



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 1 October 2025

Date: Wednesday, 1 October 2025

Time: 6.00pm

**Location: Council Chambers, 15 Stead Street, Ballan &
Online**

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1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council Prayer at 6.00pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

In accordance with Moorabool Shire Council's Governance Rules, the meeting is livestreamed.

4 PRESENT

Cr Paul Tatchell, Mayor

Cr Rod Ward, Deputy Mayor

Cr Moira Berry

Cr Jarrod Bingham

Cr Sheila Freeman

Cr John Keogh

Cr Ally Munari

Cr Tom Sullivan

Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor

Officers:

Mr Derek Madden	Chief Executive Officer
Mr David Jackson	General Manager Customer & Corporate Services
Ms Leigh McCallum	General Manager Community Strengthening
Mr Phil Jeffrey	General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure
Mr Joseph Spiteri	Manager Governance & Civic Support
Ms Leanne Manton	Manager Customer & Communications

5 APOLOGIES

Mr Henry Bezuidenhout Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Moira Berry

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

7 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**11.1 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT AND RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Author: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to consider the appointment of a new Independent Member of Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee, following the retirement of Independent Member, Ms Linda MacRae.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Independent Member's position held by Ms Linda MacRae, will become vacant on 1 October 2025.
- Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Charter requires that the Committee comprise of five Council appointed members which consist of three Independent Members and two Councillors. It is also a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that an Audit and Risk Advisory Committee must have a greater number of Independent Members than Councillors.
- A competitive recruitment process was undertaken to select a new Independent Member. Prospective candidates were interviewed by a panel consisting of the current Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee, the General Manager Customer and Corporate Services and a nominated Councillor on the Committee.
- The preferred candidate Mr John Watson was identified through the interview process and is recommended for appointment to the Committee.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Keogh

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council:

1. **Appoints Mr John Watson as an Independent Member of Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee for the period from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2028.**
2. **Notes that the allowance payable to the Independent Members for attendance at each meeting of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee was set at the Special Meeting of Council on 26 August 2020, as follows:**
 - (a) **\$1,340 for the Chairperson; and**
 - (b) **\$1,000 for the remaining Independent Members.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee is to support Council by providing oversight of its financial and performance reporting, risk management, fraud prevention systems and control, internal control environment, internal and external audit and Council's performance with regard to compliance with its policies and legislative and regulatory requirements.

Council resolved to extend the terms of the following three Independent Members:

- (a) At the Council meeting held 5 October 2022, extended the term for Ms Linda MacRae (for the period from 30 September 2022 to 30 September 2025).
- (b) At the Council meeting held 6 December 2023, extended the term for Mr Simon Dalli (for the period from 30 September 2023 to 30 September 2026).
- (c) At the Special Council meeting held 18 September 2024, extended the term for Mr Peter Smith (for the period from 30 September 2024 to 30 September 2027).

Accordingly, the Independent Member's position currently held by Ms Linda MacRae will become vacant on 1 October 2025.

It is a requirement of section 53(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that an Audit and Risk Advisory Committee must have a greater number of Independent Members than Councillors appointed to it. Furthermore, Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Charter requires that "The Committee will comprise of five Council appointed members and consist of three Independent Members and two Councillors".

PROPOSAL

The recruitment process commenced with Council calling for applications for the role of Independent Member for a period of three weeks in July 2025. At the completion of the application period, six applications were received and assessed for shortlisting by the General Manager Customer and Corporate Services, Manager Governance and Civic Support and nominated officer/s.

The shortlisted applicants were then interviewed by an interview panel consisting of the current Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee, the General Manager Customer and Corporate Services and a nominated Councillor on the Committee.

The preferred candidate chosen by the interview panel and recommended for appointment by Council is Mr John Watson.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

Priority 4.2: Align services and resources to sustainably meet the needs of our community

The proposal is not provided for in the Council Plan 2025-2029 and can be actioned by utilising existing resources.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The expenditure associated with payment of an allowance to the appointed Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee is provided for in the current budget allocation.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Risk to Reputation	Non-compliance with the requirements relating to Audit and Risk Advisory Committees under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .	High	The recruitment of an Independent Member to ensure compliance with the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Charter.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Advertisements calling for applications for the role of Independent Member of Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee appeared in the Ballarat Courier, Seek and LinkedIn for three consecutive weeks. These advertisements were also supported with further promotion of the recruitment process on Council's website and social media sites.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Chief Executive Officer – Derek Madden

In providing this advice to Council as the Chief Executive Officer, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – David Jackson

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The appointment of the recommended Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee will ensure that Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee continues to meet industry best practice standards, whilst remaining in full compliance with the requirements of Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Charter and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

11.2 DRAFT DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2030

Author: Jakob Penn, Coordinator Community Safety

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Attachments: 1. Draft DAMP (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2030 for the purpose of public exhibition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, all Victorian Councils are required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years. The plan must:
 - Set out programs, services and policies that promote responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.
 - Outline methods to evaluate Council's animal management services.
 - Detail officer training programs to ensure Authorised Officers are adequately skilled.
- The Draft DAMP 2026–2030 provides a strategic framework for Council's approach to domestic animal management over the next four years. It builds on the achievements of the previous plan and incorporates recommendations from the internal Animal Management Audit.
- The Draft Plan includes actions that are targeted, achievable and measurable, ensuring Council can deliver on key compliance, enforcement and community education responsibilities.
- It is recommended that Council resolve to place the Draft DAMP 2026–2030 on public exhibition for a four-week period, with a final version to be presented at a future Ordinary Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council:

1. Approves the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 for the purpose of community consultation.
2. Places the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan on public exhibition for a period of four weeks.
3. Receives a further report at a future Ordinary Meeting of Council following the conclusion of the public exhibition period.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

All Victorian councils must prepare a four-year Domestic Animal Management Plan in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The plan must be submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Council adopted its last DAMP in 2021. Since then, significant work has been undertaken to:

- Strengthen animal registration and microchipping compliance.
- Improve responsible pet ownership education.
- Implement enforcement processes for nuisance and wandering animals.

