



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

**Declaration of Office, Election of Mayor, Appointment of Delegates
and Adoption of Meeting Schedule**

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024

COMMENCING AT 7:00PM

**Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof**

**Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer
Buloke Shire Council**

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chief Executive Officer will open the meeting and call for the nomination of a Temporary Chairperson.

2. WELCOME

The Temporary Chairperson welcomes VIP's, Councillors elect and their families, staff, representatives of local community organisations, representatives of the Press and members of the public.

The Temporary Chairperson acknowledges "the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pays our respect to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today".

3. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

The Temporary Chairperson reads any apologies received by the Chief Executive Officer and asks Councillors elect if they are aware of any other apologies.

4. ELECTION OF MAYOR

4.1 MAYORAL TERM OF OFFICE

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/07/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

Council is to determine the Mayoral Term as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUMMARY

Council, at its Statutory Meeting 8 November 2023, pursuant to section 26 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, determined to elect the Mayor for a one-year term and not a two-year term.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in accordance with section 26 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council elects the Mayor for a one-year term.

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

Section 26 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council.

The Act also provides that before a Mayor is elected, the Council may resolve to elect a Mayor for a term of one or two years.

RELEVANT LAW

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At this same Council Meeting, following consideration of this report, Council will then be required to elect the Mayor for the one-year term.

OPTIONS

There is no further option for Council consideration, as Council is to determine the Mayoral Term as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council is to determine the Mayoral Term as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This item will be addressed at a Council Meeting that is open to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Officers compiling this report have no Conflicts of Interest in the matter being addressed.

4.2 DEPUTY MAYORAL TERM OF OFFICE

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/07/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

SUMMARY

Council is to determine and confirm the Deputy Mayoral Term as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 (Clause 7, 8 and 9) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council, at its Statutory Meeting 8 November 2023, pursuant to section 26 and 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, determined to elect a Deputy Mayor for a one-year term and not a two-year term.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in accordance with section 26 and 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, elect the Deputy Mayor for a term of one year.

DISCUSSION

Section 26 and 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council must elect a Councillor to be the Deputy Mayor of the Council.

The Act also provides that before a Deputy Mayor is elected, the Council may resolve to elect a Deputy Mayor for a term of one or two years, however with the forthcoming Victorian Local Government Council Elections scheduled to be held in October 2024, in this instance a one-year term is the only option.

Following the Elections in October 2024, a Deputy Mayor will then need to be elected no later than one month after the date of the general election.

RELEVANT LAW

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7, 8 and 9) and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At this same Council Meeting, following consideration of this report, Council will then be required to elect the Deputy Mayor for the one-year term of office.

OPTIONS

There is no further option for Council consideration, as Council is to determine the Deputy Mayoral Term as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 (Clause 7, 8 and 9) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council is to determine the Deputy Mayoral Term as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7, 8 and 9) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This item will be addressed at a Statutory Meeting that is open to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Officers compiling this report have no Conflicts of Interest in the matter being addressed.

5. ELECTION OF MAYOR

5.1 ELECTION OF MAYOR REPORT

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/07/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7), Council is required to elect a Mayor within one month after any vacancy in the office of Mayor occurs.

SUMMARY

It is recommended that Council elect a Mayor as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elects Councillor _____ as Mayor of the Shire of Buloke for a ____ -year term commencing 20 November 2024.

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

At its Statutory Meeting on 8 November 2023, Council elected Cr Alan Getley as its Mayor for a one-year term. In accordance with the Act and the Governance Rules 2022, this mayoral term expires after one year and a mayoral election must occur.

The Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 8) states the Election of Mayor Meeting and process is to be conducted as follows:

- 1) At a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council.
- 2) Subject to section 167 of the Act, any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor.
- 3) The election of the Mayor must be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer.
- 4) The Chief Executive Officer must open the Meeting at which the Mayor is to be elected and invite nominations for the office of Mayor.

- 5) Every nomination shall require a seconder.
- 6) Any Councillor nominated may refuse nomination.
- 7) If only one Councillor is nominated, the meeting must declare that Councillor to be duly elected as Mayor.
- 8) If there is more than one nomination, the Councillors present must vote for one of the candidates, and the method of voting will be by show of hands.
- 9) The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors. If an absolute majority of the Councillors cannot be obtained at the meeting, the Council may resolve to conduct the election of the Mayor at a later specified time and date.
- 10) In this clause, 'absolute majority' means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the total number of the Councillors of a Council.
- 11) If no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes where there are 3 or more candidates, the candidate with the least number of votes must be eliminated as a candidate and a further poll conducted between the remaining candidates.
- 12) If there are several candidates, the procedure must be repeated until a candidate receives an absolute majority of votes and that candidate shall be declared Mayor.
- 13) If, for the purpose of eliminating the candidate with the least number of votes, two or more candidates have the same least number of votes, the candidate to be eliminated shall be determined by simple majority vote.

