



14 November 2025

MINUTES

Annual Statutory Meeting

Date: Wednesday 12 November 2025

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Nhill Council Chamber,
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

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

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 Roger Aitken
North Ward



Cr Rosie Barker
West Ward



Cr James Barry
East Ward



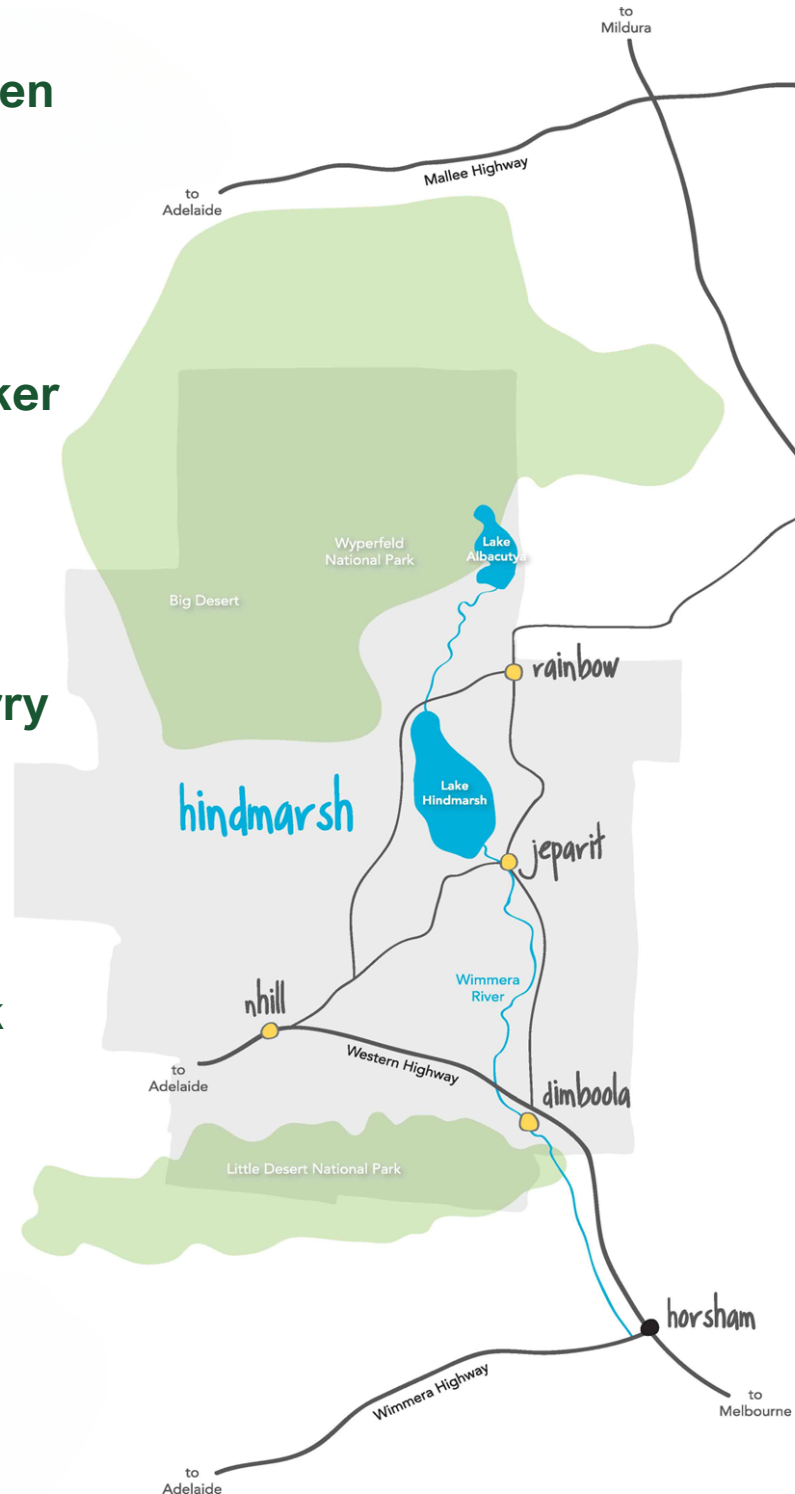
Cr Tony Clark
North Ward



Cr Ron Ismay
West Ward



Cr Chan Uoy
East 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, listening 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 Roger Aitken, Cr Rosie Barker, Cr James Barry, Cr Tony Clark, Cr Ron Ismay and Cr Chan Uoy.

