



16 October 2025

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 15 October 2025

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Nhill Council Chamber,
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

Council: Cr Ron Ismay – Mayor
Cr Chan Uoy – Deputy Mayor
Cr Roger Aitken
Cr Rosie Barker
Cr James Barry
Cr Tony Clark

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

Public Access: This meeting is open to the public and can be attended in-person or viewed online via Live Stream at
<https://www.youtube.com/@hindmarshshirecouncil>.



Cr Ron Ismay - Mayor
West Ward



Cr Chan Uoy – Deputy Mayor
East Ward



Cr Roger Aitken
North Ward



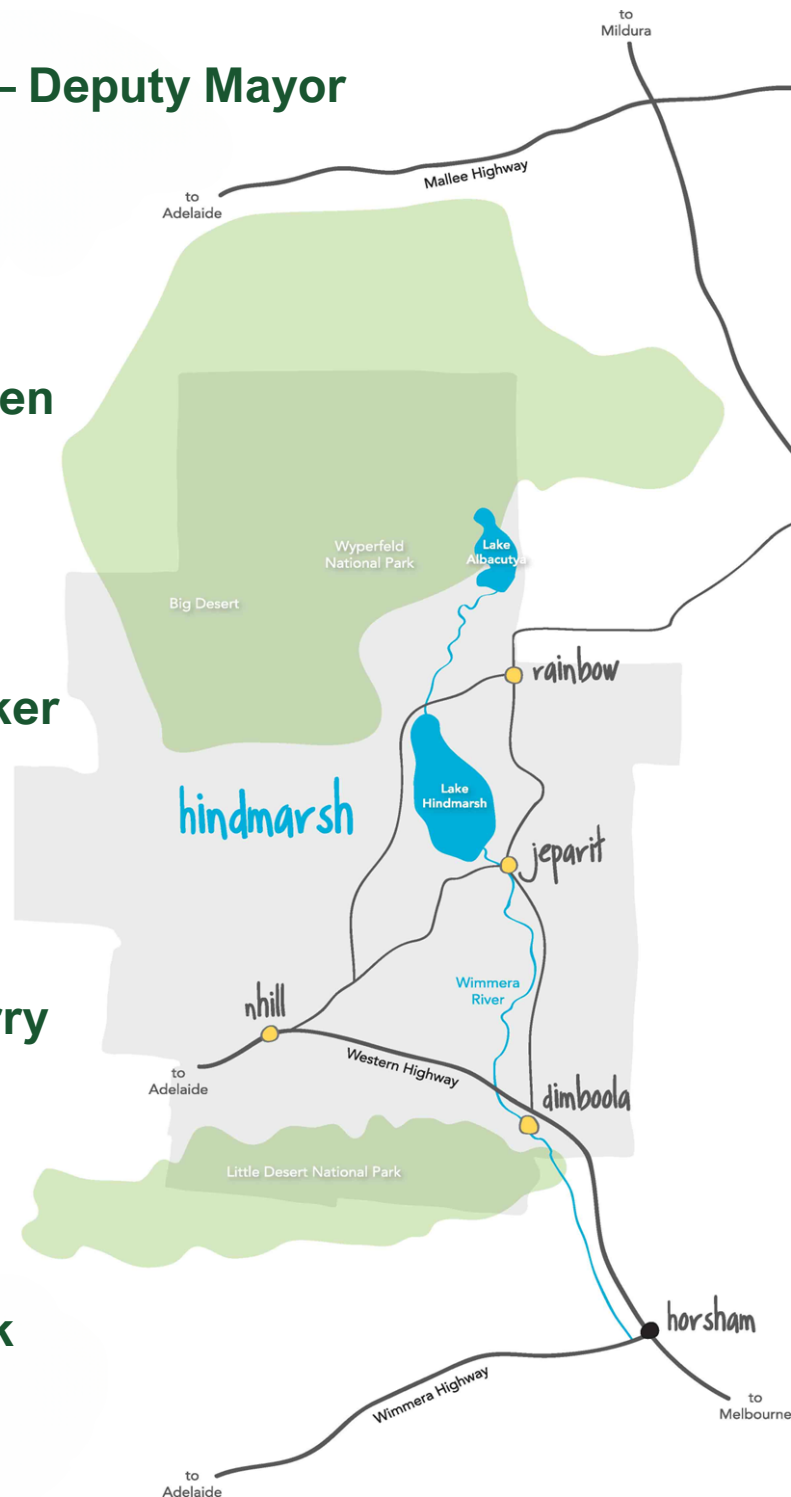
Cr Rosie Barker
West Ward



Cr James Barry
East Ward



Cr Tony Clark
North Ward



Councillor Statement of Values

Our commitment is to come prepared to every meeting, fostering a respectful and inclusive environment where accountability and approachability are at the core of our actions. We value and encourage innovation, collaboration, and open communication, always keeping in mind the well-being and needs of our community. Together, we stand united as one, working towards shared goals with mutual respect and consideration.

Our Vision

Working together to welcome new possibilities and create vibrant towns, connected communities and opportunities for all.

Our Values

We value:

- Engaging with, listening to and meeting people where they are at
- Doing the best we can with the people and funding that we have
- Showing respect and embracing diversity
- Taking pride in our community and achievements
- Being bold, creative and ambitious

Our Mission

Our mission is to be leaders in creating:

- Positive change
- A safe environment where everyone feels heard and appreciated
- Inclusive consultation

Purpose of Council Meetings

Council conducts its formal decision-making process through Ordinary Meetings of Council and Special Meetings of Council.

Ordinary meetings are held regularly to conduct the ongoing business of Council and Special meetings are held from time to time for specific purposes.

Council adopts a schedule for its Ordinary Council Meetings annually. This schedule can be found on Council's website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Council-meetings

From time to time the Mayor and Councillors may call a Special Meeting of Council to deal with urgent items. These meetings are generally held at the Council Chambers at the specified time and date advertised in the public notices in local newspapers and on Council's website.

