



**Pyrenees**  
Shire Council

# Minutes

## Statutory Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 31 October 2023  
Lexton Community Hub,  
Lexton Recreation Reserve, Prince Street, Lexton



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## **1. WELCOME**

Mayor Cr Ron Eason welcomed all to the meeting.

## **PRESENT**

**Mayor:** Cr Ron Eason

**Councillors:** David Clark, Robert Vance, Damian Ferrari

**Chief Executive Officer:** Jim Nolan

**Director Asset and Development Services:** Douglas Gowans

**Director of Corporate and Community Services:** Kathy Bramwell

**EA to CEO and Councillors:** Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

**Senior Communications Officer:** Noel McKeegan

## **2. STREAMING PREAMBLE**

Mayor Cr Ron Eason read the livestream preamble.

## **3. OPENING PRAYER**

The Mayor read the Opening Prayer.

## **4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes on whose land we meet today.

## **5. APOLOGIES**

Cr Tanya Kehoe

## **6. 2022/2023 MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor, Cr Ron Eason provided a report on the term as Mayor:

“Firstly, I want to thank my fellow councillors for the honour to represent our Shire as Mayor and thanks to the staff for their support and education on matters I could not handle alone. More importantly a great deal of thanks to my wife Jenny for her support along the way.

Our year has been heavy on projects. This year the Lexton Community Hub was completed after many years in the planning, and what a great space we are in tonight. Within our townships, significant additional paths have been created in Avoca and Beaufort to improve accessibility for residents, including around Beaufort Lake. In rural areas, we have successfully completed numerous road upgrades, ensuring safer and smoother travel for our residents and visitors including a number of bridge completions. Also the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in our towns and planting of additional street trees. Along with the ongoing purchase of green power and efficiency measures in council buildings, these have not only reduced our carbon footprint but also resulted in substantial cost savings for the council. We are proud to have taken a step towards a greener future for Pyrenees Shire.

While we celebrate these achievements and others, it is important to acknowledge the challenges we have faced and continue to address. The Flood events of October and November 2022 were widespread across the state and had significant impact across the shire. The communities of Avoca, Lexton, Natte Yallock, Beaufort and Amphitheatre were the most significantly impacted with many homes, local roads, bridges and community facilities damaged. With most of the Pyrenees shire being in the upper reaches of catchments, there is little warning for our communities to respond. With the assistance of our

local contractors, we have commenced the challenging road repair program and continue to do this in a way that maximizes government funding.

Council relies heavily on the state to provide funding support for services such as libraries, emergency management, maternal and child health services, and roadside weeds management. A further effect of the economic climate has seen a major increase in the cost to deliver projects and services.

Advocacy for the ongoing commitment by both state and federal governments to fund essential Council services has never been greater and we continue this important advocacy. Council relies heavily on peak bodies such as the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) at a state level and the Association of Local Government (ALGA) at a federal level to present a strong and consistent case for sustained and increased funding.

The Western Renewables Link project continues to be the subject of significant community concern across the length of the project including in Pyrenees. Council's advocacy this year included a meeting with Minister D'Ambrosio to highlight these concerns and to table the need for community benefits to be considered by government to offset the impacts of this major infrastructure on rural communities. Other meetings with Ministers have allowed our concerns to be placed on the table of the Government for their action. The cost shifting and rate capping 1 are matters for the Government to decide if they are affecting councils unfairly and I can confirm that both are having a significant effect on our sustainability. In speaking to the Minister for Local Government about the effect she sees going forward she had no answer except to say We need to become more inventive. Inventive is usually a word used to explain when you are caught with your hand in the cookie jar and I am sure the Minister was not meaning that. We do however need more astute guidance from Government and this seems to be in short supply at present but a new Premier may make a difference.

Engaging with our communities has included ongoing commitment by Councillors to meet with residents in our smaller townships through the community cuppa sessions held monthly across the shire. Our Community Development staff also have made a concerted effort over the year to engage more directly with community leaders in their location to understand community priorities and work together to advance their priorities.

A major decision of Council this year, due in part to changes at a Commonwealth program level, was the decision to cease to be a provider of in-home aged care services from 30 June 2023. This was a challenging decision for Council given the quality of service provided by the Council team over many years servicing our most vulnerable residents. This has resulted in a transition to new providers, and farewell to our much-loved Community Care Team. The decision was seen as a loose loose outcome because we believe our support for our customers was far better than they would receive elsewhere. We unfortunately had no option.

In conclusion, I would like to express gratitude to the residents of Pyrenees Shire, the council members, and the dedicated staff for their unwavering support and commitment. Together, we have overcome many challenges and achieved much to be proud of, and we are confident that our collective efforts will lead to a brighter future for our shire.

