

Governance and management

Moreland City Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 2020, and formerly the Local Government Act 1989, to provide leadership and good governance for the local community.

In making decisions that will affect our community, we consider the needs of the whole community. We also consider our council plan and strategic directions.

Council meetings

Decisions on issues affecting the community are made at council meetings. Community members can observe the decision-making process at these meetings. They can also ask questions of us.

We live stream our council meetings so people can watch the proceedings in real time. These recordings are also available for people to watch later. Live streaming council meetings offers greater access to decision making and debate. It also underpins openness and transparency.

The number of people watching council meetings online (live and the recordings) continues to increase. It went up from 19,635 in 2018-19 to 34,822 in 2019-20.

In 2018, we decided that planning and related matters would be considered at council meetings specifically scheduled to consider planning matters, rather than by a special committee. This change was due to the significance of planning and development in Moreland.

Since then, there has been 1 meeting each month designated as a council meeting for planning and related matters. This is called a planning and related matters meeting.

In April 2020, the Local Government Act 1989 was amended to allow council meetings to be held via video conferencing. This was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister for Local Government issued Ministerial Guidelines to govern how those meetings would be conducted. These guidelines ensure the transparency of council decision making is maintained.

We conducted the May and June council meetings by video conferencing and live streaming. There were no meetings to consider planning and related matters during that time.

Councillor attendance at meetings

In 2019-2020, we held:

- 12 ordinary council meetings
- 5 special council meetings
- 8 council meetings to consider planning and related matters.

Councillor	Ordinary council meetings (total 12)	Special council meetings (total 5)	Planning and related matters (total 8)
Cr Natalie Abboud (approved leave of absence 2 meetings)	12	4	6
Cr Sue Bolton	12	5	7
Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan (approved leave of absence 3 meetings)	10	3	6

Councillor	Ordinary council meetings (total 12)	Special council meetings (total 5)	Planning and related matters (total 8)
Cr Helen Davidson (approved leave of absence 4 meetings)	9	5	5
Cr Jess Dorney (approved leave of absence 4 meetings)	10	4	7
Cr Ali Irfanli (approved leave of absence 3 meetings)	10	2	5
Cr John Kavanagh	12	4	8
Cr Dale Martin	12	4	8
Cr Mark Riley (approved leave of absence 1 meeting)	12	5	7
Cr Lambros Tapinos (approved leave of absence 3 meetings)	11	4	5
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP (approved leave of absence 2 meetings)	11	4	6

Major committees

Audit and Risk Committee

Our Audit and Risk Management Committee was established under the *Local Government Act 1989*. The committee was disestablished upon establishment of the Audit and Risk Committee under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the 'Act').

The committee charter was adopted on 13 May 2020 with the first meeting held on 23 June 2020. Pursuant to section 53(2) of the Act, the committee is an advisory committee of Moreland Council.

The Audit and Risk Committee was established to strengthen our governance, risk management and financial management and to drive continuous improvement.

The committee helps us discharge our responsibilities under the Act to:

- monitor the compliance of council policies and procedures with:
 - the overarching governance principles
 - the Act and the regulations and any ministerial directions
 - other relevant laws and regulations
- monitor internal controls
- monitor council financial and performance reporting
- monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls
- oversee internal audit function
- oversee external audit functions
- monitor related party transactions.

The current committee has 7 members. These are:

- an independent chair, John Watson

- 3 independent members, Craig Burke, Joelle Tabone and Lisa Tripodi
- 3 councillors, Cr Mark Riley, Cr Lambros Tapinos and Cr Oscar Yildiz. Cr John Kavanagh and Cr Ali Irfanli were councillor members from October 2018 to September 2019.

Five meetings were held during 2019-20, the following councillors attended:

- 3 September 2019 – Cr John Kavanagh and Cr Mark Riley
- 17 September 2019 (special meeting) – Cr Ali Irfanli and Cr Mark Riley
- 3 December 2019 – Cr Lambros Tapinos, Cr Mark Riley and Cr Oscar Yildiz
- 24 March 2020 – Cr Mark Riley
- 23 June 2020 – Cr Lambros Tapinos, Cr Mark Riley and Cr Oscar Yildiz.

Special committees

There were no special committees established by Moreland Council operating in 2019-20.