Meetings, or parts of meetings, are only closed to the public when topics of a confidential nature are discussed, such as an individual's personal or financial circumstances, contractual or legal matters. Grounds for closing the meeting are defined in more detail within Section 3(1) and Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Before each Ordinary or Special Council Meeting an Agenda is prepared by the Chief Executive Officer detailing the items that are to be presented to the meeting for Council's consideration and decision.

Copies of agendas are available at Council offices and on Council's website. The decisions of Council become resolutions of Council and are recorded in the official Council Minutes. Except for matters classified as confidential, all Agenda reports, Minutes and recordings of meetings are available on Council's website.

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In Attendance:**Councillors:**

Cr Ron Ismay (Mayor), Cr Roger Aitken, Cr Rosie Barker, and Cr James Barry.

Officers:

Ms Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer), Mr Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) Ms Heather Boyd (Manager Finance) and Ms Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor, opened the meeting at 4:15pm and read the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Cr Ron Ismay read the Live Streaming Statement.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Cr James Barry read the Councillor Statement of Values.

2 APOLOGIES

Cr Chan Uoy, Cr Tony Clark and Ms Petra Croot.

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.

No interests declared.

4 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

4.1 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Draft Performance Statement 2024/2025 [4.1.1]
2. Draft Annual Financial Report 2024/2025 [4.1.2]

Executive Summary:

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 2025 and for Council to adopt the statements pending no material change to the reports presented.

The 2024/2025 Financial Statements show an operational deficit of \$0.918 million with a comprehensive result of \$79.655 million. The comprehensive result includes a net asset revaluation gain of \$80.573 million.

Total revenue for the financial year was \$26.525 million, an increase of \$6.958 million from the previous financial year. The increase is due to Council receiving all of the 2024/2025 Financial Assistance Grant and the early payment of 50% of the 2025/2026 Grant in 2024/2025, as well as receipt of other grants to deliver programs and services like Landcare, Kindergarten Central Enrolment, and the Roadside Pests and Weeds Program.

