report and before the advice or report is considered by the Council or the committee.

SECTION 2 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

2.1 CONSIDERATION OF 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO's OFFICE
REFERENCE: 20117606

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 131 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires Council to prepare an Annual Report and hold a meeting to consider the Annual Report (section 134 of the Act) as soon as practicable after the Council has sent the report to the Minister.

The Annual Report 2019/2020 outlines the activities undertaken during the financial year. It reports on a wide range of activities undertaken to meet the actions in the Council Plan 2017-2021 (Year 3).

DISCUSSION

In accordance with section 131(2) of the Act, an Annual Report must contain the following in respect of the financial year reported on:

- Report of operations of the Council
- Audited performance statement
- Audited financial statements
- Copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement, prepared under Section 132 of the Act
- Copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994, and
- Any other matter required by the regulations

Additional information outlined in the attached Annual Report includes:

- A summary of Council's activities and performance
- Information on Council's service delivery
- Information pertaining to governance activities undertaken by Council
- Information pertaining to the structure of our organisation
- Report on Council's compliance and accountability

The Annual Report is the primary means of advising the community about Council's operations and performance during the year ended 30 June 2020.

Several highlights to note from the Annual Report 2019/2020 are as follows:

- Significant planning and works have been undertaken on various infrastructure projects during the 2019/2020 financial year.
- Construction of a new transfer station and eWaste facility at Lake Bolac underway.
- Completion of eWaste facility at the Ararat Transfer Station.

- The Alexandra Gardens lighting was installed in the precinct to provide a safe environment for residents and visitors.
- Linkage plan developed for the Pomonal Tunnel Track walk
- Works commenced on the significant projects at Alexandra Oval Precinct:
 - Ararat on the Move Female Friendly Facilities – Netball Court and Olver Stand
 - Ararat on the Move Events and Visitor Space and Pathways and Active Links.
 - Ararat Active Link Stage 2 – Multipurpose Court and Bouldering Wall
- Council took over management of the Ararat Fitness Centre, Ararat Olympic Pool, Willaura and Lake Bolac Pools.
- The re-establishment of GABNet to support businesses in our municipality.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

- 5.1 Good governance through leadership
- 5.5 Sustainable, long term financial management

Budget Implications

Costs associated with the production of the Annual Report are included in the Budget for 2020/2021.

Policy/Relevant Law

Completion and circulation of the Annual Report is a key legislative requirement for all Councils.

Sections 131 to section 134 of the Act outlines the requirements that Council must meet in preparing and considering the Annual Report for 2019/2020.

Sustainability Implications

This report does not raise any sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

Council must meet the legislative requirements of the Act in relation to the preparation and consideration of the Annual Report 2019/2020.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

None identified.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Various Council officers have been involved in the preparation of the Annual Report 2019/2020.

Unqualified Audit Opinions on the Performance Statement and Financial Statements were received from the Auditor General on 18 September 2020.

Financial statements and performance statements were presented to the 15 September 2020 Council Meeting.

A copy of the Annual Report 2019/2020 was submitted to the Minister for Local Government on 2 October 2020.

As per legislative requirements (s134 of the Act) an advertisement advising that the Annual Report 2019/2020 had been prepared and was placed in the Ararat Advocate on 2 October 2020. The advertisement noted that the Annual Report 2019/2020 was available for public inspection at the Municipal Offices and available on Council's website.

Election Period (Caretaker) Statement:

The recommended decision is not a "Prohibited Decision", as defined in section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Annual Report 2019/2020, as presented to this meeting, in accordance with Sections 131 and 134 of the Local Government Act 1989 noting information contained in the report, including the Financial Report, Performance Report and associated Auditors Reports.

ATTACHMENTS

The Annual Report 2019/2020 is provided as attachment 2.1.