

OFFICIAL



Mansfield Shire

MINUTES

Council Meeting

Wednesday 12 February 2025

Our aspiration for our Shire and its community

We live, work and play in an inclusive, dynamic and prosperous place where community spirit is strong and people are empowered to engage in issues that affect their lives.

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1. Opening of the meeting

Councillor Steve Rabie opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.

2. Present

- Councillor Berenyi
- Councillor Clark
- Councillor Rabie
- Councillor Treasure

In Attendance:

Chief Executive Officer:

Kirsten Alexander

General Manager Investment & Planning:

Melissa Crane

Governance & Risk Officer:

Chelsea Young

Manager Development Services:

Maya Balvonova

Coordinator Financial Planning and Analysis:

James Alcaniz

Financial Accountant:

Chintan Patel

Coordinator Communications, Governance & Risk:

Tanya Tabone

3. Apologies

Councillor James Tehan

4. Statement of commitment

Councillor Steve Rabie read Council's Statement and called on each Councillor to confirm their commitment:

"As Councillors of Mansfield Shire we are committed to ensuring our behaviour meets the standards set by the Mansfield Shire Councillor Code of Conduct and Councillor Charter. We will, at all times, faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in us by the community."

5. Acknowledgement of Country

Councillor Tim Berenyi recited Council's Acknowledgement of Country:

"Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Taungurung people. We wish to acknowledge them as the traditional custodians and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all members of our community."

6. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Nil

7. Confirmation of minutes

Councillor Mandy Treasure/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT the Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Council meeting held on 10 December 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED

8. Representations

Nil

9. Notices of motion

Nil

10. Mayor's report

Councillor Bonnie Clark/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT COUNCIL receive the Mayor's report for the period 11 December 2024 to 4 February 2025.

CARRIED

11. Reports from council appointed representatives

Councillor Tim Berenyi/Councillor Mandy Treasure:

THAT COUNCIL note the verbal reports provided by Councillors in relation to their representation on external Committees

CARRIED

12. Public question time

Question 1:

From Dean Hurlston:

What is the approximate cost per public council meeting for councillor and staff meals, refreshments and beverages? (if applicable).

Response:

No meals, refreshments or beverages (other than water) are provided at public Council meetings to Councillors or Council Officers.

13. Officer reports

13.1. Chief Executive Officer's report

Councillor Tim Berenyi/Councillor Mandy Treasure:

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's report for the period 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025.

CARRIED

13.2. Investment and Planning

13.2.1. Grant Applications

Councillor Bonnie Clark/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT COUNCIL endorses the:

1. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$1,410,000 from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts for the *Lords Around the Ground project* for the construction of a new pavilion at Lords Reserve.
2. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$7,703,000 from Regional Development Victoria, through the Australian Government Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream 2 for the *Station Precinct Activation Package – Stage One activities project*.
3. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$6,442,066 from Regional Development Victoria, through the Australian Government Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream 2 for the *Station Precinct Activation Package – Stage Two Heritage project*.
4. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$1,280,772 from the Department of Health and Aged Care through their Play Out Way program for the *Mansfield Female Inclusive Rooms (FIR) project*.
5. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$592,000 from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) through their Safer Local Roads and Streets Program for *Greenvale Lane – Pedestrian bridge and shared path project*.
6. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$135,000 from Road Safety Victoria's Motorcycle Safety Levy Infrastructure Program for the *project scope for Eildon-Jamieson Road and Barwite Road*.
7. Submission of the grant application to Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions – Sports and Recreation Victoria's Country Football and Netball Program 2024-25 for the installation of lighting at Lords Reserve and the required co-contribution funding of \$115,186.
8. Submission of the grant application to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 program for the construction of a new dog park at Station Precinct and the required co-contribution funding of \$150,000.
9. Submission of the grant application to Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications Safer Local Road and Infrastructure Program for the renewal of Lonergans Road bridge, Graves Road culvert replacement and Hearn's Road bridge replacements and the total required co-contribution funding of \$1,343,979.
10. Submission of the grant application to Victorian School Building Authority's Building Blocks Grant Improvement – Early Learning Facility Upgrade Grant program for the Mansfield Kindergarten amenities block and the required co-contribution funding of \$62,000.
11. Submission of the grant application to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications to the Active Transport Fund for the Construction of a new footpath along Elvins Street and the required co-contribution funding of \$108,289.
12. Submission of the grant application to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications to the Active Transport Fund for the design and construction of a new footpath along Ultimo Street and the required co-contribution funding of \$78,569.
13. Preparation of grant application to submit to Sports and Recreation Victoria to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Round 2 for the Mansfield Learner Accessible Pool Scheme (LAPS) and the required co-contribution funding of \$422,000.
14. Preparation of grant application to submit to the Australian Government's National Emergency Management Agency to the Disaster Ready Fund – Round 3 for the construction of the Mansfield Emergency Resilience Centre on the dedicated Mansfield Emergency Precinct Site, and the required co-contribution funding of \$946,000.

