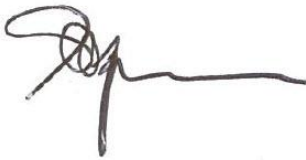


Councillor  
(as addressed)

A Council Meeting, will be held on Monday 14 October 2024, commencing at 6:00pm, for the sole purpose of considering the Annual Report 2023/24, and your presence is requested.

Yours faithfully



Steve Kozlowski  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Note:**

***This meeting is being streamed live on the internet and recorded.  
Every care is taken to maintain privacy and attendees are advised they may be recorded.***

***This meeting of Council can be viewed on Council's website via:***

<https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Live-Council-Meetings>

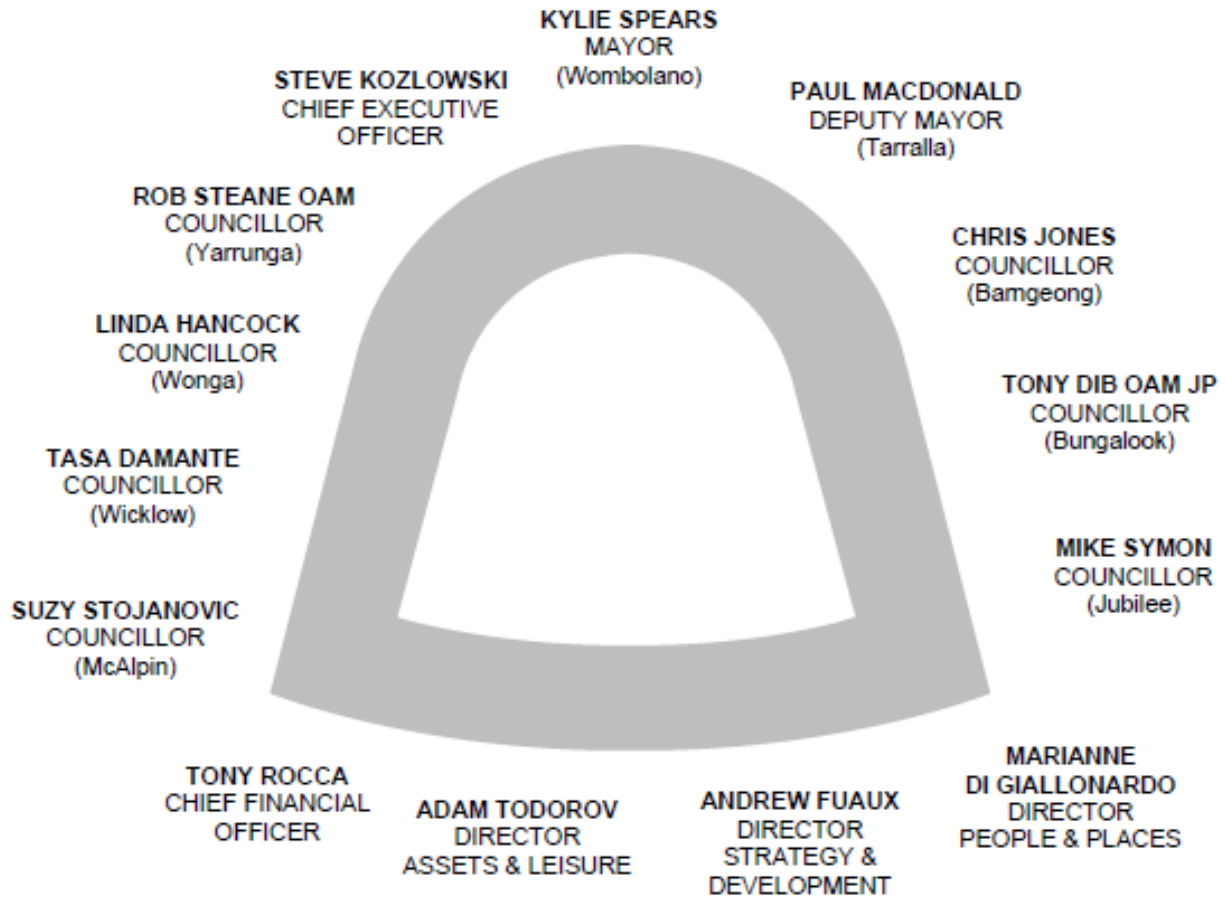


COUNCIL CHAMBER  
IS FITTED WITH A HEARING AID  
INDUCTION LOOP

**SWITCH HEARING AID TO 'T' FOR  
RECEPTION**

Realm	179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood, 3134
Postal	PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134 DX 38068, Ringwood
Telephone	1300 88 22 33 Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): 131 450 National Relay Service (NRS): 133 677
Facsimile	(03) 9298 4345
Email	maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au
Web	www.maroondah.vic.gov.au
Service Centres	Croydon: Civic Square, Croydon 3136 Realm: 179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood 3134

# Council Chamber Seating



# Public Gallery



## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Prayer and Councillor Pledge

2. Acknowledgment of Country

3. Apologies

4. Declaration of Interests

5. Officers' Reports

Chief Financial Officer

1. Formal consideration of Annual Report 2023/24

4

**PURPOSE**

To formally consider the Maroondah City Council Annual Report 2023/24, pursuant to the statutory requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its associated regulations.

**STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES**

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Vision: In 2040, Maroondah will be an empowered community actively engaged in local decision making, led by an innovative community inspired Council that collaborates regionally and proactively champions local needs.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable.
- 8.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of Maroondah’s resources, assets, infrastructure and natural environment.

