



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 17 December 2025

Date: Wednesday, 17 December 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 at 6.00pm.

Cr Sheila Freeman read the Prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the Acknowledgement of Country. .

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

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

4 PRESENT

Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor, Mayor

Cr Jarrod Bingham, Deputy Mayor

Cr Moira Berry

Cr Sheila Freeman

Cr John Keogh

Cr Ally Munari

Cr Tom Sullivan

Cr Paul Tatchell

Cr Rod Ward

Officers:

Mr Derek Madden Chief Executive Officer

Mr David Jackson General Manager Customer & Corporate Services

Mr Henry Bezuidenhout Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

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

Mr James Hogan Chief Financial Officer

5 APOLOGIES

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr John Keogh

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

CARRIED

7 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Keogh declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 19.3.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Name	Question/Response	CEO/GM/EM	Read at Meeting (Yes/No)
Rose De La Cruz	Question: Will the Council support and act to save the aquaduct? Response: The water channel/aqueduct is currently under ownership of Barwon Water. The Panel report makes the following comments: ‘Further flora and fauna surveys for potential threatened species will need to be conducted, and it will be important that they occur at the appropriate time of year when threatened species are likely to be identifiable. This may result in further adjustments to the Development Concept Plan, including consideration of environmental values that may be present along the former Barwon Water aqueduct in the western part of the subject land.’ Further technical studies and detail design will inform the final layout, pedestrian linkages and road network within the precinct. The development of the land needs to be generally in accordance with the approved development plan.	Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development	Yes

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Item	Report name	Speaker/s	Position	Attendance
12.1	Planning scheme amendment c108moor Ballan Precinct 5 - adoption of amendment	Jodie Valpied (Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance)	Objector	In person
12.1	Planning scheme amendment c108moor Ballan Precinct 5 - adoption of amendment	Bernard Reimert	Supporter	In person
12.1	Planning scheme amendment c108moor Ballan Precinct 5 - adoption of amendment	Urick Ivchenko	Supporter	In person
12.2	Maddingley Planning Study and Amendment C119moor – Maddingley Framework Plan	Christine Levy	Supporter	In person
12.2	Maddingley Planning Study and Amendment C119moor – Maddingley Framework Plan	Robert Levy	Supporter	In person
12.2	Maddingley Planning Study and Amendment C119moor – Maddingley Framework Plan	Chris Stockham	Objector	In person
12.2	Maddingley Planning Study and Amendment C119moor – Maddingley Framework Plan	Carol Wharton	Supporter	In person
12.2	Maddingley Planning Study and Amendment C119moor – Maddingley Framework Plan	Alice O'Mara	Supporter	In person
12.2	Maddingley Planning Study and Amendment C119moor – Maddingley Framework Plan	Don Calleja	Supporter	Written Submission

11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**11.1 DRAFT DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029**

Author: Jakob Penn, Coordinator Community Safety

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Attachments: 1. Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026 2029 to Council for adoption following the completion of the community consultation period.

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 2026–2029 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 2026–2029 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 Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That Council:

1. Adopts the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029.
2. Submits the adopted Plan to the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

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 has ensured the plan reflects the needs and expectations of residents, stakeholders and animal owners within the Shire.

PROPOSAL

The Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 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 consultation was undertaken through Council's Have Your Say platform over a four-week period from 3 October to 31 October 2025. A short online survey invited residents and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Draft Plan, including whether it addressed key community needs, if the proposed priorities and actions were appropriate, and any general comments or suggestions.
- To ensure broad engagement, 4,031 text messages were sent to all registered pet owners across the Shire, encouraging participation through the Have Your Say portal. The consultation was further promoted via social media advertising and local newspaper notices.

- A total of 70 submissions were received, all through the Have Your Say platform. Overall feedback was strongly supportive of the Draft Plan, with many respondents commending the clarity of the actions and the focus on responsible pet ownership. Most submissions related to topics already addressed within the Plan, while some raised issues outside its scope, such as horses, goats, and other non-domestic animals.

