



Agenda of the Audit Committee

Audit Committee Meeting

To be held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia
Thursday 19th December 2024
Commencing 2.30pm

Dear Councillors,

The next Audit Committee Meeting of the Shire of Westonia will be held on Thursday 19th December 2024 the Council Chambers, Wolfram Street, Westonia.

Audit Meeting – 2.20 pm

Mikey Fiorucci 2.45 pm Office of the Auditor General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Price', is positioned above a horizontal line.

BILL PRICE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
18 December 2024



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In particular and without derogating in any way from the board disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a license, any statement or intimation made by any member or Officer of the Shire of Westonia during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Westonia.

The Shire of Westonia warns that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Westonia must obtain and should only rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Westonia in respect of the application.



**SHIRE OF
WESTONIA**
A vibrant community lifestyle

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

PLAN

2018-2028

CORE DRIVERS

1. Relationships that bring us tangible benefits (to the Shire and our community)
2. Our lifestyle and strong sense of community.
3. We are prepared for opportunities and we are innovative to ensure our relevancy and destiny.

OUR VALUES

Respect – We value people and places and the contribution they make to the Shire.

Inclusiveness – Be receptive, proactive, and responsive.

Fairness and Equity – Provide services for a variety of ages and needs.

Communication – Create opportunities for consultation with the broad community.

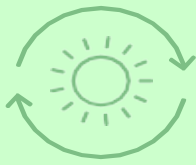
OUR VISION

A vibrant community lifestyle

MISSION

Provide leadership and direction for the community.

ECONOMIC



Support growth and progress, locally and regionally...

Efficient transport connectivity in and around our Shire.

- Continue to utilise our Road Management Plan, which incorporates a road hierarchy, minimum service levels and maintenance policy.
- RAV Ratings and Shire boundaries are consistent across local government boundaries.
- Lobby and build enduring partnerships with key Government Departments to improve Great Eastern Hwy.
- Actively participate in the Secondary Freight Network group.
- Develop and implement a Road Asset Plan highlighting key funder and strategic partnerships to support sustainability.
- Develop a Gravel Reserve Policy which identifies future gravel reserves and recognises cost to local government.
- Educate road users about road safety and driving on gravel roads.
- Optimal and safe use of our plants and equipment assets.
- Ensure that appropriate RAV vehicles traverse correct RAV routes.
- Maintain our airport with a view to improvements to meet commercial and recreational aviation needs.

Facilitate local business retention and growth.

- Council recognises the opportunity of partnering with Westonia Progress Association, works closely and supports them to help achieve their economic development projects and our strategic goals.
- Council continue to have a role in facilitating the presence of a Co-op in our community.
- Enhance local economic activity by supporting the growth of tourism in our Shire and region including applying for funding to improve tourist facilities.
- Improve our online tourism presence.
- We forward plan to improve the economic diversity in our community.
- In partnership with Council, the mine develops long term business plans for current mine assets.
- Investigate options for multipurpose accommodation if vacancies arise in mine accommodation.

SOCIAL



Provide community facilities and promote social Interaction...

Plan for community growth and changing demographics.

- Develop the Town Planning Scheme.
- Plan and develop residential and industrial land.
- Community safety and ease of access around town is a priority.
- Our lifestyle, facilities and sense of community is promoted.
- The CEACA project continues to expand the number of universally designed dwellings in our town.
- We support our emergency services.
- We enable visiting health professionals to our community.
- The Community Resource Centre receives external funding to provide preventative health and community development initiatives to the community.
- We facilitate healthy and active ageing in place
- Our cemetery is well presented.

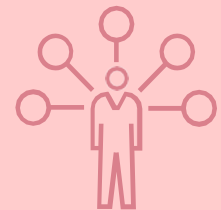
Our community has the opportunity to be active, socialised and connected.