CARRIED

13.2.2. Mansfield Social Soccer Licence Agreement

Councillor Tim Berenyi/Councillor Mandy Treasure:

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Endorses the proposal to enter into a licence agreement for the use of the Mansfield Recreation Reserve facilities with the Mansfield Social Soccer Club for four and a half (4.5) months priority use with a further 2 terms of 2 years, with the commencement date on 15 May 2025.
2. Receives annual licence fees from the Mansfield Social Soccer Club of \$544.69 (ex GST).
3. Provides public notification of the intention to enter a licence agreement with the Mansfield Social Soccer Club.
4. Endorses the Chief Executive Officer executing the licence agreement on completion of the public notification process.

CARRIED

13.3. People, Communications and Governance

13.3.1. Proposed Motion for the MAV State Council Meeting: Inquiry into local government funding and services

Councillor Mandy Treasure/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Endorse the following motion for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting on 16 May 2025:
That the MAV:
 1. Supports the Economy and Infrastructure Committee inquiry recommendation 20 that the Victorian Government should not take money out of Commonwealth Government grants allocated to local councils, and
 2. Advocates to the State and Federal Governments to ensure such practices are addressed and that future funding allocations are fully directed towards local councils as intended by the Commonwealth Government.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issue that may have occurred between the Council Meeting and the date of lodgement with the MAV.

CARRIED

13.4. Executive Services Directorate

13.4.1. Advocacy Position on Albury Wodonga Hospital

Councillor Tim Berenyi/Councillor Mandy Treasure:

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Acknowledges that the current proposed redevelopment plan for Albury hospital continues to fall critically short of meeting the current and future health needs of the Albury Wodonga Regional Community;
2. Supports the development of a fully funded, new, single site hospital in a new central cross-border location, for the Albury Wodonga region, that meets the health points of care requirements as identified in the 2021 Albury Wodonga Health Clinical Services Plan;
3. Calls on the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales to pause the current redevelopment plans for the Albury Hospital, and redirect efforts towards a fully funded, new single-site hospital in Albury or Wodonga;
4. Calls upon the Australian Government and the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales to collaborate for the provision of a fully funded, health service that meets the current and future needs of all the regional communities within the catchment of Albury Wodonga Health;
5. Urgently seeks assurances from the New South Wales and Victorian State Governments to allay the fears of our community that the \$558 million investment allocated to the Albury Wodonga Health Service is committed regardless of the form the new hospital may take;
6. Urgently seeks commitment from the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales to provide interim solutions to address the current, ongoing hospital capacity deficiencies, including but not limited to:
 - a. Additional beds (like modular wards) now that have operational staffing; and
 - b. Additional theatres now funded to operate effectively; and
 - c. Capital and operational funding to meet the above short-term needs;
7. Authorises the CEO and Mayor to advocate for and communicate this position statement with the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales, the Federal Government and with the Board of Albury-Wodonga Health;
8. Participate in any meeting requested of the regional Mayors with the Victorian and NSW Premiers, Health Ministers, Cross Border Commissioners and the Prime Minister, and Australian Government Health Minister.