Key themes emerging from the consultation included:

- **Cat Containment and Roaming:** Strong support for stricter enforcement and regular trapping programs.
- **Dog Control and Enforcement:** Requests for increased officer visibility in parks and public spaces.
- **Education and Awareness:** Calls for clearer information about owner responsibilities and local laws.
- **Plan Content and Practicality:** Positive feedback on the Plan's clarity and layout, with minor suggestions for readability improvements.
- **Animal Welfare and Rehoming:** Recognition of Council's partnerships with rescue organisations and reduced euthanasia rates.
- **Registration and Microchipping:** Interest in renewal reminders and incentives for compliance.

Common comments included:

- *"More needs to be done to prevent cats roaming free at all hours."*
- *"We need a regular trapping program to reduce feral cat numbers."*
- *"I've never seen an officer at parks around Bacchus Marsh."*

As a result of the feedback:

- A new action was added to undertake a review of the current cat curfew hours in 2026 to assess effectiveness and alignment with community expectations.
- Minor formatting and wording improvements were made to enhance clarity and readability.
- No further substantive changes were required, as the Draft Plan already addressed the majority of issues raised.

The outcomes demonstrate strong community support for Council's direction and approach to animal management, and the final Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 is now presented to Council for adoption.

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 that Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 following the completion of community consultation.

The Plan provides a clear and practical framework for managing domestic animals across Moorabool Shire, ensuring compliance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and supporting responsible pet ownership.

Community consultation resulted in 70 submissions, all received via the Have Your Say platform. Feedback was largely supportive, with most comments relating to actions already contained in the

Plan or matters outside its scope. Based on this feedback, only minor formatting adjustments were made, along with one new action to review the current cat curfew hours.

The final Plan is now presented to Council for adoption and will be submitted to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in accordance with legislative requirements.

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

Community consultation on the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 has concluded. Feedback received was generally supportive, with most submissions aligning with existing actions or relating to matters beyond the scope of the Plan. A minor amendment was made to include a new action to review cat curfew hours.

It is recommended that Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 and submit it to DEECA in accordance with legislative requirements.

12 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Jodie Valpied addressed Council in relation to item 12.1.

Bernard Reimert addressed Council in relation to item 12.1.

Urick Ivchenko addressed Council in relation to item 12.1.

12.1 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C108MOOR BALLAN PRECINCT 5 - ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT

Author: Matthew Milbourne, Co-ordinator Growth Area Planning

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Attachments:

1. Moorabool C108moor Planning Panel Report (under separate cover)
2. Council Response to Planning Panel Recommendations (under separate cover)
3. C108moor - Planning Scheme Ordinance (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

To consider the Planning Panel's report and recommendations relating to Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C108moor (the Amendment) and consider the adoption of the Amendment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The subject land is identified as 'greenfield growth' precinct 5 in the Ballan Framework Plan at Clause 11.01-1L-03 of the Moorabool Planning Scheme.
- The amendment is proponent-led and seeks to rezone 98.5 hectares of land from Rural Living Zone to Neighbourhood Residential Zone, which could support approximately 930 lots.
- The amendment proposes planning controls and community infrastructure which will service a master planned community of up to 2,800 residents and provide net community benefit to the existing residents of Ballan.
- At its meeting on 5 June 2024, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C108. Following Ministerial authorisation, the amendment was exhibited from 24 January to 3 March 2025.
- Council received 65 submissions from community members, community groups and government agencies. Submissions generally relate to infrastructure, community services, amenity, town character, heritage and environment.
- At its meeting on 7 May 2025, Council resolved to refer the submissions to an independent planning panel for consideration.
- The planning panel directions hearing was held by video on 4 June 2025. The planning panel hearing was held from 23 to 31 July 2025 at the Moorabool Shire Council office in Darley.
- Council received the planning panel report from Planning Panels Victoria on 10 September 2025.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Paul Tatchell

