



44 Station Street
Cobram Vic 3644
www.moirā.vic.gov.au
info@moirā.vic.gov.au

AGENDA

UNSCHEDULED (SPECIAL) MEETING OF COUNCIL **FOR** **WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2020** **TO BE HELD AT COBRAM CIVIC CENTRE** **COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM**

RECORDING

Consistent with section 12.3 of our Governance Rules, Council officers have been authorised to record the public session of this meeting using an audio recording device.

LIVE STREAMING

Council meetings will now be lived streamed, allowing those interested to view proceedings without attending the meeting. This gives access to Council decisions and debate and enables residents to comply with COVID19 stay at home directions.

1. CALLING TO ORDER - CEO

2. PRAYER

Almighty God we humbly ask you to guide our deliberations for the welfare and benefit of the Moira Shire and its people whom we serve.

Amen

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Moira Shire Council, would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

4. APOLOGIES & REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5. DECLARATION UNDER ACTS, REGULATIONS, CODES OR LOCAL LAWS

6. DECLARATION OF ANY INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7. OFFICER REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

7 CORPORATE

7.1 MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

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8. CLOSE OF MEETING

FILE NO: F14/254
4. A WELL RUN COUNCIL

ITEM NO: 7.1

MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the 2019/20 Annual Report including the audited Financial Statements and Performance Statement.

1. Executive Summary

Moira Shire Council's 2019/20 Annual Report including the audited Financial Statements and Performance Statement is provided for noting by Council.

Council is required to prepare its 2019/20 Annual Report in line with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and submit the report to the Minister by 30 September each year.

Following Council's noting, the Annual Report will be made available to the community and stakeholders via Council's website with copies printed and made available from Council's service centres.

2. Background

COVID-19 Pandemic

It is vital, especially during times of global uncertainty, that Council provides a solid framework from which our communities will not only survive, but be able to rebuild quickly and efficiently, therefore we will play a supporting role in the recovery phase of the pandemic.

2019/20 Annual Report Highlights

During 2019/20 we again committed to the delivery of our largest ever capital works program.

We delivered in full or in part numerous significant projects including the Cobram Piazza development, the Gilmore Street, Yarrawonga redevelopment, the completion of the Wilby Hall upgrade, the installation of new, vibrant shire and town entrance signage as well as substantial drainage works in Numurkah and Nathalia.

The planning of major projects advanced, in particular the Yarrawonga Library development with the good news that approval was given for a \$3.75 million low-interest loan to undertake this project.

To maintain positive momentum, we have engaged extensively with residents and business across Moira and are currently developing a comprehensive Community Engagement Policy, in line with the new Local Government Act 2020.

Council endorsed its first ever Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-26, which heralded a new era for the development and promotion of the region's vibrant arts sector. This new strategy is the blueprint for Council's ongoing support for arts into the future.

Council is working side by side with all our tourism and related businesses to ensure no-one is left behind when the necessary constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic begin to ease.

A new addition to our tourism team is the specially designed Mobile Visitor Information Centre, which enables Council to provide targeted visitor information services to the largest visitor audience.

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MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 (cont'd)

Our Disability, Tourism and Safety Committees have contributed to the development of projects, strategies and multiple submissions and Council values the contribution of our many volunteers serving on our management and advisory committees and reference groups.

Organisational performance

This annual report is the fifth year of reporting under the Victorian Government's Local Government Performance Framework. Our steady improvements each year have translated to significant gains for our ratepayers and service users.

Highlights include:

- The expansion of our kerbside organic collection service to include most residential properties and bringing Moira Shire to the forefront of waste management in the State.
- Our participation levels of maternal and child health services remains strong, despite the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Road repair requests remain at relatively low levels.

Council ends 2019/20 with an operating surplus of \$12.89 million. This result includes \$5.21 million of non-cash developer contributions, for example assets such as footpaths, roads and public parks that are constructed by developers and transferred to Council, and \$1.77 million in drainage assets not previously recognised and \$5.83 million of the Financial Assistance Grant received in advance of the 20/21 year.

Council's cash balance at year-end was \$39.98 million which includes: \$5.83 million for the 2020/21 Financial Assistance grants received in advance; \$19.52 million funding for 2019/20 capital projects that are to be completed in 2020/21 and \$7.35 million in monies held in trust, other deposits, creditor payables, statutory and other reserves.

3. Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications.

4. Risk Management

There are no further risks associated with the annual report.

5. Internal and External Consultation

The Annual Report will be made available online and for inspection at Council Service Centres after the September Council Meeting. Advertisements confirming the availability of the report will appear in local media.

6. Legislative / Policy Implications

The Annual Report meets Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 1989 and is prepared in accordance with the model reports provided by the Department.

7. Environmental Impact

Hard copies of the report must be produced for display at Council's Service Centre, agencies and the State Library. Council endeavours to keep printed copies to a minimum by encouraging online and electronic access to the report.

8. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There are no officer conflict of interest issues to consider within this report.

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MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 (cont'd)

9. Conclusion

Council's Annual Report meets statutory obligations and presents key highlights and challenges for the organisation and the community during 2019/20.

It is recommended that Council, in accordance with section 134 of the Act, receives and notes the 2019/20 Annual Report, inclusive of audited financial and performance statements as at 30 June 2020.

Attachments

- 1 Moira Shire Council Annual Report 2019/20 – *will be provided prior to the meeting*