Total expenditure for the 2024/2025 financial year was \$27.443 million, an increase of \$6.619 million from the previous financial year. The increase can be attributed a significant increase in depreciation due to the revaluation of Council assets, along with being due to Council resolving to resume management of the Nhill Caravan Park, directly managing the swimming pools, increased waste and recycling management and disposal costs, a significant increase in maintenance on Council roads, footpaths, bridges and drainage, and an increase in the cost of insurance.

Capital works expenditure was \$8.181 million for 2024/2025, an increase of \$0.942 million from 2023/2024. This is due to new grants for the fit out of the new Nhill and Dimboola kindergartens on school sites, work undertaken on roads using Roads to Recovery funding, as well as projects carried forward from 2023/2024, including the Dimboola Soundshell extension, the Jeparit Workshop and commencement of the Davis Park changerooms and tiered seating.

The Performance Statement provides Service Performance Indicators, Financial Performance Indicators, and Sustainable Capacity Indicators. Service performance indicators include aquatic facilities, animal management, food safety, governance, libraries, roads, statutory planning and waste management.

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 2024/2025.

Discussion:

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) 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) of the Act.

The Financial 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).

At the time of publishing, the Financial Report and Performance Statements are also to be presented to the Hindmarsh Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee for out-of-session endorsement.

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 2024/2025.

The 2024/2025 Financial Statements show an operational deficit of \$0.918 million with a comprehensive result of \$79.655 million. The comprehensive result includes a net asset revaluation gain of \$80.573 million.

Total revenue for the financial year was \$26.525 million, an increase of \$6.958 million from the previous financial year. The increase is due to Council receiving all of the 2024/2025 Financial Assistance Grant and the early payment of 50% of the 2025/2026 Grant in 2024/2025, as well as receipt of grants for the Free from Violence Local Government Program, Kindergarten Central Enrolment, Landcare Facilitator and Roadside Weeds and Pests program. Additionally, funding was recognised and carried forward from 2023/2024, Council disposed of two buildings and revenue from interest was higher than budgeted as Council was holding higher cash than anticipated due to several capital works projects still to be completed in 2025/2026.

Total expenditure for the financial year was \$27.443 million, an increase of \$6.619 million from the previous financial year. The increase can be attributed to Council resolving to resume management of the Nhill Caravan Park, as well as direct management of the swimming pools. There was an increase in expenses due to Council undertaking grant funded projects including Multicultural Storytime, Early Years Enrolment and Reconnecting Communities through Small Events. Urgent maintenance work was undertaken on Council buildings including the Nhill Office that also impacted overall expenditure. Depreciation was higher than budgeted due to the capital works projects being completed and new depreciation rates being applied through Council's asset management software, Assetic.

At 30 June 2025, Council held \$13.181 million in cash at bank. This is higher than in 2023/2024 due to receipt of early payment of 50% of the 2025/2026 Financial Assistance Grant.

Capital works expenditure was \$8.181 million for 2024/2025, an increase of \$0.942 million from 2023/2024. This is due to new grants for the fit out of the new Nhill and Dimboola kindergartens on school sites, work undertaken on roads using Roads to Recovery funding as well as projects carried forward from 2023/2024, including the Dimboola Soundshell extension, the Jeparit Workshop and commencement of the Davis Park changerooms and tiered seating.

Link to Council Plan:**Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability**

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

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
Governance	Completion of end of year financial auditing and reporting processes ensures Council is both compliant with legislation and appropriately managing the adopted budget.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Not applicable.

Gender Equality Implications:

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this decision does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

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:

The Statements will be published in Council's Annual Report and made available to the community in October 2025.

Next Steps:

Councillors to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement, and documents to be then included in Council's Annual Report for 2024/2025.

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 2025; and*
- 2. authorises Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Cr Rosie Barker to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.*

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Barker

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 2025; and*
- 2. authorises Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Cr Rosie Barker to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.*

CARRIED

5 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr Ron Ismay declared the meeting closed at 4:26pm.