That Council:

- 1. Consider the planning panel's report (Attachment 1) and accept the panel's recommendations in relation to Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C108moor pursuant to Section 27 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**
- 2. Adopt Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C108moor, in accordance with documents included in Attachment 3 to this report, pursuant to Section 29 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**
- 3. Submits the adopted Amendment, together with the prescribed information, to the Minister for Planning for approval, pursuant to Section 31 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUNDThe Subject Land

Local planning policy Clause 11.01-1L-03 (Ballan) applies to the land identified on the Ballan Framework Plan (Figure 1), which identifies the subject land as 'greenfield growth – precinct 5.

The land:

- Is located at the western gateway to Ballan and is bound by the Western Freeway to the north, the Werribee River to the east Old Melbourne Road to the south and Geelong-Ballan Road to the west.
- Is located approximately 420 metres west of the Inglis Street activity centre.
- Consists of eight landholdings (including six dwellings) within the Rural Living Zone, with a total area of approximately 98.5 hectares. The proponent's landholding comprises approximately 88 hectares.
- Is currently within the Rural Living Zone (RLZ) and adjoins the RLZ to the north, west, southwest and east, the Farming Zone to the northwest and northeast, the Low Density Residential Zone to the east and Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) to the south.
- Contains patches of remnant native vegetation, mostly within the environs of the Werribee River, the escarpment and adjoining road reserves. There are also several scattered native and exotic trees.
- Generally, slopes to the east towards the river.



Figure 1: Ballan Framework Plan from Clause 11.01-1L-03 of the Moorabool Planning Scheme

The Proposed Amendment

At its meeting on 5 June 2024, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the Amendment in accordance with Section 8A(3) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act). Authorisation was granted 5 August 2024 and the Amendment was placed on public exhibition from 24 January to 3 March 2025 (further details about public exhibition is provided below).

Amendment C108moor proposes to amend the Moorabool Planning Scheme to facilitate a master planned residential development.

The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone approximately 98.5ha of land from the Rural Living Zone to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone.
- Apply the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 9 (DPO9) to provide a framework for future subdivision development. DPO9 requires the preparation of a development plan, including a masterplan generally in accordance with a concept plan (Figure 2), informed by various technical assessments relating to matters such as transport, public open space, landscaping, stormwater management, biodiversity, heritage and bushfire management. DPO9 requires that any future planning permits must be generally in accordance with a Development Plan approved by Council.
- Apply the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) to remnant native vegetation (including patches of vegetation and scattered trees) on the subject land and adjoining road reserves.
- Apply the Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) to 5580 Geelong-Ballan Road, Ballan.
- Remove the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 2 (DDO2) from the subject land, as it is intended to control the use of reflective materials in rural areas.

- Retain the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 3 (DDO3) which is intended to minimise the adverse impacts of noise from the Western Freeway on sensitive uses.
- Retain the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 1 (ESO1) across the site and retain the ESO Schedule 2 (ESO2) along the Werribee River corridor. The ESO1 relates to proclaimed water catchment areas and the ESO2 relates to waterway protection.
- Retain the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) along the Werribee River corridor.

The Amendment is supported by a *Residential and Local Convenience Centre Assessment* (Ethos Urban, February 2024), which found that the existing residential zoned areas of Ballan have potential to accommodate approximately 260 residential lots, which equates to only 2.9 years of land supply under the base case scenario (demand for 90 dwellings per year).

The Amendment will result in residential land supply being increased to approximately 13 years under the base case scenario, or approximately 10 years under the higher growth scenario (demand for 115 dwellings per year). The Amendment also facilitates opportunities for a mix of housing typologies which are required to address housing affordability, ageing in place and responds to the needs of a diverse community.

