



Rural City of
Wangaratta

Minutes

For the Scheduled Council Meeting
Springhurst Community Hall & Reserve
111 Anzac Road, Springhurst
6:00 PM 24 March 2026

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1. Acknowledgement to Country (02:57)

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 and we pledge to work to implement and enhance opportunities for the benefit of future generations, our children and their children into the future.

2. Opening Prayer (03:40)

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; Andrew Lovett, Acting Director Corporate and Leisure; Sarah Brindley, Acting Director Sustainability and Culture; Marcus Goonan, Director Community and Infrastructure

Administration:

Executive Services Coordinator; Councillor and Executive Services Support Officer

4. Absent

Councillors:

Ashlee Fitzpatrick

Officers:

5. Acceptance of Apologies & Granting of Leave of Absence (03:56)

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor T Maxwell)

That an apology from Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick be accepted.

Carried

Order of Business

6. Citizen Ceremony

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes (04:27)

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Winters)

That Council read and confirm the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of 24 February 2026 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Carried

8. Conflict of Interest Disclosure (05:05)

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.

9. Reception of Petitions

Nil

10. Hearing of Deputations

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.

11. Councillor Reports (5:23)

11.1 Acknowledgement of Prosecco Road (5:26)

Cr. D Fuller Reported that:

An acknowledgment should be made in relation to the hard work and advocacy that the team behind prosecco branding have put in, and the acknowledgment today of success in retaining that. *“We’ve put a lot of work ourselves, as an organisation, into prosecco road, the king Valley and surrounds – so it’s nice to hear that’s been secured”*

Resolution:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council:

Accept Cr Fuller’s report.

Carried

Officers’ Reports

12. Executive Services

Nil

13. Corporate and Leisure (06:11)

13.1 Biannual Audit and Risk Report (06:19)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2026
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Executive Assistant Corporate & Leisure
Approver:	Director - Corporate & Leisure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to note the Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Audit and Risk Report. This report was prepared in January 2026 to outline the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee between July – December 2025. This report is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) and this report is for Councillors to note only.

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor A Winters)

Resolution:

That Council:

1. Notes the Biannual Audit and Risk Report attached to this report.

Carried

Background

Biannual Audit and Risk Report

Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires that the Audit and Risk Committee: prepares a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the committee and includes its findings and recommendations.

To comply with this requirement, a biannual audit and risk report was produced for the period 1 July 2025 – 31 December 2025.

The attached report (**Attachment 1**) was also presented at the 17 March 2026 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting for endorsement and is now presented to Council for noting.

Implications

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no financial or economic implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

Section 54(5) of the Act requires the Audit and Risk Committee to prepare a biannual audit and risk report and provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

The Act requires that the Chief Executive Officer must table the biannual audit and risk report at the next Council meeting.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are no equity impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Conclusion

The completion and tabling of the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual report ensures that the Committee complies with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and all the committee's activities can be monitored by Council.

Attachments

- 1 Biannual Audit and Risk Committee Report July - December 2025 

14. Community and Infrastructure (08:40)

14.1 Municipal Early Years Plan 2026 – 2030 (08:48)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2026
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Manager - Community Services
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to provide a draft Municipal Early Years Plan 2026 - 2030 (MEYP) for consideration for the purpose of community engagement.

The Municipal Early Years Plan 2026 - 2030 (MEYP) is a strategic document that outlines Council's commitment to supporting children and families from birth to twelve years of age. The draft plan has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including early childhood services, health providers, and community representatives. It identifies priorities and actions to improve outcomes for children and families across the municipality, aligned with State and Federal frameworks.

The draft MEYP is now ready for community consultation to seek the communities feedback before final adoption. Community engagement will ensure transparency and provide an opportunity for families, service providers, and the broader community to contribute to the final plan.

