

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Monday, 29 January 2024

MONITORS APPOINTED TO MOONEE VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

Municipal monitors will work with the Moonee Valley City Council to help the council better understand its role, improve its performance and serve the interests of its community.

Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne today detailed the decision to appoint two monitors to the council from today for a period of six months, ending 29 July 2024.

The monitors will provide a report to the Minister at the end of their term.

Municipal monitors appointed previously in Victoria have been effective in helping councils make improvements in governance that enable them to serve their communities as required by the Local Government Act 2020.

Mr Phillip Carruthers will start his term as a monitor at Moonee Valley City Council today, with a second monitor to be announced.

Mr Carruthers brings wide experience in governance and management in the private and public sectors. He has served in executive roles at the CSIRO, VicRoads, the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman and the Borough of Queenscliffe and is also an experienced board director and chair.

The monitors' terms of reference direct them to advise and provide any relevant assistance and support to the council in relation to the improvement of the council's governance processes and practices.

This includes confidentiality requirements, management of conflicts of interest, relationships between councillors and between councillors and council staff, meeting procedures, decision-making processes and the adequacy of governance rules.

The Allan Labor Government is supporting and improving council accountability, governance and culture across the state through reforms to the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Legislation to be introduced this year will elevate governance and integrity standards in the state's 79 councils, encouraging quality candidates to put themselves forward at elections to be held statewide in October.

Reforms will introduce mandatory training for elected representatives, a uniform councillor code of conduct and strengthened powers for the Minister to address councillor conduct.

The terms of reference for the Moonee Valley monitors is available at localgovernment.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne

"Governance issues at Moonee Valley City Council must be addressed and the appointment of monitors for the next six months will help bring this about."

"The council needs to improve and serve its community to the best of its ability – that is the purpose of local government and a role performed by scores of councils across the state."

"Municipal monitors have proven to be effective at guiding councils to make improvements in governance that ultimately benefit local communities."

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