Officers:

Ms Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services), Ms Janelle Reichelt (Manager People and Performance) and Ms Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ms Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer, opened the meeting at 6:00pm and read the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Ms Monica Revell read the Live Streaming Statement.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Ms Monica Revell read the Councillor Statement of Values.

2 APOLOGIES

None.

3 MAYORAL REPORT

Cr Ron Ismay presented Mayoral Report.

Mayoral Report

The first year of our newly elected Council has rolled over in what seemed a very short time, as years sometime do. It has been a busy but enjoyable year with recently introduced mandatory Councillor training and professional development, and a few extra briefings thrown in along the way.

Little Desert Bushfire

January wasn't the best beginning to the year, with the horrendous fires in the Little Desert National Park which started on 27 January 2025. The loss of the Little Desert Nature Lodge saw a lifetime of work by the former owner, Ray (Wimpy) Reichelt, gone in an instant. Thankfully, a wind change at the last moment and the tireless work of the CFA and emergency services, meant Dimboola was spared from the same devastation.

Youth and Early Years

Our Deputy Mayor, Cr Chan Uoy, opened new Kindergartens on School Sites in Nhill and Dimboola. These wonderful facilities provide the youngest in our communities a great opportunity to learn and grow. We also welcomed another cohort of Youth Councillors, some of whom were new to the role and others returning. All these young people are our future, and I am very passionate about Council assisting them in any way we can.

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

The State Government introduced the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund in May; our Council continues to advocate against this grossly unfair cost burden on our agricultural and business sectors. I have not met anyone in Local Government who supports this tax grab.

New Citizens

One of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences bestowed on the Mayor is officiating Citizenship Ceremonies. I have had the pleasure of performing this Ceremony multiple times throughout my term, and warmly welcome all community members who became Australian Citizens over the past year.

Projects and Tourism

The new Davis Park grandstand and changerooms are very close to completion and look magnificent - the envy of many sporting clubs in the state I would imagine. This is a fantastic project, and a wonderful asset to the Nhill community. Youth and sport, an ideal combination.

The Rainbow Silo Tourism Project is also nearing completion which will be another drawcard to our wonderful area. Encompassing an external stairwell with a lift visitors will be able to

view inside the silo at two points above the ground. With both internal and external artwork the Silo will be like nothing on the Silo Art Trail.

Well, it's finally happened, the Wimmera River Discovery Trail is officially open. On the drawing board way back in my early days on Council. A walk through the surrounds of the Wimmera River or Barengi Gadjin (life blood of the country) from Dimboola to Jeparit, a beautiful area to be enjoyed by all for many years to come.

Council is also in the process of creating masterplans for Davis Park, Dimboola Recreation Reserve, and Jeparit Tennis Club / Caravan Park, which will be a guide to further upgrades in the future.

Roads

Our roads are still our most important priority with Council's existing funding. We continually advocate for additional funding to repair, maintain and upgrade our roads to a high standard. This is an Australia-wide issue, and we all have concerns over the local government sector's long term financial viability.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge my fellow Councillors for their efforts and dedication throughout the year. You have all been a pleasure to work with and I look forward to the remaining and final three years of this term. I have enjoyed your company and the work we have been able to do together.

To our truly dedicated, conscientious, and approachable CEO, Monica Revell, thank you for your understanding and guidance throughout this first year.

Thank you also to Petra (Director Corporate and Community Services), Ram (Director Infrastructure Services), and Mary-Ann (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer), who also assist us in our deliberations.

Finally, and most importantly, a huge thank you to our ratepayers and community members for your support and understanding. While there are ongoing challenges and not everything can happen quickly sometimes, we all endeavour to make Hindmarsh Shire a better place to live for all.

