PRESENT

Mr Bryce McNair (Chairperson)
Mrs Carolyn Rosetta-Walsh
Ms Rachel Harris
Councillor Michael Henderson
Councillor Rod Kendall

IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor
General Manager
Chief Financial Officer
NSW Audit Office, Director, Financial Audit
NSW Audit Office, Senior Auditor
Corporate Governance Coordinator
Risk Management and Insurance Officer
Councillor Dallas Tout
Peter Thompson
Carolyn Rodney
Lawrissa Chan
Karthik Krishnamoorthy
Nicole Johnson
Cathy Wade

The meeting of the Extraordinary 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.

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 18 August 2022 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 5 September 2022.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

REPORTS

RP-1 GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE

Recommendation:

On the Motion of Councillors R Kendall and M Henderson

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee receive and note the update provided by the General Manager in relation to recruitment, the Riverina Joint Organisation Structure, Rural Fire Service Red Fleet Assets, LGNSW Conference Motions and General Manager contracts.

CARRIED

Karthik Krishnamoorthy Senior Auditor NSW Audit Office entered the meeting the time being 8.19am.

RP-2 2021/22 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Recommendation:

On the Motion of C Rosetta-Walsh and Councillor R Kendall

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

- a receive a presentation from Council's auditors, the NSW Audit Office
- b note that due to Council determining that it does not have control over the Rural Fire Service assets, and therefore not recording Rural Fire Service assets in Council's financial statements, the NSW Audit Office have expressed a Modified Audit Opinion for the 2021/22 General Purpose Financial Statements
- c expressed the view that despite the modified audit opinion, the Financial Statements reflect a fair view of Council's financial performance and position
- d recommend that Council approve the signing of the 2021/22 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
- e receive a further report from the General Manager on the status of PFAS removal in Wagga Wagga
- f expressed concern regarding terms and conditions of the Wagga Wagga Airport lease and noted ongoing negotiations with the Department of Defence

CARRIED

RP-3 QUESTIONS/BUSINESS WITH NOTICE

Recommendation:

On the Motion of R Harris and B McNair

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

- a note the Question with Notice raised by ARIC member Rachel Harris
- b receive a further report, following discussions between the General Manager and the Committee Chair, on recommended protocols for future content of ARIC minutes
- c trial for the next two meetings an expansion of ARIC minutes to include key points of discussion and broad reasoning

CARRIED

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

QWN-1 CHIEF AUDIT EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT UPDATE

General Manager provided an update on the status of the Chief Audit Executive recruitment process.

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee rose at 9.38am.