Mayor to Take Chair

After the election of the Mayor is determined, the Mayor must take the Chair.

RELEVANT LAW

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At this same Council Meeting, prior to this report, Council will confirm the term of office for the Mayor to be elected.

OPTIONS

There is no further option as Council is required to elect a Mayor as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 (Clause 7 and 8) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was necessary for compiling this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8), adopted 10 August 2022.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report is being tabled in a Council Meeting that is open to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Officers compiling this report do not have a conflict of interest in this item to be addressed.

6. MAYORAL ADDRESS

7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

7.1 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR REPORT

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/07/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules 2022 (Clause 7), Council is required to elect a Deputy Mayor within one month after any vacancy in the office of Deputy Mayor occurs.

SUMMARY

It is recommended that Council elect a Deputy Mayor as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elects Councillor _____ as Deputy Mayor of the Buloke Shire Council for a ____ year term commencing 20 November 2024.

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

The Deputy Mayor can take the Chair during periods of absence of the Mayor.

The Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 8 and 9) states the Election of Deputy Mayor Meeting and process is to be conducted as follows:

- 1) At a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Deputy Mayor of the Council;
- 2) Subject to section 167 of the Act, any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Deputy Mayor;
- 3) Every nomination shall require a seconder.
- 4) Any Councillor nominated may refuse nomination.
- 5) If only one Councillor is nominated, the meeting must declare that Councillor to be duly elected as Deputy Mayor.
- 6) If there is more than one nomination, the Councillors present must vote for one of the candidates, and the method of voting will be by show of hands.

- 7) The Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors. If an absolute majority of the Councillors cannot be obtained at the meeting, the Council may resolve to conduct the election of the Deputy Mayor at a later specified time and date.
- 8) In this clause, absolute majority means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the total number of the Councillors of a Council.
- 9) If no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes where there are 3 or more candidates, the candidate with the least number of votes must be eliminated as a candidate and a further poll conducted between the remaining candidates.
- 10) If there are several candidates, the procedure must be repeated until a candidate receives an absolute majority of votes and that candidate shall be declared Deputy Mayor.
- 11) If, for the purpose of eliminating the candidate with the least number of votes, two or more candidates have the same least number of votes, the candidate to be eliminated shall be determined by simple majority vote.

After the election of the Deputy Mayor is determined, the Deputy Mayor can take the Chair during any periods of absence of the Mayor.

RELEVANT LAW

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7, 8 and 9) and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At this same Council Meeting, prior to this report, Council will confirm the term of office for the Deputy Mayor to be elected.

OPTIONS

There is no further option as Council is required to elect a Deputy Mayor as per the Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8) adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was necessary for compiling this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7, 8 and 9), adopted 10 August 2022.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report is being tabled in a Council Meeting that is open to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Officers compiling this report do not have a conflict of interest in this item to be addressed.

8. DEPUTY MAYORAL ADDRESS

9. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES

9.1 REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To review Council's appointed Delegates to external organisations.

SUMMARY

Council is represented on a diverse range of community, state, regional and local organisations.

At each Statutory Meeting, Councillors are required to revisit the list of appointed delegates to ensure the needs of the organisations continue to be met by the support of Council delegates, as well as confirming Council delegates' continued ability to partake in the delegated role.

A list of proposed Council Delegates to organisations is provided for consideration of Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts and formally appoints the agreed list of Council Delegates to community groups and other organisations for the next twelve months as identified at the Council Meeting 20 November 2024.

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

Council is represented on a diverse range of community, state, regional and local organisations. Some of these organisations are established by state statute, or under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* or are effectively informal gatherings of individuals.

The distinctions are important in terms of the status of a Councillor as a member of the respective organisation, the nature of the appointment and their powers to commit Council to expenditure or other action.

The role of Councillors at these Committees is to represent Council, share information and contribute to the success of both the committees and Council.

Below for review, is the current list of Council Delegates initially adopted at its Statutory Meeting held 8 November 2023.