The internal Animal Management Audit (2025) highlighted areas for improvement, including reporting mechanisms and monitoring of DAMP actions. These have been addressed in the new Draft Plan.

Community consultation will ensure the plan reflects the needs and expectations of residents, stakeholders and animal owners within the Shire.

PROPOSAL

The Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2030 sets a clear direction for Council's role in animal management.

The Draft Plan includes:

- **Introduction and Legislative Framework** – outlining Council's obligations under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.
- **Current Context** – a review of animal management services and community trends.
- **Strategic Objectives** – including responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, enforcement of legislation and officer capability.
- **Action Plan** – a targeted set of actions across four years that are measurable and achievable.
- **Monitoring and Reporting** – including an annual review process and public reporting through Council's Annual Report.

Key priority actions include:

- Increased community education on microchipping, registration, desexing and containment.
- Continued officer training to maintain high enforcement and investigation standards.
- Improved data collection and reporting to evaluate the effectiveness of animal management services.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community engagement will be conducted through Council's *Have Your Say* website, where a short survey will be made available for the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Draft Plan. The survey seeks input on whether the Plan addresses key community needs, if the proposed priorities and actions are appropriate and provides an opportunity for general comments and suggestions.

The plan will be widely published, via printed and paid social media and provision will be made for direct engagement with staff and drop-in sessions. The team will also reach out to local Vet clinics. Once the consultation period closes, responses will be reviewed and considered. Council will then

re-evaluate the Draft Plan and make amendments as required, ensuring community feedback is incorporated before the Plan is finalised.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

Priority 3.2: Align services to meet the needs of the community

The proposal for public exhibition and consultation of the draft is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The actions identified within the Draft DAMP will be delivered within existing operational budgets. There are no new initiatives requiring additional funding.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Plan not adopted	Council fails to comply with legislative requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994	High	Ensure timely adoption and submission to DEECA.
Community expectations not met	Lack of clear direction on animal management priorities	Medium	Public exhibition and engagement to inform final plan.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Community and stakeholders	Public exhibition of the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan	Council website, Have Your Say portal	October – November 2025	Feedback received to inform final Domestic Animal Management Plan.
Inform	Councillors	Briefing sessions and reports	Council meetings	Ongoing	Councillors kept informed throughout the process.
Adopt	Council	Adoption of the final Domestic Animal Management Plan	Ordinary Meeting of Council	December 2025	Submission to DEECA in accordance with legislation.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed the draft plan, being the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2030, is presented for a four-week public exhibition period commencing 3 October and ending on Friday 31 October. Once community feedback is considered, it is anticipated the final Strategy will be presented to Council for adoption in late 2025. The proposed timeline is set out below in Figure 1:



Figure 1: Timeline for consultation

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Executive Manager – Henry Bezuidenhout

In providing this advice to Council as the Executive Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Jakob Penn

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is a legislative requirement under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The Draft DAMP 2026–2030 provides a clear, practical framework to manage animal-related issues, support responsible ownership, and ensure community safety across Moorabool.

Officers recommend that the draft Plan be approved for release for a four-week community consultation period, after which feedback will be incorporated into a final version for adoption by Council.

11.3 2024/25 GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Author: Joseph Spiteri, Manager Governance & Civic Support

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. 2024/2025 Governance & Management Checklist (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the 2024/25 Governance and Management Checklist (Checklist) for Council adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Governance and Management Checklist is a component of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) and is a requirement of Section 98(3)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Regulation 9 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Moira Berry

Seconded: Cr John Keogh

That Council adopts the 2024/25 Governance and Management Checklist and approves its inclusion in the 2024/25 Annual Report and submission to Local Government Victoria for publication on the “Know Your Council” website.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Section 98(3)(d) of the Act provides that Council must contain in its report of operations the results, in the prescribed form, of the Council’s assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist and indicators. The checklist is then certified by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

PROPOSAL

The Governance and Management Checklist contains 27 items relating to Council plans, policies, strategies, frameworks and reporting. This checklist is reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer and presented to both the Audit and Risk Committee and Council for adoption prior to its incorporation into Council’s 2024/25 Annual Report, submission to Local Government Victoria and published on the ‘Know your Council’ website.

Overall, from the 27 listed items on the Checklist, 27 items are established and in operation.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

Priority 4.2: Align services and resources to sustainably meet the needs of our community

The 2024/25 Financial Statements are consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications relating to the 2024/25 Governance and Management Checklist.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no Risk or Occupational Health and Safety issues in relation to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Governance and Management Checklist will be published in Council's Annual Report and available for review on the Local Government Victoria "Know Your Council" website. Victorian Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006.

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Chief Executive Officer – Derek Madden

In providing this advice to Council as the Chief Executive Officer, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Joseph Spiteri

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The Governance and Management Checklist has been prepared and certified by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee has reviewed the Checklist and recommends that Council adopts the Governance and Management Checklist, prior to its submission to the 2024/25 Annual Report and submission to Local Government Victoria for publication on the "Know Your Council" website.

