

PRESENT

Mr Bryce McNair (Chairperson)
Mrs Carolyn Rosetta-Walsh
Ms Rachel Harris

IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager	Peter Thompson
Chief Audit Executive	Melinda Conolly
Chief Financial Officer	Carolyn Rodney
Senior Financial Accountant	Zac Wilson
Manager Corporate Governance & Performance	David Galloway
Corporate Governance Coordinator	Nicole Johnson
Risk Management and Insurance Officer	Daniel Tallar
NSW Audit Office	Mary Yuen
NSW Audit Office	Gearoid Fitzgerald

The meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee commenced at 8:04am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradjuri and First Nations communities.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

The Committee noted that no Councillor was in attendance due to the recent local government general election with the Council not having sufficient time prior to this meeting to consider its committee structure and appoint a non-voting member to the Committee.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CM-1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Recommendation:

On the Motion of C Rosetta-Walsh and R Harris

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record, noting that the recommendations contained in the minutes of that meeting were endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 26 August 2024.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

REPORTS

RP-1 2023/2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Recommendation:

On the Motion of B McNair and R Harris

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

- a receive a presentation from Council's auditors, the NSW Audit Office**
- b note that the NSW Audit Office is expecting to express an unmodified audit opinion for the 2023/24 General Purpose Financial Statements due to the value of the non-recognition of Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets being not material to the financial statements**
- c recommend that Council approve the signing of the 2023/24 Financial Statements pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting**

CARRIED

The NSW Audit Office, Council's Chief Financial Officer and Senior Financial Accountant provided an overview and explanation of the Audit Engagement Closing Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024 in particular an expected an unmodified opinion on the RFS Assets, significant changes in some asset classes, improved IT and Cyber Security.

Concerns were raised regarding grant funding, flood pumps and maturity of Council's asset management and project management processes, noting improvements to date and planned action to address these issues.

The Committee were pleased with the audit process, sampling and discussion and expressed appreciation to Council staff.

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

No Questions with Notice were received.

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee rose at 8:43am.