This is what your council is about and why we meet regularly to work to improve our shire for everyone. There are many more projects that could be talked about but my time has come and we need to look forward and not back. Please help us continue to look to the future positively."

## **7. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

CEO Jim Nolan called for nominations for Mayor for the 2023/2024 term. Cr Clark nominated Cr Vance, Cr Eason seconded the nomination. Cr Vance accepted the nomination.

No further nominations for Mayor were put forward therefore there was no requirement for the nomination to be voted upon.

CEO Jim Nolan called for a motion to determine if the term of Mayor is to be for one or two years. Cr Eason moved the motion that the Mayoral term be for one year. Cr Clark seconded the motion. The motion was put to the vote and all were in favour. The motion was carried.

CEO Jim Nolan declared Cr Robert Vance as the duly elected Mayor for Pyrenees Shire Council for the 2023/2024 term.

Cr Eason congratulated Cr Vance and presented the gavel to Cr Vance as a symbol of the role of the Mayor.

CEO Jim Nolan invited the newly elected Mayor Cr Vance, to take the Chair.

Cr Vance thanked Councillors for their confidence in him in electing him as Mayor.

## **8. OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor, Cr Vance called for a motion to declare electing a Deputy Mayor. Cr Clark moved and Cr Ferrari seconded that a Deputy Mayor not be elected for the 2023/2024 term. The motion was put to the vote and all were in favour. The motion was carried.

## **9. PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

Cr Ferrari presented Cr Eason with a gift in recognition of the Mayoral term.

Cr Ferrari presented Jenny Eason, Cr Eason's wife with a gift in recognition of the support provided to the Mayor over the past year.

Cr Clark presented Cr Eason with the MAV Councillor Service Award for 10 years of service. Cr Clark also presented Cr Eason with the MAV Mayor Emeritus Award.

Cr Clark acknowledged Cr Kehoe for her 10 years of service with the MAV Councillor Service Award to be presented at a later date.

Cr Vance acknowledged Cr Clark for his 25 years of service with his MAV Councillor Service Award previously presented at the MAV State Council Conference.

## 10. ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### 10.1.1. COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

**Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services**

**Declaration of Interest:** As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

**File No:** 18/02/04

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine Councillor representation on committees.

#### BACKGROUND

Each year at the Statutory Meeting of Council, the Council determines the Councillor representation on committees. Below is a list of Committees showing Councillor representation as adopted by Council at its 2022 Statutory Meeting.

Committee	Dept	Staff Member	Councillor
<b>EXTERNAL - FORMAL</b>			
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	CEO	CEO	Cr Clark / Cr Vance
Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA)		N/A	Any Councillors
Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV)	CEO	CEO	Mayor
Rural Councils Victoria Executive Committee	CEO	N/A	Cr Vance
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	CEO	CEO	Mayor
Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group	A&DS	N/A	Cr Ferrari
Central Highlands LLEN	CEO	N/A	Cr Clark
Timber Towns Victoria	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
National Timber Councils Association	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
Central Highlands Regional Partnership	CEO	CEO	N/A
Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC)	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Ferrari
Sunraysia Highway Action Committee	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Eason
Committee for Ballarat	CEO	CEO	Mayor
Beaufort Bypass – EES Technical Reference Group	A&DS	Director A&DS	N/A
Beaufort Bypass – Public Engagement Group (PEG)	A&DS	N/A	Cr Ferrari
Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)	CEO	Director A&DS	Cr Clark
Central Highlands Children and Youth Area Partnership	C&CS	Director C&CS / Manager Community	N/A
Grampians Women’s Health – CoRE Governance Group	C&CS	Director C&CS	N/A
Rail Freight Alliance	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Eason
Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership (GPPCP)	C&CS	CEO / Manager Community	N/A
Ballarat Rail Action Committee	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Clark
<b>EXTERNAL – REPRESENTATIVE ONLY</b>			
Pyrenees Community Safety Advisory Group	C&CS	Director C&CS	Mayor
Library Advisory Council	C&CS	Director C&CS / Manager GRC	N/A
Business for Beaufort	CEO	N/A	Cr Ferrari

<b>Advance Avoca</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Eason
<b>Beaufort Secondary College Committee</b>		N/A	Cr Ferrari
<b>Youth Foundations Victoria Beaufort Initiative</b>	C&CS	N/A	Cr Kehoe
<b>Langi Kal Kal Community Advisory Group</b>	CEO	CEO	Cr Clark

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>INTERNAL</b>			
<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS	Cr Vance / Cr Ferrari
<b>Services &amp; Assets Management Steering Group</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
<b>Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)</b>	C&CS	MEMO	Cr Kehoe
<b>CEO Review</b>	CEO	CEO	All Councillors plus an independent professional advisor
<b>COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT</b>			
<b>Beaufort Community Bank Complex</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Brewster Hall</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Landsborough Community Precinct</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Snake Valley Hall</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Waubra Recreation Reserve</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor
<b>Lexton Community Hub (when determined)</b>	C&CS	Manager GRC / Director C&CS	Ward Councillor

## ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Council is requested to determine the allocation of Councillors to the various committees that Pyrenees Shire Council is associated with for the 2023/24 year.

