



Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Meeting held in Council Chambers, Market Street, Balranald on Thursday, 3 April 2025, commencing at 1.02pm

1. Present

Via Zoom: Ross Earl (Chairperson), Leanne Austin (Independent Member), Kirstyn Thronder (Independent Member),

Brett Hangar (Nexia - Observer), Edna Mendes and Laurie Knight (Financial Consultants – Observers) and Peter Bascomb (Observer).

In Person: Cr Louie Zaffina (Observer), Cr Iain Lindsay-Field (Observer), Glenn Carroll (Observer).

2. Apologies

Manuel Moncada (Audit Office - Observer), Keith Coates (Internal Auditor)

Moved: Kirstyn Thronder

Seconded: Leanne Austin

That the apologies be received and accepted.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Friday 15 November 2024.

Moved: Leanne Austin

Seconded: Kirstyn Thronder

That the Minutes be adopted as presented.

5. Actions/Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

6. Resignation from Mr Keith Coates

Moved: Kirstyn Thronder

Seconded: Leanne Austin

That the resignation of Councils Internal Auditor be accepted with regret.

7. Manuel Moncada – Director Audit NSW – Management Letter – Year Ended 30 June 2024

In Manuel's absence Brett presented the Management letter and advised that overall there were 6 issues, 3 items have been finalised from previous years and there were no high-risk issues. Councils interim external audit is scheduled for 16 June 2025 with the year-end external audit is scheduled for 8 September 2025.

8. Strategic Internal Audit Plan

The committee were verbally advised that audits as per the audit plan were in progress with procurement currently being undertaken. Reports will be submitted to the next meeting.



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9. Performance Improvement Order No. 1

It was noted that significant progress on the action plan has been achieved with 32 of the 39 actions being completed. To be completed by 31 December 2025.

Moved: Leanne Austin

Seconded: Kirstyn Thronder

Resolved: that progress with the action plan be noted.

CARRIED

10. Performance Improvement Order No. 2

It was noted that Council is complying with the requirements of the PIO. It is Important to embrace the recommendations in the report to stay on our path of continuous improvement.

Moved: Kirstyn Thronder

Seconded: Leanne Austin

Resolved: that the action plan be noted.

CARRIED

11. Quarterly Budget Review (QBR)

It was noted that Council is addressing issues in various areas which should see improvements.

Moved: Kirstyn Thronder

Seconded: Leanne Austin

Resolved: that the Quarterly Budget Review (QBR) as presented be received and noted.

CARRIED

12. Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)

It was noted that Council has one Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Iluka Mines with \$150k funding provided in 2024/2025 financial year. Of this funding \$105k was allocated to fund the new Doctor establishment costs and \$20k was allocated to Mildura Health for the Dr Julie Zrna Centre – patient accommodation.

NOTED



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13. Cyber Security Guidelines

It was noted that Cyber Security guidelines have been released which will allow Councils to assess their cyber security maturity.

Councils are increasingly dependent on digital technology and are at risk of a cyber attack which would be a major disruption to services and operations. The use of emerging technologies requires strong cyber security.

NOTED

14. Enterprise Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Policy

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework, policy and Strategic Risk Register currently being developed.

An effective ERM System requires a holistic approach which considers external and internal factors which can effect Councils ability to achieve its strategic objectives.

NOTED

15. New Business

Nil

16. NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

17. CLOSE

There being no further business the ARIC meeting closed at 2.11pm.