Public Exhibition

The Amendment was exhibited in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* from 24 January 2025 to 3 March 2025. Letters were sent to all owners and occupiers of properties within the Ballan township, rural surrounds, government agencies and prescribed ministers. Notices were published in the Moorabool News on 24 January, 31 January and 14 February 2025 and the Victorian Government Gazette on 30 January 2025.

A total of 68 submissions were received comprising:

- 53 submissions from residents.
- Six submissions from community groups (Ballan Shire Historical Society, Wombat Forestcare, Australian Platypus Conservancy, Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance, Werribee River Association and Moorabool Environment Group).
- Five submissions from government agencies (Heritage Victoria, Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, Central Highlands Water, Department of Transport and Planning [on transport matters] and Melbourne Water).
- Three submissions from landowners south of the railway line.
- One submission from the proponent.

Council's Consideration of Submissions

The submissions were considered at the ordinary Meeting of Council on 7 May 2025. Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning appoint an independent Planning Panel to hear submissions relating to Amendment C108moor.

Planning Panel Hearing

A Directions Hearing was held by video on 4 June 2025, followed by the planning panel hearing from 23 to 31 July at the Moorabool Shire Council office in Darley.

The panel considered the 68 submissions made to the Amendment, 13 of the parties lodged a request to be heard by the planning panel.

Council made the following submissions to the Panel:

- Part A submission, distributed to all parties prior to the commencement of the panel hearing. The Part A submission provided a high-level summary of the state and local strategic and planning context, an overview on how the Amendment responds to the Ballan Strategic Directions, and a summary of the issues raised in submissions that included an explanation on which submissions had been resolved and how.
- Part B submission, presented on day one of the panel hearing. The part B submission expanded on Council's Part A Submission.
- Closing submission, presented on the final day of the panel hearing. The closing submission refined Council's position in response to submissions made by other parties during the hearing.

Panel Report

Officers received a copy of the planning panel report on 10 September 2025 (Attachment 1). The panel report states, "the Amendment is supported by, and implements, the planning policy framework, is well founded and strategically justified, and should proceed subject to addressing the more specific issues raised in submissions".

The Panel recommends Council:

"Adopt Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C108moor as exhibited, with the changes recommended in this report".

Attachment 2 contains a detailed discussion on the planning panel's recommendations.

While the planning panel has recommended some changes, this is not uncommon. The overall amendment has been supported by the panel which is reflective of the significant amount of work that has been undertaken in preparing this amendment.

Updated Amendment Documents

Attachment 3 contains an updated version of the Amendment documents in accordance with the planning panel's recommendations.

The changes include:

- Changes have been made to the DPO schedule (refer Appendix C of the attached Panel report) to provide for:
 - a section 173 Agreement to be entered into with Council and Department of Transport and Planning to contribute towards upgrading to the intersection of Geelong-Ballan Road and Old Melbourne Road.
 - improved environmental outcomes including requirements for wildlife sensitive lighting and platypus surveys.
 - positive acoustic and visual outcomes adjacent to the Western Freeway.
 - simplified drafting.
 - Minor changes to the concept plan as follows:
 - Adjustments to the boundaries of the proposed community hub, collector road and future commercial area, so that they are completely outside the Werribee River offset required by Melbourne Water.

- Addition of a small area of medium density housing adjacent to the future commercial area.
- Addition of a potential future pedestrian bridge over the Werribee River (to be delivered by others).
- Updating the VPO2 mapping to reflect the full extent of a patch of native vegetation adjacent to the Werribee River and Western Freeway.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 3: Places and spaces that meet the needs of our many and varied communities

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

The proposal to adopt Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C108moor is consistent with Council Plan Priority 3. Appropriate mechanisms are proposed to enhance liveability and provide community infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As a privately initiated planning scheme amendment, the applicant is required to pay statutory fees in accordance with the *Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016*. The applicant is also responsible for covering other costs associated with the Amendment as allowed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, including advertising and panel costs.