Recommendation:

(Moved: Councillor A Winters/Councillor T Maxwell)

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Municipal Early Years Plan 2026 – 2030 for community consultation.
2. Invites submissions regarding the draft Municipal Early Years Plan for a period of 28 days.
3. If submissions are received that request changes to the draft Municipal Early Years Plan, considers a further report at a future Council meeting with the view to adopt the Municipal Early Years Plan 2026 – 2030.
4. If no submissions are received that request changes to the draft Municipal Early Years Plan 2026 – 2030, adopts the draft Municipal Early Years Plan attached to this report without further resolution.

Carried

Background

Wangaratta's Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) is a local plan designed to provide strategic direction for the development and coordination of early year's programs, activities and other local community development processes that impact on children 0 – 12 years in our municipality. The MEYP engages our community and partners to work together towards positive early years outcomes for children and families within the Rural City of Wangaratta. The MEYP provides an evidence-based approach to planning Council's involvement in social support and change for children and families. It provides a roadmap for planning services and facilities that will be delivered in collaboration with other partner organisations committed to the support and wellbeing of children. The MEYP is a product of collaborative community involvement, and its development has involved families, residents and other service providers who have provided ideas, opinions, data and feedback on the strategic directions proposed. As it is implemented, this collaborative approach with community will be maintained through local area partnerships to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for children.

The plan aligns with State and Federal early years frameworks and responds to local needs identified through consultation with families, service providers, and community stakeholders. This report seeks Council approval to place the draft MEYP out for community engagement to allow community feedback before final adoption.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The MEYP supports Council's commitment to community wellbeing and aligns with broader strategic objectives for early childhood development.

The MEYP has been prepared in accordance with Council's engagement practices set out in the Community Engagement Policy.

The MEYP complements Council's Community Vision and Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Financial/Economic Implications

There are no direct financial implications for placing the draft MEYP on public exhibition. Any future actions identified in the plan will be subject to Council's annual budget process and external funding opportunities.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Municipal Early Years Plan is a strategic planning document and does not introduce new policies or programs that would trigger an EIA requirement. However, the plan has been developed with consideration of equity principles to ensure inclusive access to early years services for all families.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2025-2029

This report supports the 2025-2029 Council Plan through the following objectives and actions:

1. Community Wellbeing

- 1.1 Provide access to services and program that enable people to live healthy, active and inspired lives

1.3 Ensure services and spaces are safe, accessible inclusive and welcoming to everyone in our community

2. Economy and Tourism

3.2 Ensure residents can access local education and employment opportunities

3. Infrastructure and Place

4.1 Plan for infrastructure, facilities and open spaces that reflect changing community environmental needs.

Rural City of Wangaratta 2045 Community Vision

- **Wangaratta Council Community Vision 2045** – specifically the objectives related to Healthy, Connected Communities and Inclusive Opportunities for Children and Families.

Other strategic links

- **State Government Early Years Reform Agenda.**

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Community concerns about draft content	low	minor	low	Provide clear communication and opportunity for feedback
Limited engagement during exhibition	Medium	Moderate	Medium	Use multiple channels (website, social, media, direct outreach)
Delay in adoption due to feedback volume	Low	Minor	Low	Allocate time for review and incorporate feedback effectively

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	We will keep informed	Council website, social media, media release
Consult	We will listen to and acknowledge your feedback	Online survey, email submission
Involve	We will work with you to ensure your concerns are considered	Community workshops, stakeholder meetings
Collaborate	We will partner with you in decision making.	Targeted engagement with service
Empower	We will implement what you decide	Not applicable for this stage.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration. Once the Draft is endorsed it will be open for further community feedback for 28 days. Feedback will be considered before the final version is represented to Council for adoption.

Options for Consideration

Approve the draft Municipal Early Years Plan for public exhibition for a period of 28 Days to seek community feedback.

Request that amendments be made to the draft plan prior to it being published for community engagement.

Conclusion

The draft Municipal Early Years Plan 2026-2030 provides a strategic framework to support children and families in the municipality. Public exhibition will allow the community and stakeholders to provide feedback, ensuring the final plan reflects local needs and priorities. Officers recommend that Council endorse the draft plan for public exhibition.