CARRIED

13.4.2. Advocacy Position on Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Councillor Bonnie Clark/Councillor Mandy Treasure:

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Calls on the Victorian Government to review the new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund by:
 - a. Reducing the tax burden proposed for primary producers.
 - b. Not shift the administrative, reputational and resource costs of the tax to local government by asking councils to act as tax collectors for the state government.
2. Notes the Mayor's written correspondence to the following:
 - a. Municipal Association of Victoria,
 - b. Rural Councils Victoria, and
 - c. Victorian Local Government Association
3. Authorises the CEO and Mayor to advocate for and communicate this position statement.

Steve Rabie proposed an amendment to the recommendation which was supported by the mover and seconder.

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Calls on the Victorian Government to review the new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund by:
 - a. Reducing the tax burden proposed for primary producers, and all Mansfield Shire residents and ratepayers.
 - b. Not shift the administrative, reputational and resource costs of the tax to local government by asking councils to act as tax collectors for the state government.
2. Notes the Mayor's written correspondence to the following:
 - a. Municipal Association of Victoria,
 - b. Rural Councils Victoria, and
 - c. Victorian Local Government Association
3. Authorises the CEO and Mayor to advocate for and communicate this position statement.

CARRIED

13.4.3. Quarterly Finance Report - 31 December 2024

Councillor Tim Berenyi/Councillor Mandy Treasure:

THAT COUNCIL notes the Quarterly Finance Report for the period 1 July 2024 – 31 December 2024.

CARRIED

14. Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register

Councillor Bonnie Clark/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Mansfield Shire Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register as at 31 January 2025.

CARRIED

15. Advisory and Special Committee reports

15.1. Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Agenda & Minutes

Councillor Mandy Treasure/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT COUNCIL receive the Agenda & Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 9 December 2024.

CARRIED

16. Authorisation of sealing of documents

Nil

17. Closure of meeting to members of the public

Councillor Mandy Treasure/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT COUNCIL close the meeting to members of the public under Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider Confidential Reports in accordance with section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 for reasons defined in section 18 below.

CARRIED

The Council Meeting Agenda - 12 February 2025 was closed to the public at 5:51 pm.

18. Confidential Reports

18.1. Sale of Portion of Road

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(a) - Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

18.2. Energy Contract Procurement

Councillor Tim Berenyi/Councillor Bonnie Clark:

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Endorses the proposal to enter into the contract agreement with the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) for the supply of 100% renewable energy provision from 1 July 2025 until 31 December 2030;
2. Authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract, noting that it is a schedule of rates contract with a total estimated value of \$850,000 (excluding GST) over its 5.5-year term; and
3. Makes this resolution public by including it in the public minutes of the meeting.

CARRIED

Chief Executive Officer, Kirsten Alexander, declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 5.56pm.

18.3. CEO Employment Matters

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(f) - personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Councillor Bonnie Clark/Councillor Mandy Treasure:

THAT COUNCIL:

1. *Confidential*
2. Resolve that the revised CEO Employment Matters Committee Terms of Reference be presented to Council at the Council Meeting on 18 March 2025.
3. *Confidential*
4. Appoints David Preiss as the independent member to the CEO Employment Matters Committee for a 4 year term and authorises the Executive Manager People, Communications & Governance to set the remuneration for the Independent Member subject to negotiation with the appointee.
5. *Confidential*
6. Make resolution numbers 2 and 4 of this resolution public by including it in the public minutes of the meeting.

CARRIED

Chief Executive Officer, Kirsten Alexander, returned to the meeting at 6.25pm.

19. Reopen meeting to members of the public

Councillor Bonnie Clark/Councillor Tim Berenyi:

THAT COUNCIL reopen the meeting to the public and resume transmission and this resolution be made public.

CARRIED

Council re-opened the meeting at 6:26 pm.

20. Close of meeting

The Council Meeting Agenda - 12 February 2025 was closed at 6:29 pm.

CONFIRMED this **eighteenth** day of **March 2025**

Mayor