11.4 ADOPTION "IN PRINCIPLE" OF THE 2024/25 PERFORMANCE STATEMENT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR CERTIFICATION

Author: Joseph Spiteri, Manager Governance & Civic Support

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. 2024/2025 Performance Statement (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the 2024/25 Performance Statement for “in principle” adoption and submission to the Auditor-General for certification.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The 2024/25 Performance Statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Keogh

Seconded: Cr Sheila Freeman

That Council, in accordance with section 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

1. **Adopts “in principle” the 2024/25 Performance Statement and submits the Performance Statement, subject to no material change, to the Victorian Auditor General for certification.**
2. **Authorises Council’s Audit and Risk Committee representatives, Councillor Tatchell and Councillor Berry, to certify the 2024/25 Performance Statement in its final form, after any changes recommended, or agreed to by the Auditor, have been made.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Since 2014 Councils have been required to report on their performance through their Annual Report to their community.

Pursuant to Section 98 (4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Performance Statement in the Annual Report must contain the following:

- (a) The prescribed indicators of service performance for the services provided by the Council and funded in the budget for the financial year, the prescribed measures relating to those indicators and the results achieved in relation to those performance indicators and measures;
- (b) The prescribed indicators of financial performance, the prescribed measures relating to those indicators and the results achieved in relation to those performance indicators and measures;

- (c) The prescribed indicators of sustainable capacity performance, the prescribed measures relating to those indicators and the results achieved in relation to those performance indicators and measures; and
- (d) Any other information prescribed by the regulations.

PROPOSAL

In accordance with Council's governance practices the Performance Statement, as attached to this report, was presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee on Wednesday 17 September 2025 for review and recommendation to Council for "in principle" adoption and authorisation by two Audit and Risk Committee Councillor members and the Chief Executive Officer to sign the audited statements.

The Performance Statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results for the 2024/25 financial year.

Overall there are 28 performance indicators that have been mandated for an independent audit. Of these indicators seven (7) relate to sustainable capacity, ten (10) relate to service performance and eleven (11) relate to financial performance.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the Performance Statement. The performance indicator results for 2024/25 will be compared to the results for the previous three financial years.

The forecast figures included in the Performance Statement are those adopted by Council in its Strategic Resource Plan and which forms part of the 2024/25 Annual Budget and the Council Plan 2025-2029. The Strategic Resource Plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

Priority 4.2: Align services and resources to sustainably meet the needs of our community

The proposal for the 2024/25 Performance Statement for submission to the Victorian Auditor-General for certification is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from this report. The preparation and presentation of the 2024/25 Performance Statement has been performed within the allocated budget.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Inadequate performance by Council	Inability to meet attainable levels of performance	Medium	Systems, processes and measures to provide comprehensive performance information that meets the needs of a number of audiences.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Performance Statement will be presented to the Victorian Auditor General's Office for review and certification. The Performance Statement will form part of Council's Annual Report which will be lodged with the Minister for Local Government prior to 31 October 2025. The Annual Report will be made publicly available on Council's website and at all office locations in November 2025.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Chief Executive Officer – Derek Madden

In providing this advice to Council as the Chief Executive Officer, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Joseph Spiteri

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The 2024/25 Performance Statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 for adoption "in principle" by Council for submission to the Auditor-General for certification.

At the time of preparing this report, Council's Performance Statement was included on the Agenda for consultation at the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting on Wednesday 17 September 2025, with a recommendation that the Audit and Risk Committee recommend that Council adopts the statement "in principle".

Following a resolution, the Performance Statement will then be submitted to the Auditor General for certification. Council is also required to authorise two Councillors to sign the Performance Statement on behalf of Council, as required under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

It is practice for the Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Committee to sign the certified statements on behalf of Council.

12 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING REPORTS

12.1 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 294 - OUTDOOR TABLE TENNIS IN PUBLIC PARKS

Author: Travis Kirwood, Manager Community Development and Activation

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. Report - Notice of Motion No. 294 - Outdoor Table Tennis in Public Parks (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the Notice of Motion No. 294, attached, regarding the need for outdoor table tennis in public parks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 3 February 2021, Council passed a Notice of Motion requesting that Council prepare a report evaluating the benefits, options, cost and possible sites suitable for installing outdoor table tennis tables, and that the report also includes potential funding sources available for this project.
- Research undertaken during the development of draft Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2025 – 2035 determined that there was no expressed or latent demand for outdoor table tennis tables in public parks.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Keogh

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council establishes that there is no expressed or latent demand for outdoor table tennis tables in public parks within Moorabool Shire.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Ausplay data determines the Victorian participation rate for table tennis to be 2.2% for people aged 15 and over and much lower for children up to 14 years old (0.4%). Any demand for table tennis is likely to be accommodated within neighbouring municipalities at the Ballarat and Melton Table Tennis Associations.

Research shows that public installations without supporting programming or visibility can remain underused. Without activation strategies (like tournaments, signage or equipment rental), casual tables often become underutilised. This has been measured in a case study where outdoor tables were installed as part of the Melbourne Level Crossing replacement roll out. The following factors highlight limitations of the tables:

- Wind and weather can significantly impact gameplay. Outdoor tables often use harder concrete or laminate surfaces and fixed metal nets, even a light breeze can disturb the trajectory of the ball and spoil the experience.

