



Special Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 8 October 2025
Yea Council Chamber
15 The Semi Circle
5:30 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting will be opened with the Mayor reading the following on behalf of the Murrindindi Shire Council:

"Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to acknowledge the Taungurung and Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land we now call Murrindindi Shire, we are committed to working together in the best interests of the people who live in our municipality, who conduct business here and those who visit.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, who are the keepers of history, traditions, knowledge and culture of this land."

1.2 Councillors' Pledge

"The Councillors, democratically elected to represent our community as the Murrindindi Shire Council, are committed to working together in the best interests of the people who live in our municipality, those who conduct business here and those who visit."

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Privacy Note

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and made available for public access on its website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Leave of Absence

Cr J Adams was absent due to planned leave.
Cr S McAulay was an apology.

Present:

Councillors D Gallagher (chair), Cr A Carr, Cr S Carpenter, Cr E Lording, Cr P Hildebrand

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi
Director People & Corporate Performance: Michael Chesworth
Acting Director Community & Development: Stuart Collier
Director Assets & Environment: Caroline Lintott
Manager Business Services: Nikki Rongong
Assistant Accountant: Camilo Garces

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Nil.

3 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

3.1 Adoption of Financial and Performance Statements for 2024/25

Department	Business Services
Approved by	Michael Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Presenter	Cr Paul Hildebrand
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For Decision
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attachment 1 - Financial Statements 2024-25 (3-10-25) [3.1.1 - 53 pages] Attachment 2 - Performance Statement 2024-25 (3-10-25) [3.1.2 - 15 pages]

Executive Summary

This report outlines Council's draft Annual Financial and Performance Statement for 2024/25. These documents were reviewed by Council's Audit and Risk Committee on 25 September 2025, which recommended their approval in principle.

Council recorded an \$8 million operating surplus, exceeding the original adopted budget by \$5.7 million. This was largely due to unexpected revenue, most notably a \$3.3 million advance payment in June from the Federal Government for the 2025/26 Financial Assistance Grants; \$2.5 million in flood recovery funding, and a once-off accounting adjustment of \$1.9 million for reduced future (provision) landfill rehabilitation costs.

While these items boosted the reported surplus, they do not reflect ongoing operational income and may give the impression that Council is generating surplus funds through its core operations. The underlying result, which removes capital income, provides a clearer picture of Council's financial health. The underlying result showed a \$1.8 million improvement compared to budget, but still reflects a deficit of \$1.5 million. However, when the two one-off revenue items mentioned above are removed, the adjusted underlying result reveals a more realistic deficit of \$6.6 million.

Whilst Council's current working capital (its ability to meet its short-term liabilities) remains strong, continuing annual underlying deficits are reducing Council's financial position and sustainability over the medium term. This remains a major priority to address in Council's longer term financial, asset and rating plans and in the strategies adopted in the new Council Plan 2025-2029, focusing on asset rationalisation, organisational efficiencies and increasing revenues.

RESOLUTION

Cr A Carr / Cr E Lording

That Council:

- Approve, in principle, the following statements for the 2024/25 financial year:
 - The Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025
 - The Performance Statement 2024/25.
- Authorise the Principal Accounting Officer to make minor amendments required to the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year

ended 30 June 2025 to meet the requirements of the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).

3. Authorise Councillor Gallagher, Councillor Hildebrand and Council's CEO to certify the final versions of the 2024/25 Financial and Performance Statements, following any changes recommended or agreed to, by the Auditor General in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 5:43pm.