

Minutes

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Finance and Budget Delegated Committee

Minutes for the committee meeting held in the Council Chamber at 104 Hovell St, Wodonga on October 19, 2026.

Present

Cr M Gobel, Mayor

Cr L Hall, Deputy Mayor

Cr C Aldridge

Cr M Cowan

Cr J Knight

Cr R Mildren

Cr O Quilty

In attendance

Mr M Hyde	Chief Executive Officer
Ms S Ryan	Director Community and Partnerships
Mr B Quill	Director Corporate
Mr D Muldeary	Director Infrastructure and Development
Mr K Schache	Manager Finance and Risk

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1 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting commenced at 5pm, with the Mayor, Cr Michael Gobel, presiding.

Cr Libby Hall read the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 Apologies and attendance by electronic means

There were no apologies or requests to attend by electronic means.

3 Good Governance Pledge

Cr Olga Quilty read the Good Governance Pledge.

4 Declaration of conflict of interest

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

5 Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

MOTION

Cr Michelle Cowan / Cr Cassie Aldridge

That the minutes for the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee meeting held on June 15, 2026, as attached, be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For: Cr Cassie Aldridge, Cr Michelle Cowan, Cr Michael Gobel, Cr Libby Hall,
Cr Josh Knight, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty

Against: Nil

6 Reports for determination

6.1 Principles and Assumptions for 2027-28 Financial Plan and Annual Budget

MOTION

Cr Olga Quilty / Cr Libby Hall

That the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee endorse the principles and assumptions for the development of the Draft Budget 2027-28 and updated Financial Plan, with the following adjustments:

1. The community engagement is conducted after the rate cap is known and the first Draft Budget is prepared; and
2. further to the Other Assumptions listed in the report, the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee meets monthly to provide members with updates on:
 - service-level revenues and expenditure allocations based on Council's activity-based costing methodology;
 - asset renewal requirements and forecast changes;
 - capital works program performance and amendments;
 - major budget variations;
 - long-term financial sustainability indicators; and
 - any significant changes impacting the Council's current financial position and performance, the Financial Plan, or the Annual Budget.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Cr Libby Hall / Cr Ron Mildren

That standing orders be suspended for the purposes of open debate, the time being 5.14pm.

CARRIED 6 / 1

For: Cr Cassie Aldridge, Cr Michael Gobel, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Josh Knight, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty

Against: Cr Michelle Cowan

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Cr Michelle Cowan / Cr Ron Mildren

That standing orders be resumed, the time being 5.42pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For: Cr Cassie Aldridge, Cr Michelle Cowan, Cr Michael Gobel, Cr Libby Hall,
Cr Josh Knight, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty

Against: Nil

Adjustment to Motion

The mover and seconder agreed to adjust the wording of the motion by inserting the word "once" in point 1 and adding a new point 2.

MOTION

Cr Olga Quilty / Cr Libby Hall

That the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee endorse the principles and assumptions for the development of the Draft Budget 2027-28 and updated Financial Plan, with the following adjustments:

1. The community engagement is conducted once after the rate cap is known and the first Draft Budget is prepared;
2. Subject to the community grant funding being incorporated; and
3. Further to the Other Assumptions listed in the report, the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee meets monthly to provide members with updates on:
 - service-level revenues and expenditure allocations based on Council's activity-based costing methodology;
 - asset renewal requirements and forecast changes;
 - capital works program performance and amendments;
 - major budget variations;
 - long-term financial sustainability indicators; and
 - any significant changes impacting the Council's current financial position and performance, the Financial Plan, or the Annual Budget.

LOST 3 / 4

For: Cr Libby Hall, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty

Against: Cr Cassie Aldridge, Cr Michelle Cowan, Cr Michael Gobel and Cr Josh Knight

MOTION

Cr Michelle Cowan / Cr Cassie Aldridge

That the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee:

1. Defer endorsement of the Principles and Assumptions for the 2027-2028 and updated Financial Plan until a revised framework and timetable are presented to the Committee following a dedicated councillor workshop on the assumptions;
2. Request that a councillor workshop provide sufficient time to scrutinise the assumptions, supporting evidence and alternatives; and
3. Request a revised framework and timetable that includes public consultation on the draft Budget and Financial Plan, allowing sufficient time for the feedback to influence possible changes prior to adoption.

CARRIED 6 / 1

For: Cr Cassie Aldridge, Cr Michelle Cowan, Cr Michael Gobel, Cr Libby Hall,
Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty

Against: Cr Josh Knight

7 Urgent business

There was no urgent business.

8 Confidential business

There was no confidential business.

9 Confidential urgent business

There was no confidential urgent business.

10 Close of meeting

10.1 Chairperson to close the meeting

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee: 6pm on Monday, December 7, 2026.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2026.

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Chairperson