- Novelty over serious play. Outdoor public tables are often seen as casual installations suitable only for unstructured, informal use - not for competitive or serious play.
- High installation cost. The cost to install one table will range between \$5,000 and \$8,000. There is currently no allocation for this in the 2025/26 adopted budget.
- **Design trade-offs:** Many public tables are built from concrete or laminate to ensure durability. However, this often compromises playing quality, such as inconsistent bounce, difficulty retrieving balls or physical hazards from harder edges.
- **Maintenance and vandalism risks:** Some installations, especially when architecturally unusual (like caged or art-style tables), face issues with rubbish accumulation or quickly deteriorate without upkeep.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed due to lack of demand, participation and budget that the installation of outdoor table tennis tables in public parks is not required in the short term within Moorabool Shire.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

Priority 1.2: Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of the shire

The proposal is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Financial – Inadequate funds for project to proceed	Inadequate budget available	High	Future budget bid would be required if project is to proceed

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Community	Community survey was released asking for feedback and community interest and participation in table tennis	Online – Have Your Say	2024	There was no demonstrated demand for table tennis in Moorabool

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Travis Kirwood

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

It is determined that there is no expressed demand or need for the installation of outdoor table tennis tables in public parks within Moorabool Shire in the short term.

12.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES - REPORTS**Author:** Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments:

1. Minutes - Wallace Recreation Reserve CAC, 9 September 2024 (under separate cover)
2. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC, 24 March 2025 (under separate cover)
3. Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC, 25 March 2025 (under separate cover)
4. Minutes - Gordon Public Hall CAC, 9 April 2025 (under separate cover)
5. Minutes - Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall CAC, 15 April 2025 (under separate cover)
6. Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC, 22 April 2025 (under separate cover)
7. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC, 28 April 2025 (under separate cover)
8. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC, 26 May 2025 (under separate cover)
9. Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC, 27 May 2025 (under separate cover)
10. Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC, 24 June 2025 (under separate cover)

BACKGROUND

Community Asset Committees are established by Council under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to manage and maintain Community Assets within the municipal district. By Instrument of Delegation, Council may delegate to the committees such functions and powers of the Council that it deems appropriate, utilising provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Council cannot delegate those powers identified in section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Community Asset Committees present the following reports of the Committee Meetings for Council consideration.

Committee	Meeting Date
Wallace Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee Meeting	9 September 2024
Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	24 March 2025
Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting	25 March 2025
Gordon Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	9 April 2025
Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	15 April 2025
Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting	22 April 2025

Committee	Meeting Date
Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	28 April 2025
Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	26 May 2025
Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting	27 May 2025
Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting	24 June 2025

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council receives the following Community Asset Committee Minutes:

- 1. Wallace Recreation Reserve CAC Minutes for meeting held on 9 September 2024.**
- 2. Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 24 March 2025.**
- 3. Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC Minutes for meeting held on 25 March 2025.**
- 4. Gordon Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 9 April 2025.**
- 5. Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 15 April 2025.**
- 6. Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC Minutes for meeting held on 22 April 2025.**
- 7. Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 28 April 2025.**
- 8. Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 26 May 2025.**
- 9. Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC Minutes for meeting held on 27 May 2025.**
- 10. Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC Minutes for meeting held on 24 June 2025.**

CARRIED

12.3 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 334 – REDUCTION IN STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Author: Travis Kirwood, Manager Community Development and Activation

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. Report - Notice of Motion No. 334 - Reduction in State Government support for community sporting infrastructure (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to Notice of Motion No. 334, attached, regarding the request for Council to write to the State Government to provide justification for the reduction in total funding available in 2025/26 budget for new and upgraded community sport and recreation infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 2 July 2025, Council passed a Notice of Motion requesting that Council write to the Victorian Government asking the State Government to provide justification for the reduction in total funding available in 2025/26 budget for new and upgraded community sport and recreation infrastructure of \$20m, noting that the 2022/23 budget had a funding pool of \$143m available for peri-urban Councils such as Moorabool Shire Council.
- As per Notice of Motion No. 334 Council has written to letter to Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Jacinta Allen MP, Minister for Community Sport, the Hon. Ros Spence MP, Minister for Regional Development, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP, Minister for Planning, the Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP, Minister for Development Victoria & Precincts, the Hon. Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Economic Growth & Jobs, the Hon. Danny Pearson MP, Member for Eureka, Michaela Settle MP and Member for Melton, Steve McGhie MP.
- Council will continue to advocate for increased funding for community sport and recreation infrastructure.
- A copy of response, once received, will be provided to Councillors.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Ally Munari

That Council notes the action taken by officers in response to Notice of Motion No. 334.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Moorabool Shire Council, like many peri-urban councils, is experiencing rapid population growth that places increasing pressure on local infrastructure, including community sport and recreation facilities. The Notice of Motion indicates that the Victorian Government has significantly reduced

the funding available for new and upgraded community sport and recreation infrastructure in the 2025/26 State Budget to \$20 million, down from \$143 million in 2022/23. This reduction comes at a time when investment is most needed to meet the growing demands of our community.

The Notice of Motion notes that this funding cut is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee, which called for the establishment of dedicated growth funds for high-growth councils, and with the objectives of the *Active Victoria 2022–2026* strategy, which highlights the importance of sport and active recreation in building healthy, inclusive and connected communities. Council is seeking a justification for the reduction and calling for renewed and increased investment in line with these strategic directions.

