



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Unscheduled Council Meeting
Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
4pm 17 February 2026

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1. Acknowledgement to Country

It is my privilege to respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of our wonderful country.

We give our thanks to our ancestors whose vision, determination, innovation and resilience built our prosperous inclusive and democratic country.

We acknowledge that we are the proud inheritors of this legacy, and we accept the challenge to continue to nourish and nurture our communities.

2. Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly ask thee to bless and guide this council in its deliberations so that we may truly preserve the welfare of the people whom we serve.

Amen

3. Present

Councillors:

Irene Grant, David Fuller, Harry Bussell, Harvey Benton, Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Allison Winters, Tania Maxwell

Officers:

Stephen Swart, Interim CEO; Tom Coelli-Donaghy, Acting Director Corporate & Leisure; Marcus Goonan, Director Community and Infrastructure; Kate Ellet, Acting Manager People & Culture

Administration:

Executive Services Coordinator; Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

4. Absent

Officers:

Sarah Brindley, Acting Director Sustainability and Culture;

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor T Maxwell/Councillor H Benton)

That an apology from Sarah Brindley be accepted.

Carried

Order of Business

6. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 a councillor who has a conflict of interest in respect of a matter must disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter and any action in relation to the matter.

Clause 28.1 of Council's Governance Rules requires a councillor to indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- (a) the item for which they have a conflict of interest; and
- (b) whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- (c) the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

A councillor who discloses a conflict of interest and leaves a Council meeting must not communicate with any participants in the meeting while the decision is being made.

Presentation Of Reports

For full transcript, please refer to the recording on the [Rural City of Wangaratta YouTube channel](#). Time markers are noted in (minutes:seconds) format.

Officers' Reports

7. Confidential Business

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor A Winters/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public in accordance with Division 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider the following items:

7.1 Employment Matter

Item 7.1 is Confidential under the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to : (f) Personal Information.

Carried

Harvey Benton left the meeting at 04:03 pm.
Harry Bussell left the meeting at 04:03 pm..
Ashlee Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 04:03 pm.
David Fuller left the meeting at 04:03 pm.
Irene Grant left the meeting at 04:03 pm..
Tania Maxwell left the meeting at 04:03 pm.
Allison Winters left the meeting at 04:03 pm.

Harvey Benton returned to the meeting at 04:14 pm.
Ashlee Fitzpatrick returned to the meeting at 04:14 pm.
Harry Bussell returned to the meeting at 04:14 pm.
David Fuller returned to the meeting at 04:14 pm.
Irene Grant returned to the meeting at 04:14 pm.
Tania Maxwell returned to the meeting at 04:14 pm.
Allison Winters returned to the meeting at 04:14 pm.

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor I Grant/Councillor H Benton)

That the Meeting be resumed.

Carried

8. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 04:15 pm.