Existing List of Council Delegates as appointed at Statutory Meeting 8 November 2023

Organisation	Representative(s)
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor, Cr Hogan
Australian Livestock Saleyards Association Inc.	Cr Pollard, Cr Milne as proxy if required
Birchip Housing Co-operative Committee	Cr Warren
Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Cr Hogan
Buloke Tourism Board	Cr Milne
Calder Highway Improvement Committee	Cr Pollard, Cr Getley as proxy if required
Central Murray Regional Transport Forum	Cr Getley
Central Vic Greenhouse Alliance	Cr Pollard, Cr Warren as proxy if required
Charlton Park Committee of Management	Cr Getley
Charlton Stadium Committee	Cr Pollard, Cr Getley as proxy if required
Donald 2000 Inc	Cr Warren
Library Advisory Committee	Cr Hogan
Municipal Association of Victoria	Mayor
Municipal Flood Management Committee	Cr Warren, Cr Pollard
North Central Local Learning Employment Network	Cr Simpson
North West Municipalities Association	Mayor
Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Milne
Recreational Water Users Alliance	Cr Hogan, Cr Milne
Rural Councils Victoria	Cr Pollard, Cr Hogan as proxy if required
Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee	Cr Milne
Watchem Progress Association	Cr Milne
Wimmera Mallee Tourism Association	Cr Milne, Cr Simpson (Deputy)
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Ltd	Mayor
Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group	Cr Getley
Workspace Australia	Cr Warren
Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Cr Pollard, Cr Simpson as proxy if required
WycheAlive Community Forum	Cr Hogan

Council is to consider appointments of its Councillor Delegates to the organisations noted below, for the next twelve-month period

PROPOSED List of Council Delegates for consideration at Statutory Meeting 20 November 2024

Organisation	Representative(s)
Advance Sea Lake Inc. Community Forum	
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor
Australian Livestock Saleyards Association Inc.	
Birchip Housing Co-operative Committee	
Buloke & Northern Grampians Landcare Network	
Buloke Tourism Board	
Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Central Murray Regional Transport Forum	
Central Vic Greenhouse Alliance	
Charlton Forum	
Charlton Park Committee of Management	
Charlton Stadium Committee	
Donald 2000 Inc Community Forum	
Library Advisory Committee	
Municipal Association of Victoria	Mayor
Municipal Flood Management Committee	
North Central Local Learning Employment Network	
Nandaly Progress Association	
North-West Municipalities Association	Mayor
Rail Freight Alliance	
Recreational Water Users Alliance	
Rural Councils Victoria	
Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee	
Watchem Progress Association	
Wimmera Mallee Tourism Association	
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Ltd	Mayor
Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group	
Workspace Australia	
Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	
WycheAlive Community Forum	

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council reviews and appoints its delegates to these committees on an annual basis.

OPTIONS

Council can choose which groups to send delegates to and which individual councillors it wishes to appoint to each committee.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Council delegation and representation to these organisations is fundamental to Council's communication, collaboration and effective alliance with such community, regional and state stakeholder groups.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under the *Council's Governance Rules* adopted 10 August 2022, and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Councillors report back to Council Meetings on activities surrounding the operations of these committees and are tasked with providing the organisation with updates.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Officers compiling this report have no Conflicts of Interest in the matter being addressed.

10. COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**10.1 REPORT OF COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2024/2025****Author's Title:** Executive Assistant**Department:** Office of the CEO**File No:** GO/05/02**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025****Strategic Objective:** Our Council and Community Leadership**PURPOSE**

The Council's Governance Rules 2022 adopted 10 August 2022 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, states that at the Council Meeting to elect the Mayor, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Meetings of Council and Delegated Committees for the following year, which may be amended where the circumstances require.

SUMMARY

The proposed Council Meeting Schedule for the following year is tabled for Council review and consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the following Council Meeting Schedule for the following year:

Month	Briefing - 4pm	Council Meeting - 4pm
November 2024		Wycheproof (20)
December 2024	Wycheproof (4)	Wycheproof (18)
January 2025	-	-
February 2025	Sea Lake (6)	Wycheproof (20)
March 2025	Nandaly (6)	Wycheproof (20)
April 2025	Birchip (3)	Wycheproof (17)
May 2025	Berriwillock (1)	Wycheproof (15)
June 2025	Culgoa (5)	Wycheproof (19)
July 2025	Charlton (3)	Wycheproof (17)
August 2025	Nullawil (7)	Wycheproof (21)
September 2025	Donald (4)	Wycheproof (18)
October 2025	Watchem (2)	Wycheproof (16)
November 2025	Wycheproof (6)	Wycheproof (20) <i>(Council (Formerly Statutory) Meeting commencing 7.00pm on</i>

		<i>this same night)</i>	
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Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

The proposed Schedule lists a Council Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month and a Councillor Briefing on the first Wednesday.