PROPOSAL

Council has written letters to the Victorian Government requesting the Government:

1. Provide an explanation for the \$20 million reduction in sport and recreation infrastructure funding in the 2025/26 State Budget, particularly considering increased demand and the strategic importance of such infrastructure.
2. Significantly increase future funding allocations for new and upgraded community sport and recreation infrastructure in line with the goals of the *Active Victoria 2022–2026* Framework.
3. Establish dedicated growth funds for fast-growing Councils, including Moorabool Shire and other peri-urban municipalities, to enable timely investment in vital sport and recreation infrastructure as recommended by the Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

Priority 1.2: Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of the shire

The proposal of advocating for access to additional funding for community sport and recreation infrastructure in Moorabool is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposal does not come with financial implications.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Lack of infrastructure	Pressure on Council to sport and recreation provide facilities for a growing community	Medium	Advocate to state government for additional available funding

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Engage	Victorian Government	Letters sent	Email	August 2025	To be determined

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Travis Kirwood

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that the Victorian Government reconsiders the reduction in infrastructure funding in future budgets and establishes dedicated growth funds to ensure rapidly growing peri-urban councils like Moorabool can meet the needs of their communities. Officers will continue to advocate for community sport and recreation infrastructure funding opportunities to become accessible to Moorabool.

12.4 MOORABOOL HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2025-2029 FOR ADOPTION**Author:** Nichole Knight, Health Promotion and Gender Equality Officer**Authoriser:** Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening**Attachments:**

1. Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 (under separate cover)
2. Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029: Background - Data Source (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the feedback received from stakeholders and community following consultation on the Draft Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Community feedback on the Draft Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 is completed.
- Community feedback has been assessed and changes made to the draft document.
- The Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 is ready for Council consideration.

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Rod Ward**Seconded:** Cr Moira Berry**That Council:**

1. Adopts the Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.
2. Notes the Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029: Background – Data Source.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Following a briefing with Council on 6 August 2025, the Draft Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 was on public exhibition via Council's Have Your Say platform from 7 August to 25 August. The consultation was also shared with internal and external stakeholders.

Community consultation received three responses, including two from residents and one from the Cancer Council of Victoria.

In reviewing the feedback, consideration was given to whether actions were already captured within the Plan, out of scope of a Health and Wellbeing Plan, or already committed to through the Council Plan or other strategies.

Many suggestions were deemed already covered within the Draft Plan or within actions of other Council Strategies including the Sustainable Environment Strategy, Open Space Strategy and Council's Tree Planting Program.

The Draft Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 has been updated to reflect community feedback and is presented for adoption by Council.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council adopt the Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.

The following actions were considered and have been updated to reflect the feedback received with additional wording (**in bold**):

- Utilise community facilities and libraries to run educational sustainability and **climate adaptation** workshops.

This change would include information sessions to support groups including older residents to adapt their homes or lifestyles to manage days of high heat or respond to weather events.

- **Young people** have been included as stakeholders for community tree planting days.

This change recognises that participation in positive environmental action can support young people's mental health.

- Promote and support clean up Australia Day activities **and the Great Spring Clean**.

The Great Spring Clean is an additional campaign that can engage community clean up action.

- Promote local Landcare groups and tree planting days and provide free native plants annually to the community to support local habitats, **thermal comfort, and UV protection**.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

Priority 1.2: Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of the shire

The proposal to adopt the Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Reputational Risk	MSC could be criticised for inadequate consultation	Low	Consideration of feedback that is within scope of the document
Penalties	Non-compliance with Legislation	Low	Plan is adopted with legislated requirements and timeframes met

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Community	Have Your Say portal – feedback on the draft plan	Online	August 2025 – completed	Survey responses received and considered

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Nichole Knight

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

We are seeking Council's adoption of the Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 which includes the aforementioned changes identified following community feedback on the Draft Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.

12.5 ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL - REPORTS

Author: Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. Minutes - Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting - 5 May 2025 (under separate cover)

BACKGROUND

Advisory Committees are established to assist Council with executing specific functions or duties.

Advisory Committees of Council currently have no delegated powers to act on behalf of Council or commit Council to any expenditure unless resolved explicitly by Council following recommendation from the Committee. Their function is purely advisory.

Advisory Committees are required to report to Council at intervals determined by the Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillors, as representatives of the following Advisory Committees of Council, present the reports of the Committee Meetings for Council consideration.

Committee	Meeting Date	Council Representatives
Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Monday 5 May 2025	Cr Sheila Freeman Cr Moira Berry (sub)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Moira Berry

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council receive and note the following Advisory Committee Minutes:

1. Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday 5 May 2025.

CARRIED

12.6 RESPONSE TO ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - BACCHUS MARSH AND BALLAN OUTDOOR POOLS OPENING HOURS

Author: Travis Kirwood, Manager Community Development and Activation

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments:

1. Item of Urgent Business - Bacchus Marsh and Ballan Outdoor Pools Opening Hours (under separate cover)
2. Outdoor Pool Opening Hours Policy (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the Item of Urgent Business raised at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 4 December 2024 in relation to the Ballan and Bacchus Marsh outdoor pools opening hours.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report has been prepared in response to the Item of Urgent Business raised at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 4 December 2024 which requested information on the viability of a variation in opening times to allow extra hours on Thursdays and Fridays during school terms when the temperature reaches 23°C by 10.00am.
- For reference, the Item of Urgent Business is provided as an attachment to this report.
- Community feedback and financial implications of the proposed change have been reviewed and form part of the considerations to the Item of Urgent Business.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council notes this report in response to the Item of Urgent Business raised at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 4 December 2024.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 4 December 2024 an Item of Urgent Business was raised seeking the following:

That a report be presented to Council regarding the financial and overall viability of a variation in opening times of the Bacchus Marsh and Ballan Outdoor Pools to 10.00am on Thursdays and Fridays in which the forecast temperature will reach 23 degrees by 10.00am, in accordance with Council's Temperature Policy.

