



AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

5 MARCH 2026

MEETING MINUTES

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

08:00 – 10.30 AM THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2026

FUNCTION ROOM (CIVIC CENTRE) AND VIA ZOOM

Audit and Risk Committee	
Andrew Dix	Independent Chair
Binda Gokhale	Independent Member
John Watson	Independent Member
Mayor Stuart James	Audit and Risk Committee Member
Deputy Mayor Elisha Lee	Audit and Risk Committee Member (online)

Other Invitees	
Peter Panagakos	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Simone Wickes	Director Corporate Services
Kristy Green	Acting Director City Services (online, arrived for item 5.2, left after item 5.3)
Kate Heissenbuttel	Manager Corporate Performance
Amanda Sapolu	Manager Governance and Legal (arrived for item 5.3, left after item 6.3)
Tanya Scicluna	Director Community Services
Vicki Blackman	Executive Manager People and Safety (left after item 2.2)
John Yovanches	Manager Strategic Asset Management (online, arrived for item 5.2, left after item 5.3)
Jason Farrugia	Manager Strategic Procurement (online, arrived for item 6.3, left after item 7.1)
Jessica Kelemen	Manager Workplace Relations and Safety (arrived for item 2.1, left after item 2.2)
Chris Lee	Safety Lead (arrived for item 2.1, left after 2.2)
Rebecca Freebody	Coordinator Business Assurance and Risk Management
Deep Sethi	Chief Financial Officer (arrived for item 2.2, left after item 4.1)

Other Invitees	
Hirosha de Costa	Accounting Services Lead (left after item 5.2)
Anna Constantinou	Corporate Reporting Officer
Mark Peters	HLB Mann Judd (online, left after item 7.1)
Tania Yeung	HLB Mann Judd (online, left after item 7.1)
Richard Wilson	Client Director - Aster Advisory (left after item 7.1)
Zachary Sapoznikoff	Manager - Aster Advisory (left after item 7.1)
Graham Noriskin	Executive Director - Aster Advisory (left after item 7.1)

1 Opening of Meeting/Procedural

1.1 Apologies

- Independent member, Councillor Nicky Luo
- CEO, Dr Andi Diamond

1.2 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Binda Gokhale disclosed she was on the board of Melbourne Water in relation to item 4.1.

No other conflicts of interest were disclosed.

1.3 Confirmation of Minutes - (11/12)

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting of 11 December 2025 be accepted.

Noted the minutes had been confirmed by email circular resolution by the Committee members.

1.4 Matters Arising*

The report was taken as read. All open actions are either completed in the current meeting or are scheduled for completion at future meetings.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

1.5 CEO Briefing

Peter Panagakos, Acting CEO, provided an update per the report. Discussion occurred regarding:

- Glass recycling and bins
- Spring Valley/Dandenong landfill matter.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

2 Risk Management/Ethical Behaviour

2.1 Risk Update including Strategic Risk Report

Manager Corporate Performance presented the report.

Executive Manager People and Safety provided the Committee with an update on the following emerging risks;

- Cost shifting and sector reform impacts from State and Federal Governments,
- Occupational violence and aggression to staff, and the increase in severity of incidents, and
- Artificial Intelligence - capability, policy and organisational readiness.

The Committee discussed psychosocial risks in relation to occupational violence and aggression, as an emerging risk. Executive Manager People and Safety, together with the Safety Lead, provided an update on the work currently underway to address and manage psychosocial risks within the workplace. The Committee also updated on previously discussed damage to Council assets, noting that incidents have subsided.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

2.2 OHS performance update

Manager Workplace Relations and Safety, together with the Safety Lead, provided an update to the Committee. There are ongoing efforts to reinforce that it is appropriate and safe for staff to raise concerns.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

[Action]: Management to bring back in the June 2026 meeting, further information on implications stemming from the upcoming State Government's work from home Bill.

[Officer]: Manager Workplace Relations and Safety to action.

3 External Audit

3.1 External Audit Strategy and Plan

HLB Mann Judd, provided the Committee with an update and overview of the planned audit approach to the annual audit of the financial report and performance statement of Monash City Council.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

4 External Reporting

4.1 Asset Accounting Update

Chief Financial Officer provided the Committee an update on asset accounting.

The Committee discussed climate consideration into asset valuations.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

5 Internal Audit

5.1 Status of delivery of annual plan *

The report was taken as read. The audit plan is progressing as scheduled.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

5.2 Status of open recommendations*

The report was taken as read.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

5.3 Asset Management Internal Audit

Aster Advisory provided an update to the Committee, confirming the Asset Management Internal Audit has been finalised.

Manager Strategic Asset Management provided an overview of the audit, including acknowledgement and acceptance of the findings.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

6 Internal Control Environment

6.1 Periodic reporting of CEO expenses *

The report was taken as read.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

6.2 Annual Legislative Compliance Update

Manager Corporate Governance and Legal provided an update on the impact of taking a risk-based approach to accessing obligations.

Further analysis for the high and very high risk items in the overall risk profile were discussed.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

6.3 Annual review of policy register

The report was taken as read.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

7 Executive Briefings

7.1 Annual Business Continuity Crisis Training

Manager Strategic Procurement provided the Committee with an update of the October 2025 exercise. All objectives were achieved and recommendations received were implemented.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

8 Other Business

8.1 CONFIDENTIAL -Quarterly Aged Care Report for Noting

Director Community Services provided the Committee an update on the confidential item.

The report was taken as read.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

8.2 ARC Recruitment (verbal update)

Manager Corporate Performance provided the Committee with a verbal update on the Audit and Risk Committee Recruitment process. Advertising has now commenced with applications closing 22 March.

Audit and Risk Committee Resolution

The Committee noted the report.

9 Meeting Schedule **

9.1 Confirmed Meeting Schedule for 2026*

Thursday 5th March 8-10.30am

Monday 29th June 8-10.30 am

Thursday 24th September 8-10.30 am

Thursday 17th December 8-10.30 am

10 Meeting Close

The Chair gave thanks to the Coordinator Business Assurance and Risk Management for her contribution and years of service to Monash, noting her dedication and valued support to the Committee.

The meeting was closed at 9:44am.

Confirmed by Chair (Mr Andrew Dix):

Date: _____

11 Items for Noting Only

1. City of Monash - Recent Issues Brief (October - December 2025) [**11.1.1** - 31 pages]
2. MINUTES Risk Management Committee Jan 26 [**11.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Digital & Technology Steering Committee Minutes [**11.1.3** - 8 pages]
4. Quarterly Finance Report [**11.1.4** - 27 pages]