**BACKGROUND**

As per the statutory requirements of Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to prepare an Annual Report each financial year.

Section 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to hold an open meeting to consider the Report within four (4) months of the end of the financial year and under section 100(2)(a) requires that during an election year, the annual report must be presented at a Council meeting open to the public no later than that the day before the election day.

Key features of the Annual Report must include the following:

- A report of Council’s operations during the financial year.
- Audited financial statements for the financial year.
- Audited performance statement for the financial year.
- A copy of the auditor’s report on the financial statements.
- A copy of the auditor’s report on the performance statement.
- Any other matters prescribed by the regulations including relevant performance indicator results and checklist items from the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

**FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24  
Cont'd**

**ITEM 1**

**ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The Annual Report reflects Council's activities and outcomes during the 2023/24 financial year, which demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to the Maroondah community.

Key highlights over the past 12 months include the development of several strategic documents including the *Maroondah Physical Activity Strategy 2024-2029*; *Maroondah Extended Outdoor Dining Policy*; *Public Toilet Policy 2024-2029*, and the *Stadium Sports Strategy*.

Council has continued to strategically plan for the future of Maroondah's two key Activity Centres. The Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre (MAC) Masterplan 2018 was completed in December 2021. Council is working with the Department of Transport and Planning on a refreshed masterplan which will further reinforce Ringwood's role as a regional economic and housing centre. Development in the Ringwood MAC is continuing to take shape in response to the land use guidance in the Masterplan, with approximately \$360 million of investment over the past 12 months. This includes the new commercial building on Bond Street, Ringwood, the commencement of the new Activity Centre Carpark adjacent to the station on Bedford Road, and significant new developments along Maroondah Highway. Development of the Croydon Structure Plan is nearing completion and will respond to the expected population growth with Main Street continuing to serve as an important local destination.

Council has continued to work with key stakeholders, user groups and the community on development of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct. The Community Hub was opened in July 2023 and is now home to a range of community groups. Detailed design for the Cultural Hub continues to progress, with the Australian Government contributing \$5 million in funding towards the arts and cultural space. Construction of the Cultural Hub is scheduled to commence in late 2024.

Council's advocacy work with the Victorian and Australian Governments has continued to seek funding opportunities for a range of significant projects to benefit the Maroondah community. Commitments during 2023/24 included Australian Government funding of \$1.35 million for major traffic safety improvements at Eastfield Road, Morinda Street and Railway Avenue, Ringwood East. The Victorian Government has also committed \$1 billion for a new Maroondah Hospital. Council has continued to work with the Level Crossing Removal Authority to ensure excellent outcomes from the removal of crossings at Dublin Road, Bedford Road and Coolstore Road; along with the construction of new stations at Croydon and East Ringwood, due for completion by the end of 2024.

Regional partnerships and initiatives have continued to be a focus. Council actively supports the Eastern Regional Group of Councils (ERG), which works collaboratively to achieve integrated advocacy and planning as well as joint procurement for shared services, which is supported by a four-year plan.

During the 2023/24 financial year, Council also:

- Adopted Community Local Law 2023.
- Delivered a range of community safety initiatives.
- Opened Maroondah Edge, a new 5 lane indoor cricket training centre in Ringwood.

**FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24  
Cont'd**

**ITEM 1**

- Opened a new multipurpose pavilion at JW Manson Reserve in Wantirna.
- Completed the new Town Park sportsfield and the installation of new sportsfield lighting at East Ringwood Reserve and Croydon Park.
- Continued to work in partnership with other levels of government, local organisations and agencies to support a community led recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Worked in partnership with Knox and Yarra Ranges councils to implement the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy.
- Delivered another successful Maroondah Festival and Kinder Expo.
- Continued to implement the Arts and Cultural Development Strategy.
- Implemented the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service.
- Completed carpark improvements at Jubilee Park in Ringwood, and at Heathmont Reserve and HE Parker Reserve in Heathmont.
- Develop an updated Maroondah Flood Map.
- Completed works at Kent Avenue, Merrindale and Tintern Avenue Shopping Centres as part of the Commercial Centres Improvement Program.
- Launched a new Maroondah City Council website.

A broad range of other Council achievements during the 2023/24 financial year can be found in the attached *Annual Report 2023/24*.

**FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

Council's 2023/24 Budget and Long-Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) continues to be based on sound financial management, as well as an understanding of the rising cost of living facing ratepayers, while managing the ongoing financial impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The LTFS outlines Council's projected financial position for the next 10 years, providing guidance Council and ultimately the community, about the future directions and operations of Council. The LTFS demonstrates Council's long-term financial sustainability and ensures we continue to invest in community facilities and services, while operating within the rate cap environment as set out in the *Local Government (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015*.

Maroondah City Council complied with the Victorian Government's 2023/24 rate cap.

**ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES**

As noted in the *Annual Report 2023/24*.

**SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

As noted in the *Annual Report 2023/24*.

**FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24  
Cont'd**

**ITEM 1**


**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Council will make the *Annual Report 2023/24* available to the Maroondah community through its website and at its customer service centres.

**CONCLUSION**

The *Annual Report 2023/24* outlines and confirms that Council has made significant advances towards achieving the community aspirations outlined in the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision. This relates to community service delivery, environmental enhancements, economic development, infrastructure development and civic administration and leadership, in addition to its statutory requirements.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1.  Maroondah City Council Annual Report 2023/24

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL**

1. **NOTES THAT THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN MET**
2. **FORMALLY ENDORSES THE MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**