The Outdoor Pool Opening Hours Policy, adopted in September 2023, is scheduled for review in September 2025, just before the start of the 2025/2026 outdoor pool season. This policy outlines the operating hours for both the Bacchus Marsh Outdoor Pool (BMOP) and the Ballan Outdoor Pool (BOP).

Current Policy Context

The purpose of the current policy is to streamline operating hours for consistency of facility use and operations. The policy aims to decrease confusion from the public of the operating hours and to increase usage and accessibility to pools at peak times, i.e. school holidays.

Current Policy Hours

Month	Forecast below 23°C	Forecasted 23°C or over	Forecast 35°C+
School Term (Early December, February and March)			
Mon – Fri	Closed	3.30pm – 7.00pm	3.30pm – 8.00pm
Weekends	Closed	11.00am – 7.00pm	11.00am – 8.00pm
School Holidays (Late December and January)			
Daily	Closed	11.00am – 7.00pm	11.00am – 8.00pm

Item of Urgent Business

To further assess the request made in the Item of Urgent Business, officers have adopted the assumption that the request aligns to current policy, meaning the review of the forecast for 10.00am will be made at 4.30pm Monday and Tuesday for the additional early opening times on Thursday and Friday respectively.

By incorporating this approach into the methodology and considering the impact on additional operational periods outside school holiday hours, the proposed change would result in up to 18 additional sessions, per pool, during the pool season if all available Thursdays and Fridays are forecast to reach a temperature threshold of 23 degrees by 10.00am.

Based on current operating costs, Officers have identified a budget impact of an increase of approximately \$1,000 per day, per pool for staffing and consumables, this would require additional budget of \$36,000 for a possible expansion of operating hours.

Community feedback on current Policy

During the 2024/2025 season, community feedback highlighted a desire for outdoor pools to open during school hours on hotter days to accommodate families and other users. This feedback was mostly received on days with forecasts of 30 degrees or above. The current policy states that pools open at 3.30pm during the school term when the temperature is 23 degrees or above.

The Leisure Services Facebook page received 84 posts about the pool opening hours, which attracted 173 comments. Of these comments, 91 were negative, addressing issues such as pool closures due to cold weather (7%), not being open during school hours (31%), requests for longer hours (25%), and the start or end dates of the pool season (12%).

Additionally, three service requests were made regarding the pool's operating days, times, and season. One request mentioned the pool season closing too soon on Labour Day (March), and two requests were about the pools not being open during school hours on hot days during the school term.

PROPOSAL

Upon review of the existing policy, if a decision was made to implement an expansion of opening hours some minor changes would be required to the policy in line with this report. These changes are estimated to have a maximum budget impact of \$36,000 per pool season.

The remainder of the Policy would be largely unaffected by these proposed changes to operations.

Should Council determine to proceed with the proposed increased opening hours at the Ballan and Bacchus Marsh outdoor pools it is proposed that a two-year trial period is applied to align with the next Policy review date of 2027.

Summary of impact to Policy if changes are approved in line with response.

The implementation would see some changes to the policy, with the addition of opening the pools 10.00am-7.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays, during school term, that are forecast to be 23 degrees or above by 10.00am, as outlined in the item of urgent business request.

Proposed Operating Hours

Month	Forecast below 23°C	Forecasted 23°C or over	Forecast 35°C+
School Term (Early December, February and March)			
Mon – Fri	Closed	3.30pm – 7.00pm	3.30pm – 8.00pm
Thu – Fri	Closed	10.00am – 7.00pm (23°C or above forecast for 10.00am, 48 hours prior)	10.00am – 8.00pm
Weekends	Closed	11.00am – 7.00pm	11.00am – 8.00pm
School Holidays (Late December and January)			
Mon – Sun	Closed	11.00am – 7.00pm	11.00am – 8.00pm

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

Priority 1.1: Improve access to services for all communities

The Outdoor Pools Opening Hours Policy is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated the proposed expansion of operating hours would result in a maximum budget increase of \$36,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, with anticipated cpi increase as set out below.

Option	2025/2026 Budget	2026/2027 Budget
Additional operating hours as per Urgent Item of Business	\$36,000	\$37,080 (3% CPI increase)

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Financial	Amendment of the policy and opening the facilities for additional hours in comparison to previous years will increase the operating costs to Council	Medium	Careful forecasting and monitoring of budgets
Council reputation	Reputational risk if the community are unaware of the proposed changes	Medium	Changes to be promoted to the community across multiple channels and casual staff to notified of updated operating hours

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Engage and inform	Community	Promotion and advertising	Website, social media and various	Ongoing	Community awareness of updated Policy

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Travis Kirwood

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended Council note this report in response to the Urgent Item of Business.

13 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 ADOPTION "IN PRINCIPLE" OF THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR CERTIFICATION

Author: James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Financial Statements 2024/25 (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

To present the 2024/25 Financial Statements to Council for adoption “in principle” and authorise two Councillors, being the Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee, to sign the audited statements, before being submitted to the Auditor-General for certification.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report presents the 2024/25 Financial Statements for adoption “in principle” by Council for submission to the Auditor-General for certification.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Keogh

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council:

- 1. In accordance with Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2020 adopts in principle and submits the 2024/25 Financial Statements to the Auditor-General for certification; and**
- 2. Authorise the Council’s Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Representatives, Cr Tatchell and Cr Berry to certify the 2024/25 Financial Statements in their final form, after any changes recommended, or agreed to by the Auditor, have been made.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that Council complete the following at the end of each financial year with respect to producing an Annual Report.

