



Special Meeting of Council

Minutes

Wednesday 29 October 2025 at 3:30 PM
Kinglake West Hall
1055 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road
Kinglake West

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND COUNCILLORS' PLEDGE	3
2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS	3
3 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP	4
3.1 Adoption of Murrindindi Shire Council Annual Report 2024-25	4
3.2 Adoption of Financial Plan 2025-2035.....	4

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 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 website. A recording of the meeting along with the official Minutes of the meeting will also be published on our website.

2.2 Apologies and Request for Planned Leave

That Council accept the apologies of Cr Carr.

Present:

Councillors J Adams, P Hildebrand, S Carpenter, D Gallagher, E Lording, S McAulay

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Livia Bonazzi

Director People & Corporate Performance: Michael Chesworth

Director Community & Development: Andrew Paxton

Director Assets & Environment: Caroline Lintott

Manager Governance and Risk: Amanda Vogt

2.3 Disclosure of Interest or Conflict of Interest

Nil.

3 REPORTS - PEOPLE & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE GROUP

3.1 Adoption of Murrindindi Shire Council Annual Report 2024/25

Department	Governance and Risk
Approved by	Michael Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance
Presenter	Damien Gallagher, Mayor
Portfolio	Integrity, Finance and Resilience
Purpose	For Decision
Attachment(s)	1. Annual Report 2024 2025 V2 [3.1.1 - 138 pages]

Executive Summary

This report was deferred from the 22 October 2025 Council Meeting as the final audit report from the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) had not been received in time for the meeting.

The Murrindindi Shire Council Annual Report 2024/25 outlines Council's progress over the past financial year in delivering the Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan 2021–25, the Annual Budget 2024/25, the Capital Works Program, and other key achievements. Performance against the Council Plan's Strategic Direction Key Indicators is satisfactory, and measures within the Annual Priority Action Plan remain strong.

The copy of the Annual Report attached to the agenda includes the draft Annual Performance Statements and Financial Statements which were endorsed by Council on 8 October 2025. Once the VAGO report is received, it will be incorporated into the attached version of the Annual Report.

RESOLUTION

Cr S McAulay / Cr P Hildebrand
That Council approve the Murrindindi Shire Council Annual Report 2024/25.

CARRIED

3.2 Adoption of Financial Plan 2025-2035

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)	1. Long Term Financial Plan 2025-35 [3.2.1 - 31 pages]

Executive Summary

The Financial Plan 2025–2035 outlines Murrindindi Shire Council's 10-year strategy to ensure financial sustainability while delivering essential services and infrastructure. Aligned with the Council Plan 2025–2029 and other strategic documents, it meets legislative requirements under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Plan highlights significant financial challenges for Council over the 10-year outlook, including persistent underlying operating deficits, insufficient rate and grant income, and declining liquidity. These issues stem largely from the need to fund overdue asset renewals and upgrades, which cannot be deferred further without compromising safety and service delivery.

To address these pressures, the Plan identifies three key interventions that would make the most positive difference to the financial outlook. These include

- seeking a government exemption to raise rates above the cap,
- securing substantially increased government financial assistance, and
- debt funding for short-life assets.

The Plan also outlines internal cost management actions and service and infrastructure reviews, developed in partnership with the community.

Council commits to ongoing community engagement to refine financial objectives and explore new revenue opportunities and asset rationalisation strategies. The Plan emphasises a shared responsibility between Council, community, and government to overcome systemic funding inequities affecting small rural councils.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carpenter / Cr E Lording

That Council adopt the Murrindindi Shire Council Financial Plan 2025-2035.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 4:00pm.