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the outgoing Mayoral Report for 2025/2026.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr C Uoy

That Council accepts the outgoing Mayoral Report for 2025/2026.

CARRIED

4 MAYORAL TERM

The role of the Mayor is to act as leader of Council, providing guidance and supporting good working relationships between Councillors, and working with the Chief Executive Officer to ensure positive outcomes are delivered for the community.

Section 18 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) describes the role and functions of the Mayor, including chairing Council Meetings, acting as principal spokesperson for Council, providing guidance to Councillors about what is expected of a Councillor, supporting good working relations between Councillors and carrying out civic and ceremonial duties.

Section 25(1) of the Act provides that at a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be Mayor of Council.

Section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to determine the length of the Mayoral term prior to the election of the Mayor. The term decided will apply to the Deputy Mayor, if one is also elected. The term of office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor may be a 1-year term or a 2-year term.

Under the Act, where the Mayor is elected for a 1-year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by Council that is as close to the end of the 1 year term as is reasonably practicable.

Where the Mayor is elected for a 2-year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by Council that is as close to the end of the 2 year term as is reasonably practicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the next Mayor of Hindmarsh Shire Council be elected for a one-year term.

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr T Clark

That the next Mayor of Hindmarsh Shire Council be elected for a one-year term.

CARRIED

5 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The election of Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Council's Governance Rules.

Section 25 of the Act prescribes that at a Council meeting that is open to the public, Councillors must elect a Councillor to be Mayor of Council. Any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor. The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors.

Further, Council's Governance Rules prescribe the procedure for the election of Mayor.

25 Election of Mayor

- (1) At a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of Council.*
- (2) Subject to section 167, any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor.*
- (3) The election of the Mayor must—*
 - (a) be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer; and*
 - (b) subject to this section, be conducted in accordance with the Governance Rules.*
- (4) Subject to subsections (5) and (6), the Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors.*
- (5) If an absolute majority of the Councillors cannot be obtained at the meeting, Council may resolve to conduct a new election at a later specified time and date.*
- (6) If only one Councillor is a candidate for Mayor, the meeting must declare that Councillor to be duly elected as Mayor.*
- (7) In this section, **absolute majority** means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the total number of the Councillors of a Council.*

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations and conducted the election for Mayor.

Cr Rosie Barker was nominated by Cr Chan Uoy, with the nomination seconded by Cr Ron Ismay. Cr Rosie Barker accepted the nomination.

Cr Ron Ismay was nominated by Cr Roger Aitken, with the nomination seconded by Cr Tony Clark. Cr Ron Ismay accepted the nomination.

An absolute majority of Councillors, through a show of hands, voted to elect Cr Ron Ismay as Mayor for Hindmarsh Shire Council for a one-year term.

The result was 4 votes to Cr Ron Ismay to 2 votes to Cr Rosie Barker.

Following declaration of voting, Cr Ron Ismay commenced chairing the meeting as Mayor of Hindmarsh Shire Council.

6 CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO MAYOR

Councillors congratulated the new Mayor.

7 RESPONSE FROM MAYOR

Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor, thanked Councillors for their support.

8 DETERMINATION OF POSITION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Pursuant to Section 20A of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), a Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.

Section 21 of the Act defines that the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor and may exercise any of the powers of the Mayor if -

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

Section 20A Office of Deputy Mayor

(1) A Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.

(2) If Council has established an office of Deputy Mayor, the provisions of this Act relating to the office of Deputy Mayor apply.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council elects a Deputy Mayor for a term of one-year.

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

That Council elects a Deputy Mayor for a term of one-year.

CARRIED

9 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The election of the Deputy Mayor will be conducted in accordance with Section 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules.

27 Election of Deputy Mayor

- (1) Section 25, other than subsection (3)(a), applies to the election of a Deputy Mayor by the Councillors as if any reference in that section to the Mayor was a reference to the Deputy Mayor.*
- (2) Section 26 applies to the election of a Deputy Mayor as if any reference in that section to the Mayor was a reference to the Deputy Mayor.*

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations and conducted the election for Deputy Mayor.