Councillor Briefings are held for Councillors to be briefed on future Council Meeting Agenda items, obtain clarification on projects/matters from staff, consider strategic ideas and issues, and to be addressed by key stakeholders, regional and community organisations and individuals.

Councillors cannot make decisions at Councillor Briefings.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to adopt and apply Rules which describe the way it will conduct Council meetings and make decisions.

Council adopted its current Governance Rules 2022 on 10 August 2022.

OPTIONS

There is no other option as Council is required to adopt its Meeting Schedule in accordance with the Governance Rules 2022 and Local Government Act 2020.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The adopted Council Meeting Schedule will be published in the "Community Matters" in the local papers and placed on Council's website.

The Governance Rules 2022 states that Council must provide at least 7 days' notice on Council's website of meetings of the Council and Delegated Committees, unless urgent or extraordinary circumstances prevent Council from doing so, in which case Council must give notice that is practicable for the circumstances which includes advice of the reasons why the 7 days' notice of the meeting could not be given.

Community presentations at the Councillor Briefings allows key stakeholders, individuals, regional and community organisations to address or present to Councillors on new initiatives, matters before Council, comment on draft policies, strategies etc.

Councillors will be briefed on the proposed new Governance Rules on 4 December 2024, following which time it is anticipated that a period of Public Exhibition will engage community and seek feedback on the proposed new Rules.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under the Council's Governance Rules 2022 and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council Meetings where decisions are made, are meetings open to the public.

Pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting can be closed to the public to consider matters which contain confidential information on the grounds provided in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS

Staff preparing this report have no Conflicts of Interest in the matter being addressed.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopts its Council Meeting Schedule as listed for the next twelve months.

11. COUNCILLOR OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE**11.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE**

Author's Title: Manager Governance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** GO/0706

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To record in the Council Meeting minutes that the Councillors have undertaken the Oath or Affirmation of Office in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

SUMMARY

This report is presented to Council as a requirement of Section 30 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government Regulations 2020* in regards to the induction of the Councillors Elect.

Council is required to note and record that on Wednesday, 20 November 2024 at 6.30 pm, the Councillors Elect for Buloke Shire Council have:

- a) Taken the Oath or Affirmation of Office; and
- b) Signed the Oath or Affirmation before the Chief Executive Officer.

RECOMMENDATION

Council note and record that the Councillors Elect for Buloke Shire Council, including Stephen Barratt, Charmaine Delaney, Alan Getley, Bernadette Hogan, Graeme Milne and Bruce Stafford, have:

- a) Taken the Oath or Affirmation of Office; and
- b) Signed the Oath or Affirmation.

before the Chief Executive Officer, Wayne O'Toole, on Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 6.30pm.

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

On 8 November 2024 following the Victorian Local Government Elections held 26 October 2024, the Victorian Electoral Commission declared the following Councillors to be duly elected for Buloke Shire Council.

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Bruce Stafford
Cr Stephen Barratt

Mallee Ward

Cr Alan Getley
Cr Bernadette Hogan

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Cr Graeme Milne
Cr Charmaine Delaney

In accordance with the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 a person elected to be a Councillor is not capable of acting as a Councillor until the person has:

- a) Taken the Oath or Affirmation of Office; and
- b) Sign the Oath or Affirmation

The Oath or Affirmation of Office must be—

- a) Administered by the Chief Executive Officer;
- b) Dated and signed before the Chief Executive Officer; and
- c) Recorded in the Minutes of the Council.

Commencing at 6.30 on Wednesday, 20 November 2024, each Councillor elect, took the Oath or Affirmation of Office and signed the following declarations which are attached to this report:

- a) Declaration by form of Affirmation; or
- b) Declaration by form of Oath

RELEVANT LAW

This report enables Council to meet its obligations according to Section 30 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The adoption of the record of Councillor Oath of Office after a General Election was recorded in the Council minutes 23 November 2020.

OPTIONS

A Councillor elect may choose not to undertake the Oath or Affirmation, however in accordance with the legislation, cannot act as a Councillor until they have undertaken the Oath or Affirmation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There no sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not required to prepare this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Innovation and Continuous improvement is not applicable to this report

COLLABORATION

This is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

In adopting this report, there is no financial viability implications to 2024-25 Council Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not relevant to this report

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not relevant to this report.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The purpose of this report is to record in the minutes that the Oath or Affirmation of Office has been taken by each Councillor.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest.

12. MEETING CLOSE