

12 November 2026

AGENDA

Notice of Annual Statutory Meeting

Date: Wednesday 18 November 2026
Time: Commencing at 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



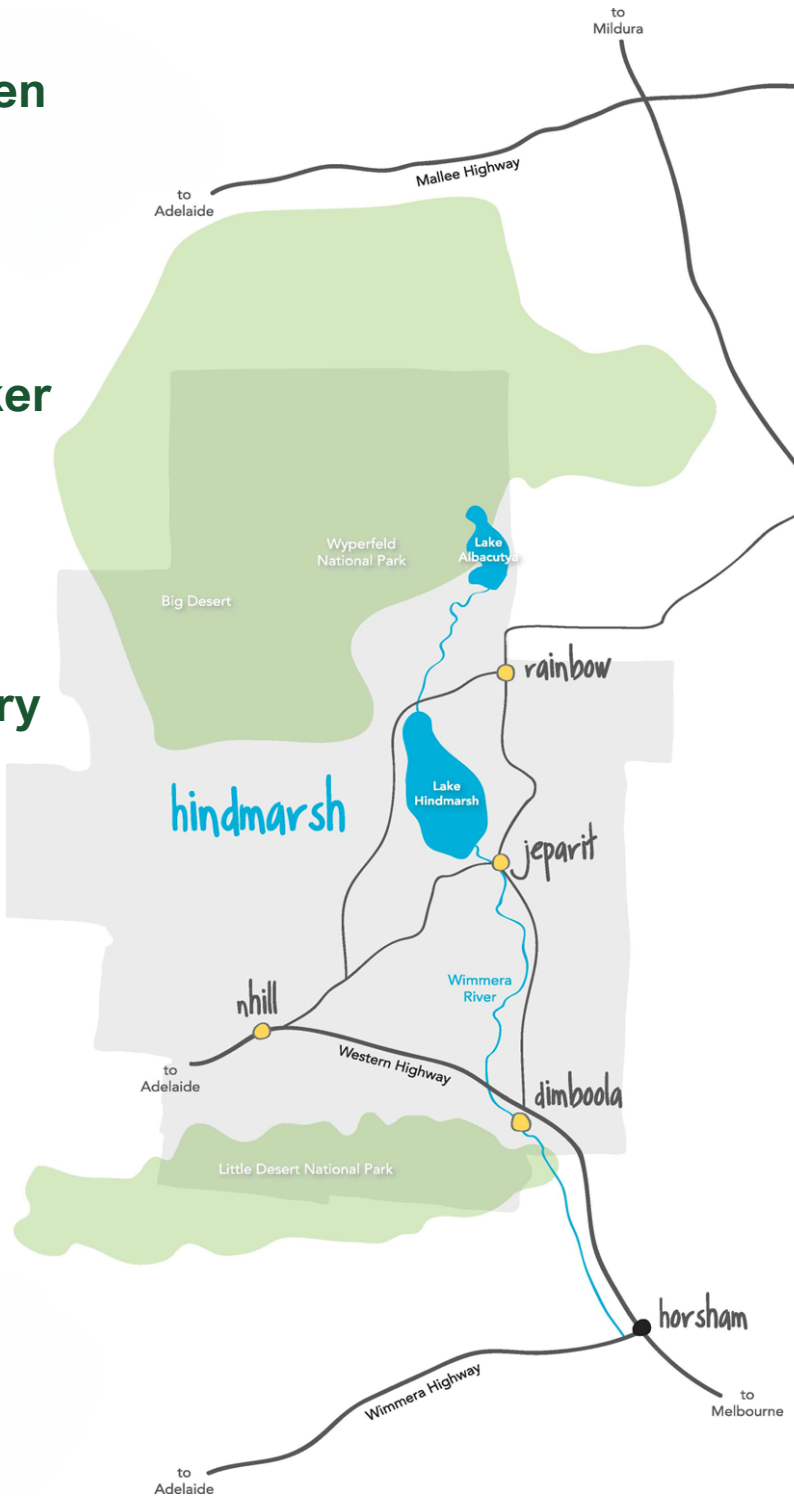
Cr Tony Clark
North Ward



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.

Vision

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

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

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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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chief Executive Officer, Ms Monica Revell will declare the meeting open.

Acknowledgement of Country

Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations and we acknowledge them as Traditional Owners of Country.

We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Live Streaming Statement

This meeting is being broadcast on the internet and the recording of the meeting will be published on Council's YouTube Channel and linked to Council's website.

As a visitor in the public gallery, you may be filmed. By remaining in the public gallery, you consent to being filmed and for the recording of you to be made publicly available by Council.

A copy of Council's Live Streaming and Recording of Council Meetings Policy is available at the back of this room and on Council's website. Please speak with one of our staff members if you have any questions.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

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.

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2 APOLOGIES

3 MAYORAL REPORT

Cr Ron Ismay to present the Mayoral report.

Mayoral Report 2025/2026

The 2025-2026 Mayoral Term has been a very full-on year, for not only myself, but also my fellow councillors and our CEO, Monica Revell. The year has been dominated by advocacy for many and varied projects. Mental health, Davis Park in Nhill, the Jeparit Weir, and the Dimboola Swimming Pool are all major projects and services that Council has been and are continuing to advocate for. I commend our Council on the leadership and regional collaboration shown when advocating for issues important to our community. Thank you to our neighbours and Alliance Councils for working with Hindmarsh for better outcomes for the wider Wimmera-Mallee region.