- We collaborate and encourage active engagement in local clubs and community initiatives that support a healthy lifestyle.
- Investigate motor sport opportunities around the Shire.
- Preserve and celebrate our local history.
- Support our volunteers and clubs to remain strong, dynamic, and inclusive.
- Encourage lifelong learning.
- Children and youth have active and social opportunities.
- Continue to provide high standard and accessible shire facilities.
- Retain and expand Westonia's unique tourism experience.

Natural spaces are preserved and bring us value.

- Sustainably manage our reserves and open spaces.
- Participate in best practice waste management.
- Work collaboratively to meet legislative compliance with managing weeds and pests as well as our environmental health standards.
- Investigate renewable energy generation technologies.

GOVERNANCE



Continually enhance the Shire's organisational capacity to service the needs of a growing community...

Be progressive and capture opportunities.

- Be open to local productivity/ best practice and cost saving opportunities locally and regionally.
- Investigate joint resourcing and tendering
- Advocate and develop strong partnerships to benefit our community.
- Be prepared by forward planning our resources and focusing on continuous improvement.
- Identify risks and opportunities after the life of the mine.

The community receives services in a timely manner.

- Meet our legislative and compliance requirements.
- Work towards optimal management of our assets.
- Work to develop Councillor and staff skills and experience to provide career and succession opportunities within the Shire.
- Inside and outside staff are multi skilled to understand the business of local government and provide a seamless service to the community.
- Communicate and engage with our community regularly.

Financial resources meet the ongoing needs of the community.

- Seek external funding for significant capital improvements that deliver upon our strategic objectives.
- Investigate ways to reduce reliance on operational grants given the current State and Federal Government priorities.

**Shire of Westonia: -
A vibrant community lifestyle.**



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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr Crees welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 2.20pm.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr RM Crees	<i>Shire President</i>
Cr RA Della Bosca	<i>Deputy Shire President</i>
Cr DL Simmonds	
Cr DL Geier	
Cr A Faithfull	
Cr WJ Huxtable	

Staff:

Mr.AW Price	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
Mrs JL Geier	<i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (2.25 PM – 2.48PM)

NIL

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS



That the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held of Council held on 21st March 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

6. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

6.1. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
File Reference:	CA1.3.2
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil
Signature:	Officer  CEO 



Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for the Audit Committee to receive the Audited Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 inclusive of the independent Auditor's Report and to consider the findings in the Management Letters.

Background

Council adoption of the Annual Report for the 2023/2024 financial year is required as per recommendation from the Audit Committee.

The Shire of Westonia auditors have completed the Annual Audit for the financial year ending 30th June 2024 as per the Local Government Act 1995 as amended and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Comment

The 2023/24 audit timeline included field work from the 21st to 24th October 2024. An exit meeting was held on the 17th December 2024. The Auditor's Opinion was subsequently issued on 18th December, 2024.

Part 7 of the *Local Government Act 1995* deals with matters specific to the conduct of local government audit. Section 7.12A requires that a local government do the following amongst other things:

- Examine the audit report;
- Determine if any matters raised by the audit report, require action to be taken;
- Ensure that appropriate action is taken in respect of those matters;
- Prepare a report addressing any matters identified as significant by the auditor in the audit report, and stating what action the local government has taken or intends to take with respect to each of those matters;
- Provide a copy of that report to the Minister within 3 months after the audit report is received by the local government; and
- Within 14 days after a local government gives a report to the Minister, the CEO must publish a copy of the report on the local government's official website.

Statutory Environment

Part 7 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* applies to audit in local government.

After the annual financial report has been audited, the CEO is to sign and append to the report a declaration. A copy of the annual financial report is then to be submitted to the Departmental CEO within 30 days of the receipt by the local government's CEO of the auditor's report on that financial report.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Audit Committee:

1. receives the Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024, inclusive of the Independent Auditor's Report.
2. notes that the audit findings detailed in the Management Letters will be incorporated into the consolidated status report for ongoing review.

7. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF THE MEETING

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday schedule 21st December 2023 commencing at 3.30pm.

9. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Mark Crees declared the meeting closed at pm