Attachments

- 1 Municipal Early Years Plan 2026-2030 

14.2 C22114 – Supply and Deliver Suction Sweeper (12:15)

Meeting Type:	Scheduled Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2026
Category:	Strategic
Author:	Field Services Manager
Approver:	Director Community and Infrastructure

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to award Contract C22114 – Supply and Deliver Suction Sweeper.

The Rural City of Wangaratta has invited tenders for the supply and delivery of a Suction Sweeper. This Suction Sweeper will be used by the Urban Drainage team to clean the street and sealed paths across the municipality. Plant has been identified as due for replacement in Council's Plant Replacement program due to age of existing plant and ongoing maintenance issues.

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Award Contract C22114 – Supply and Delivery of Suction Sweeper to Rosmech
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all the relevant contract documents for C22114 – Supply and Delivery of a Suction Sweeper
3. Discloses the contract price of contract C22114 – Supply and Delivery of a Suction Sweeper.

Carried

Background

Council officers tendered for the supply and delivery of a new single cab chassis and suction unit to replace its existing Hino FG1628, suction unit Bucher Municipal VT Series.

Council's Procurement Policy and Guidelines outline the approved methods and processes for procurement. In accordance with this policy, a Request for Quote was released to the MAV Panel Contract market on 27 November 2025 via Vendor Panel. Vendor Panel is the online contract

management and e-quoting system used by MAV Procurement to give Victorian Councils access to MAV-established panel contracts and approved suppliers.

Through this process, Council received six conforming, and one non-conforming, submissions. The tender review panel assessed each submission against the established criteria for the procurement, and Rosmech were the clear preferred supplier.

Implications

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

An allocation of \$580,000 (ex GST) was provided in Council's 2024/25 budget for this plant replacement. The trade-in of the existing plant will be undertaken upon delivery of the new unit

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social and Diversity

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Equity Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are no equity impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Strategic Links

Council Plan 2025 – 2029

This report supports the 2025-2029 Council Plan through the following strategic theme:

1. Infrastructure and Place

We are developing places that connect people, businesses, and neighbourhoods. Our focus is on maintaining and improving what we already have, while delivering new infrastructure to meet community needs.

- Ensure Assets are financially sustainable and fit for purpose.
- Explore additional efficiencies in the maintenance and repair of Council Infrastructure and assets.

Community Vision 2045

The content of this report supports delivery of the new Community Vision:

- Transport, roads and Infrastructure

- Care for nature & environment
- Community Safety

Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inability to provide Council with product as described.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Medium (9)	Council has chosen a well-known and trusted supplier to mitigate this risk.

Consultation/Communication

This was a public Tender Process and no community consultation was required. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

1. Award Contract C22114 – Supply and Delivery of Suction Sweeper to Rosmech
2. Not award Contract C22114 – Supply and Delivery of Suction Sweeper in accordance with approved evaluation report and retender publicly as per Council's procurement policy.

Conclusion

Following an internal evaluation against pre-determined evaluation criteria and weightings, Contract C22114 – Supply and Delivery of Suction Sweeper is recommended to be awarded to Rosmech in accordance with attached evaluation report.

Attachments

- 1 Council Evaluation Report and Award Recommendation Sweeper - Confidential

15. Sustainability and Culture

Nil

16. Special Committee Reports

Nil

17. Advisory Committee Reports

Nil

18. Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Nil

19. Notices of Motion

Nil

20. Urgent Business

21. Public Question Time

21.1 (16:24)	<p>Alexandra Coughlan submitted the following questions:</p> <p>I am kindly asking for an update on the proposed development of a gas station in Springhurst. Council approved the development in 2025 (I believe) and wonder if Council is aware where this development is at as of recently.</p> <p><i>Mayor Iren Grant responded:</i> <i>A permit for use and development of land for a service station. Planning permit 25/045 was issued on 22 August 2025 and we are currently waiting on Condition 1 plans which have we have not received as yet.</i></p>
21.2 (17:35)	<p>Jordan Coughlan asked the following question:</p> <p>Is there any chance for any allocation of green bins to our local area (Springhurst).</p>