A list of current assignments is included in the previous section of this report and the only changes recommended from the previous year are:

- The representatives on the Council's Audit & Risk Committee are currently Cr Vance and Cr Ferrari. If either of these Councillors are elected as Mayor from October 2023, it is recommended that an alternate Councillor be nominated to this position.
- The Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV) has been replaced by the Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC).
- Cr Vance has resigned from the Board of Timber Towns Victoria.
- Council officer primary representation for Community Asset Committees has changed from the Director Corporate & Community Services to the Manager Community Wellbeing & Partnerships.
- Council officer representation on the Pyrenees Community Safety Advisory Group has changed from the Director Corporate & Community Services to the Manager Planning & Development.

A full list of recommended representatives is included in the Officer Recommendation.

**COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial or risk implications associated with this report.

**CONCLUSION**

Annually, at its Statutory Meeting, the Council reviews its representation to the range of committees it participates in. This report provides an update on this representation and provides any recommendations for change.

**Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari**

That Council appoints the following Councillors as representatives on committees as listed below for the 2023/24 year:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>EXTERNAL - FORMAL</b>			
<b>Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)</b>	CEO	CEO	Cr Clark / Cr Vance
<b>Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA)</b>		N/A	Any Councillors
<b>Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC)</b>	CEO	CEO	Mayor
<b>Rural Councils Victoria Executive Committee</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Vance
<b>Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)</b>	CEO	CEO	Mayor
<b>Central Highlands LLEN</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Clark
<b>Timber Towns Victoria</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
<b>National Timber Councils Association</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
<b>Central Highlands Regional Partnership</b>	CEO	CEO	N/A
<b>Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC)</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Ferrari
<b>Sunraysia Highway Action Committee</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Eason
<b>Committee for Ballarat</b>	CEO	CEO	Mayor
<b>Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)</b>	CEO	Director A&DS	Cr Clark
<b>Central Highlands Children and Youth Area Partnership</b>	C&CS	Manager CWP	N/A
<b>Grampians Women's Health – CoRE Governance Group</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS	N/A
<b>Rail Freight Alliance</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Eason
<b>Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership (GPPCP)</b>	C&CS	CEO / Manager CWP	N/A
<b>Ballarat Rail Action Committee</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Clark
<b>EXTERNAL – REPRESENTATIVE ONLY</b>			
<b>Pyrenees Community Safety Advisory Group</b>	C&CS	Manager P&D	Mayor
<b>Library Advisory Council</b>	C&CS	Manager Customer Exp.	N/A
<b>Business for Beaufort</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Ferrari



<b>Advance Avoca</b>	CEO	N/A	Cr Eason
<b>Beaufort Secondary College Committee</b>		N/A	Cr Ferrari
<b>Youth Foundations Victoria Beaufort Initiative</b>	C&CS	N/A	Cr Kehoe
<b>Langi Kal Kal Community Advisory Group</b>	CEO	CEO	Cr Clark
<b>Committee</b>			
	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>INTERNAL</b>			
<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee</b>	C&CS	Director C&CS	Cr Eason / Cr Ferrari
<b>Services &amp; Assets Management Steering Group</b>	A&DS	Director A&DS	Cr Vance
<b>Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)</b>	C&CS	MEMO	Cr Kehoe
<b>CEO Review</b>	CEO	CEO	All Councillors plus an independent professional advisor
<b>COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT</b>			
<b>Beaufort Community Bank Complex</b>	C&CS	Manager CWP	Ward Councillor
<b>Brewster Hall</b>	C&CS	Manager CWP	Ward Councillor
<b>Landsborough Community Precinct</b>	C&CS	Manager CWP	Ward Councillor
<b>Snake Valley Hall</b>	C&CS	Manager CWP	Ward Councillor
<b>Waubra Recreation Reserve</b>	C&CS	Manager CWP	Ward Councillor
<b>Lexton Community Hub</b>	C&CS	Manager CWP	Ward Councillor

**CARRIED**

#### 11. CLOSE OF MEETING

Statutory Meeting of Council 31 October 2023 closed at 6.24pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

2023

Mayor Cr Robert Vance