S. 98 Annual report

- (1) A Council must prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year.
- (2) An annual report must contain the following:
 - (a) a report of operations of the Council;
 - (b) an audited performance statement;
 - (c) audited financial statements;
 - (d) a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement;

- (e) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994;
 - (f) any other matter required by the regulations.
- (3) The financial statements must:
- (a) include any other information prescribed by the regulations; and
 - (b) be prepared in accordance with the regulations.

S. 99 Preparation of annual report

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of the financial year, a Council must cause to be prepared in accordance with section 98, the performance statement and financial statements of the Council for the financial year.
- (2) The Council, after passing a resolution giving its approval in principle to the performance statement and financial statements, must submit the statements to the auditor for reporting on the audit.
- (3) The Council must ensure that the performance statement and financial statements, in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed by the auditor have been made, are certified in accordance with the regulations by:
 - (a) two Councillors authorised by the Council for the purposes of this subsection; and
 - (b) any other persons prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection.
- (4) The auditor must prepare a report on the performance statement.

Note: The auditor is required under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994 to prepare a report on the financial statements.

- (5) The auditor must not sign a report under subsection (4) or under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994 unless the performance statement or the financial statements (as applicable) have been certified under subsection (3).
- (6) The auditor must provide the Minister and the Council with a copy of the report on the performance statement as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Note: The auditor is required under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994 to report on the financial statements to the Council within 4 weeks and to give a copy of the report to the Minister.

PROPOSAL

The 2024/25 Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020, Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and Australian Accounting Standards.

In accordance with Council's Governance protocols, the reports were presented to Council's Audit and Risk Advisory Committee for review and recommendation to Council for adoption "in principle" and authorisation of two Councillors, being the Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee, to sign the audited statements.

In summary, the statements indicate the following results for 2024/25:

- 1. Financial Statements: reflect the comparative performance to the previous financial year.
 - Comprehensive Income Statement – The result reflects a total comprehensive gain of \$44.557 million. Included within this result are the following significant items:

- i. \$12.633 million increase in 'Grants – Operating', due to the timing of Financial Assistance Grant payments. Grants relating to 2023/24 were received early in 2022/23, while an advance payment for 2025/26 is included in 2024/25.
 - ii. \$3.984 million increase in 'Contributions – Monetary', Council received Developer Contributions due to milestones being met for some developments that were originally expected in 2023/24.
 - iii. \$1.654 million increase in depreciation expense resulting from a growth in Council's asset base.
 - iv. \$0.173 million loss on the revaluation of Council's footpaths due to new unit rates and a condition assessment being undertaken.
- Balance Sheet – The movement in net assets reflects the total operating gain of \$44.557 million. Included within this result are the following significant items:
 - i. \$41.418 million increase in 'Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment' mainly due to the Capital Improvement Program, the impact of Asset Revaluations conducted in 2024/25, and Assets Gifted from Subdivision.
- Cash Flow Statement – The movement in cash held at the end of the year is a decrease of \$5.156 million. Included within this result are the following significant items:
 - i. Net cash flows from operating activities increased by \$22.518 million from last year to \$31.551 million. This is mainly due to increases in 'Grants – Operating' and 'Contributions-Monetary'.
 - ii. Net cash used in investing activities has increased by \$10.302 million to \$34.966 million. This is due to the 2024/25 Capital Improvement Program and a higher level of term deposit investments held at year end.
 - iii. Net cash flows provided by financing activities has decreased overall by \$6.311 million to \$1.741 million due to no borrowings taken out in 2024/25.
- Statement of Capital Works – Overall, capital expenditure for 2024/25 is \$3.980 million less than the previous year, made up of the following items:
 - i. 'Plant and equipment' was \$1.409 million more than last year due to a number of significant items being replaced.
 - ii. Capital expenditure on 'Infrastructure' in 2024/25 was \$5.161 million less than 2023/24.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

Priority 4.2: Align services and resources to sustainably meet the needs of our community

The 2024/25 Financial Statements are consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial statements detail Council's financial performance and position for 2024/25. They demonstrate that over time Council has steadily improved its financial position but indicates that there are still numerous financial challenges that lay ahead which will require responsible fiscal stewardship.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no Risk and Occupational Health & Safety Issues.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statements are reported to Council to adopt “in principle” for submission to the Auditor-General for certification. Audited Statements are then incorporated into Council’s Annual Report.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER’S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – David Jackson

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – James Hogan

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The attached Financial Statements for 2024/25 have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act. Council’s Audit and Risk Advisory Committee have reviewed the statements and recommended that Council adopt the statements “in principle”. The Statements will then be submitted to the Auditor-General for certification. Council is also required to authorise two Councillors to sign the statements on behalf of Council, as required under the Local Government Act.

It is practice for the Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee to sign the certified statements on behalf of Council.

14 OTHER REPORTS

Nil

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

16 NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

17 MAYOR'S & COUNCILLORS REPORTS**17.1 MAYOR'S REPORT****Author:** Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office**Authoriser:** Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**PURPOSE**

To provide details to the community on the meetings and events attended by the Mayor since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

That the Mayor's Report be tabled for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Moira Berry**Seconded:** Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council receives the Mayor's Report.