	<p><i>Director Marcus Goonan Responded:</i> We are ready to roll out green bins to other areas, as required. At this point in time, council has taken the position to put a hold on rolling out any further services, whether that be green or purple bins, pending what is going to be set of standard bin requirements launched by the state government. They were men to be launched 3 years ago know, so we're still waiting. We've taken that approach because we don't exactly know what the state are going to impose, we know we'll have to have a green bin and we'll have to have a purple bin, but we don't know exactly what the exemptions for that are going to be, so we don't want to run those bins out further than what we have, and then have a large number of exemptions coming in to come and pick up bins. From an officers point of view, we'll come back to councillors, we propose we'd come back to councillors and say, here's where we need to roll services out to, I'd be surprised if that didn't include Springhurst.</p>
21.3 (20:01)	<p>Ray Stedman asked the following question:</p> <p>Is there an option to not receive these (Green and Purple bins), I'm happy to send the purple bin back now, and the green bin I certainly wouldn't want to have.</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan Responded:</i> Hear everyone regarding what bins they want, what bins they don't want. That's why we're waiting for the state to tell us what that standard is, and what will be an exemption. I don't know if there will be an opt in or opt out requirement from the state, so we'll wait for that. There's a couple of things we need to think about, if we end up with an opt out or opt in system, it does make it more expensive for everyone in the system who stays in, so there's some economies of scale there. Certainly, from a service delivery point of view, we do have the ability to adapt our services a little bit more than other municipalities because we run our own trucks for waste, green organics and glass.</p>
21.4 (24:50)	<p>Tom Brighton asked the following questions:</p> <p>On behalf of the Springhurst hall, we badly need a defibrillator, our secretary has put in for a grant through Gary Nash in the last week or two, but I was wondering if there was anything council can do, to point us in the right direction to speed up the process?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan Responded:</i> Tom, I'm happy to get our community liaison officer to contact you and see if we can't help out with where the best place to point for those types of things. We're happy to offer some support and help in writing those, or with letters of support.</p> <p>We've (Springhurst Hall) been a place of last resort, and we don't seem to get any funding help anywhere, it's increased the mowing load and the maintenance of the hall, is there a direction where we can get a little bit of help with funding, we just seem to be pushed out of the back door when we ask?</p> <p><i>Director Marcus Goonan Responded:</i> Unfortunately, being a DECA reserve, it's a state reserve, so it's not council funded. Certainly, happy to look at the requirements under the place of last resort.</p>

One thing, as a general rule, community facilities that are places of last resort, tend to hold themselves to a far higher standard than what is required under the last resort framework. Again, the person I'll get to contact you can have those conversations with you. But as far as council direct funding DECA reserves, that's not something we're moving towards in the near future.

When the drainage work was done in ANZAC Road in the north south direction, after that work was done, it increased the water going down east west on ANZAC road by about double. So I'm just wondering if there's any way to sort that out. Could there be anything done to change the flow to help the residents in the east west of ANZAC road.

Director Marcus Goonan Responded:

Happy to have a chat about that, just to explain exactly what's going on there. I know we did some drainage work there several years back, and it opened up the drains to flow a bit more. But happy to look at that, it may be something we can solve quite easily.

No one in town really knew much about this meeting, would there be any chance of the council getting access to the Springhurst Facebook Page to post things like this?

Director Sarah Brindley Responded:

We have a rotating cycle where we go out to different community halls, so it might still be a couple of years before the next one is here, but you can also see on councils website, where the team have scheduled them for, and if you follow councils Facebook page, we announce it each month before the meeting happens.

22. Confidential Business

Nil

23. Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 06:28pm