I encourage residents to view Council's 2025/2026 Annual Report that shows the breadth of what Council, together with our community, has achieved over the past year. This includes road maintenance and capital works completed, and the projects, events, services and planning that Council delivered throughout the year.

Farmer Consultations

We had two rounds of farmer consultations during the year across the Shire with the first round occurring in February/March and the second round occurring in October, these all had varying participation. The feedback we receive from these sessions is always welcomed, we're a farming community and it's important to hear from our farmers, so I highly encourage any farmers who wish to raise an issue to attend the next round of these sessions, scheduled for February and August 2027. Funding to repair roads is very limited, and with the additional rainfall this year, this has led to an abundance of required repairs. We thank the whole community for their feedback and input in identifying and prioritising these works throughout the year.

Jeparit Weir Advocacy

Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team toured the Wimmera River at the Jeparit Weir Pool and around Dimboola during the year. The Jeparit Weir is at the end of its useful life and is in desperate need of replacement, advocacy for this project is a top priority for Council and will remain to be until funding is secured.

Conferences

I have attended various conferences throughout the year, ALGA's National General Assembly in Canberra, MAV State Council, MAV Councillor Service Awards, and the Rural Councils Victoria summit in Swan Hill. Talking with other councillors from across Victoria, poor road conditions and lack of funding continues to be a common issue.

Phil King's Retirement

Phil King, Manager Community Wellbeing, retired after an abundance of years working for Hindmarsh Shire Council, almost 20 years I believe. Phil oversaw many major projects across Hindmarsh Shire that have made our towns greater places to live in and visit. I wish Phil all the best with his retirement.

Acknowledgements

This is my fifth and final year as Mayor of Hindmarsh Shire Council over several Council terms, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the last two years as Mayor with the current Council. I must acknowledge and thank my five fellow Councillors, who continue to be a pleasure to work with. I have enjoyed your company and the work we have been able to achieve together.

To our efficient, diligent and amicable CEO, Monica Revell, thank you for another year of providing understanding and guidance, it has been greatly appreciated.

To our personable and astute Director of Corporate and Community Services, Petra Croot and to our experienced and approachable Director of Infrastructure Services, Ram Upadhyaya, thank you both for your professional guidance this year, it has been greatly appreciated.

Finally, and most importantly, a huge thank you to our wonderful residents, ratepayers, and community members for your support, understanding and dedication to your communities. There have been occasions where there have been some issues, which is part of the job of course and a challenge, however very rewarding when I have been able to resolve them. I look forward to the next two years as I step back into my Councillor role and look forward to working with the incoming Mayor.

It has been my pleasure to have had the privilege of serving as Mayor of Hindmarsh Shire Council for the past two years.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the outgoing Mayoral report.

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/two-year term.

5 ELECTION OF MAYOR - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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 will call for nominations and conduct the election of the Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer will declare the result of the election of the Mayor.

Following declaration of voting, the new Mayor is to assume the Chair in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.

6 CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO MAYOR

Councillors may wish to make suitable remarks and congratulate the newly elected Mayor.

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7 MAYORAL RESPONSE

The Mayor to respond to Councillor remarks.

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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.

Section 12(1) of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Rules states that the term of the Deputy Mayor will be the same as that determined for the Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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9 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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 will call for nominations and conduct the election of the Deputy Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer will declare the result of the election of the Deputy Mayor.

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10 CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillors may wish to make suitable remarks and congratulate the new Deputy Mayor.

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11 DEPUTY MAYOR RESPONSE

Deputy Mayor to respond.

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12 APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The following Council committees and external organisations require the appointment of Council delegates for the period until the next Annual Statutory Meeting.

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	2025/2026 DELEGATE	2026/2027 DELEGATE
1	Audit and Risk Committee (2 required)	**Cr R Barker** **Cr C Uoy**	
2	Nhill Aerodrome Master Plan Advisory Committee	**Cr R Barker**	
3	Nhill Town Committee	**Cr R Barker**	
4	Jeparit Town Committee	**Cr T Clark**	
5	Rainbow Town Committee	**Cr R Aitken**	
6	Hindmarsh Pride Committee	**Cr C Uoy**	
7	Hindmarsh Heavy Vehicle Transport Working Group	**Cr J Barry**	
	COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES		
8	Rainbow Civic Centre Committee	**Cr T Clark**	
9	Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee	**Cr R Aitken**	
10	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee	**Cr R Aitken** **Cr C Uoy (Substitute)**	
11	Yurunga Homestead Committee	**Cr T Clark**	
	EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		
12	Municipal Association of Victoria (Mayor and Deputy Mayor as substitute)	**Cr R Ismay** **Cr R Barker (Substitute)**	

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***adopts the delegates for 2026/2027 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 2027, including conference registration, airfares, accommodation and incidentals.***

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 to Council committees and external organisations, be held at 6pm on Wednesday 17 November 2027 at the Hindmarsh Shire Council Council Chambers, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill.

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14 MEETING CLOSE