CARRIED**Cr Paul Tatchell – Mayor's Report****Date:** 1 October 2025

6 September	Official Opening of the Ballan Library and Community Hub
8 September	Business Networking Event, Ballan Library
10 September	Councillor Briefings- Response to NoM No. 334 – Reduction in State Government Support for Community/Sporting Infrastructure; Waste Recycling Service Standards Update; Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit & Risk Advisory Committee; Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan; Industrial Land Update; Review of the DAC Agenda
17 September	- Audit & Risk Advisory Committee - The Mayors Institute - State Election Roundtable - Councillor Briefings – Review of the OMC Agenda - Development Assessment Committee
23 September	Australian Citizenship Ceremonies (two Ceremonies)
24 September	Councillor Briefings – ICT Update, September 2025; Draft Moorabool Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029; Response to Item of Urgent Business - Bacchus

	Marsh and Ballan Outdoor Pools Opening Hours; Request for Rate Reduction - CatholicCare Victoria Housing; Maddingley Planning Study; Urban Design & Landscape Architecture - 4 Year Program; Waste Transition Options; Enterprise Bargaining Process
1 October	• Ordinary Meeting of Council

17.2 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**Author:** Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office**Authoriser:** Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**PURPOSE**

To provide details to the community on meetings and events attended by Councillors since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

That the Councillors Reports be accepted for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Tom Sullivan**Seconded:** Cr Jarrod Bingham**That Council receives the Councillors Reports.****CARRIED****Cr Rod Ward****Date:** 1 October 2025

Recognition of Moorabool residents and Teams that have excelled

- Congratulate the Darley Football Netball Club who won the Senior Men's and Women's Premiership in the Ballarat Football Netball League
- The A Grade Netball premiers, who won the Triple Crown
- Acknowledged the B Grade Netball premiers

I would like to remember Lois Hunt a Bacchus Marsh icon.

Cr Moira Berry**Date:** 1 October 2025

4 September	• Mt Egerton STEP drop-in community session
6 September	• Official opening of the Ballan Library and Community Hub.
11 September	• St Martin's Chapel, and the Blackwood Progress Association event
12 September	• A States Schools Equestrian event was held at Bacchus Marsh Pony Club
22 September	• Peri Urban Councils Victoria (PUCV) catch up Via Videoconferencing to

	confirm the Agenda item in readiness for the PUCV board meeting
23 September	• Blacksmiths Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee meeting and their 2025 AGM
23 September	• 2 Australian Citizenship Ceremonies at West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub
27 September	• Telengan, Melton Group at MARC Stadium Floral Festival and Celebration for respecting and supporting women
29 September	• PUCV Podcast interview re: Reply to acknowledging the response to the Regional Australia Institutes, Answering the call for Regional Housing report
I would like to remember Lois Hunt a Bacchus Marsh icon.	

Cr Jarrod Bingham*Date: 1 October 2025*

27 September	• Bathukamma Festival 2025
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Cr Sheila Freeman*Date: 1 October 2025*

3 September	• Moorabool Growth Management Committee
3 September	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
6 September	• Official opening Ballan Library and Community Hub
10 September	• Councillor Briefing
17 September	• Development Assessment Committee
23 September	• 2 x Australian Citizenship Ceremonies at West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub
24 September	• Councillor Briefing

Cr John Keogh***Date: 1 October 2025***

3 September	• Moorabool Growth Management Committee
3 September	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
4 September`	• Mount Egerton Step Drop-in Community Session
5 September	• The second Blackwood Service Groups get together
6 September	• Ballan Library & Community Hub Official Opening
10 September	• Councillor Briefing
10 September	• First Ballan Scouts AGM
11 September	• Music Concert at St. Martins Chapel Blackwood
17 September	• Councillor Briefing
17 September	• Development Assessment Committee
18 September	• Moorabool Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee
18 September	• Blackwood Caravan Park AGM
18 September	• Indi School Expo
19 September	• Mount Egerton Recreational Reserve Committee members
23 September	• Australian Citizenship Ceremony at West Maddingly Early Years Hub
23 September	• Blacksmiths Cottage & Forge Committee
23 September	• Bacchus Marsh & District Photographic Club
24 September	• Councillor Briefing

Cr Ally Munari***Date: 1 October 2025***

6 September	• Ballan Library Official Opening
10 September	• Councillor Briefing
15 September	• Guest Speaker at Ballan Probus Group

17 September	• Councillor Briefing
17 September	• Development Assessment Committee (D.A.C)
18 September	• Ballan Jockey Club, Ballan Cup Launch at Zest café
23 September	• Midwest Victoria AGM online

Cr Tom Sullivan

Date: 1 October 2025

Nil

Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor

Date: 1 October 2025

4 September	• Blackwood emergency services and user groups
6 September	• Ballan Library opening
6 September	• Blackwood Historical open day
6 September	• Blackwood Bush Dance
10 September	• Ballan Scouts AGM
10 September	• Blackwood Rennie Pearson traditional Celtic music
18 September	• Blackwood caravan park AGM
18 September	• Little Marsh test (Indi School) Bacchus Marsh Town Hall
18 September	• Steve McGhie with Sheila Freeman
19 September	• Mount Egerton CAC meeting
23 September	• Australian Citizenship Ceremony at West Maddingly Early Years
23 September	• Bacchus Marsh and District Photography
27 September	• Bathukamma Festival 2025
28 September	• St. Martin Chapel Lilo and Stitch

18 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6.38pm.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council resumes the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 6.39pm.

19 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RESOLUTION****Moved: Cr Ally Munari****Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

19.1 Road Discontinuance Policy

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - h of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

19.2 MAV Insurance Renewal 2025-26 Local Government Liability Insurance

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - h of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

CARRIED

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Ally Munari****Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham**

That Council moves out of Closed Session and resumes the Open Session of Council.

CARRIED

20 MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 6.41pm.

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CHAIRPERSON