Cr Rosie Barker was nominated by Cr James Barry, with the nomination seconded by Cr Tony Clark. Cr Rosie Barker accepted the nomination.

As no other nominations were received, Cr Rosie Barker was elected as Deputy Mayor for Hindmarsh Shire Council for a one-year term.

10 CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillors congratulated the new Deputy Mayor.

11 RESPONSE FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

Cr Rosie Barker, Deputy Mayor, thanked Councillors for their support.

12 APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The following Council organisations and external committees require the appointment of Council delegates for the period 2025/2026.

It is important that this list of Council appointments to external organisations is as complete as possible, as Council policy provides that travelling expenses and out of pocket expenses are payable for attendance at meetings of these organisations.

A Councillor's role with these organisations is to provide strategic input, influencing outcomes that are consistent with goals in the Council Plan 2025-2029, and be a communication conduit between the organisation and Council.

Previous delegates, and appointments, are listed for convenience.

No.	COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES	2024/2025 DELEGATE	2025/2026 DELEGATE
1	Audit and Risk Advisory Committee (2 required)	Cr R Barker Cr J Barry	Cr R Barker Cr C Uoy
2	Nhill Aerodrome Master Plan Advisory Committee	Cr R Barker	Cr R Barker
3	Nhill Township Advisory Committee	Cr R Barker	Cr R Barker
4	Jeparit Township Advisory Committee	Cr T Clark	Cr T Clark
5	Rainbow Township Advisory Committee	Cr R Aitken	Cr R Aitken
6	Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee	Cr C Uoy	Cr C Uoy
7	Hindmarsh Heavy Vehicle Transport Working Group	Cr J Barry	Cr J Barry
	COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES		
8	Rainbow Civic Centre Committee	Cr T Clark	Cr T Clark
9	Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee	Cr R Aitken	Cr R Aitken
10	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee	Cr R Aitken	Cr R Aitken Cr C Uoy (Substitute)
11	Yurunga Homestead Committee	Cr T Clark	Cr T Clark
	EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		
12	Municipal Association of Victoria (Mayor and	Cr R Ismay Cr C Uoy (Substitute)	Cr R Ismay

	Deputy Mayor as substitute)		Cr R Barker (Substitute)
13	National General Assembly of Local Government (Mayor and Deputy Mayor as substitute)	Cr R Ismay Cr C Uoy (Substitute)	Cr R Ismay Cr R Barker (Substitute)
14	Rural Councils Victoria	Cr R Barker	Cr R Barker
15	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group	Cr R Ismay	Cr R Ismay
16	Western Highway Action Committee	Cr R Ismay	Cr R Ismay
17	Rail Freight Alliance	Cr T Clark	Cr T Clark
18	Local Learning and Employment Network	Cr R Barker	Council Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. appoints the Councillors delegates for 2025/2026 as proposed; and***
- 2. approves costs associated for the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor as substitute) to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra in 2026, or the Regional Development Australia Conference in Canberra in 2026, including conference registration, airfares, accommodation and incidentals.***

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr J Barry

That Council:

- 1. appoints the Councillors delegates for 2025/2026 as proposed; and***
- 2. approves costs associated for the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor as substitute) to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra in 2026, or the Regional Development Australia Conference in Canberra in 2026, including conference registration, airfares, accommodation and incidentals.***

CARRIED

13 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING

An Annual Statutory Meeting must be held to allow for the election of the next Mayor on a day to be determined by the Council, that is as close to the end of the Mayoral term as is reasonably practicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a Special Meeting to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor and appoint Council delegates be held at 6pm on Wednesday 11 November 2026 at the Hindmarsh Shire Council, Council Chambers, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill.

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr J Barry

That a Special Meeting to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor and appoint Council delegates be held at 6pm on Wednesday 18 November 2026 at the Hindmarsh Shire Council, Council Chambers, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill.

CARRIED

14 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr Ron Ismay declared the meeting closed at 6:38pm.