If the Amendment is approved, then the number of dwellings and residents in Ballan will increase. Development contributions will provide significant contributions towards expanded community infrastructure requirements generated by the proposed development. Capital costs of some infrastructure and ongoing maintenance costs for facilities and open space will need to be included in future Council 10-year capital works program and operating budgets.

The developer has prepared a Shared Infrastructure Funding Plan (SIFP) and has enshrined this through a Section 173 Agreement with Council. The Shared Infrastructure Funding Plan provides contributions to:

- The construction of a sports reserve and associated sports pavilion in Precinct 5.
- The construction of a community facility in Precinct 5.
- The construction of a shared path along Old Melbourne Road to connect Precinct 5 to the existing township of Ballan.

The developer will be entering into a separate Section 173 Agreement with the Department of Transport and Planning – Transport regarding the staging, design, land requirements and funding plan for interim and ultimate upgrades of the intersection of Geelong – Ballan Road and Old Melbourne Road.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Council had previously identified a risk that developer contributions associated with this amendment may not be secured. Accordingly, Council has required the developer to enter into a Section 173 Agreement with Council prior to the Amendment being adopted by Council.

Under the Planning and Environment 1987, Council can resolve to:

1. Adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C108moor as recommended by the Planning Panel in Attachment 1, and submit the adopted Amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval, or
2. Abandon Amendment C108moor to the Moorabool Planning Scheme.

Should Council choose to abandon the Amendment, it would prevent the growth of Ballan from expanding in accordance with the Township Boundary. In this scenario, the proponent may elect to go directly to the Minister for Planning and request they intervene and take over the abandoned Amendment. The Minister can then decide to continue the process themselves and become the Planning Authority, removing the ability for Council to decide on the Amendment.

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.

Authors – Matthew Milbourne and Rod Davison

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

CONCLUSION

There is existing strategic planning justification for the proposed amendment and development of the amendment site will make an important contribution towards the State Government's housing targets.

The Amendment has been through a rigorous public exhibition and panel process, and it is now considered appropriate that Council adopt the Amendment with the changes recommended by the planning panel, in accordance with the Ordinance documents included in Attachment 3. This will enable the Amendment to be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Christine Levy addressed Council in relation to item 12.2.

Robert Levy addressed Council in relation to item 12.2.

Carol Wharton addressed Council in relation to item 12.2.

Chris Stockham addressed Council in relation to item 12.2.

Alice O'Mara addressed Council in relation to item 12.2.

Don Calleja's written submission in relation to item 12.2 was read.

12.2 MADDINGLEY PLANNING STUDY AND AMENDMENT C119MOOR - MADDINGLEY FRAMEWORK PLAN

Author: Jillian McQuade, Co-ordinator Strategic Planning

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Attachments:

1. Maddingley Planning Study (under separate cover)
2. Summary of Submissions (under separate cover)
3. C119moor Draft Planning Scheme Ordinance and Explanatory Report (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

- Present the Maddingley Planning Study, October 2025, and to seek a resolution from Council to adopt the Study.
- Consider Planning Scheme Amendment C119moor to implement the stage 1 recommendations of the Maddingley Planning Study into the Moorabool Planning Scheme.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Maddingley Planning Study has explored options for future land uses in a large area to the south of Bacchus Marsh including the State significant Maddingley Waste and Resource Recovery Hub (resource recovery, coal mining, landfill and composting), farming activities and existing industrial areas in the west of the study area.
- The Maddingley Planning Study provides the strategic basis for changes to the Moorabool Planning Scheme that will be progressed in three phases over coming decades and will guide the evolution of the area into an employment centre serving the Bacchus Marsh region.
- Amendment C119moor seeks to introduce policy specific to the Maddingley area, through a framework plan identifying potential future land uses consistent with the direction provided in the Maddingley Planning Study.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Maddingley Planning Study, October 2025 (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C119moor to the *Moorabool Planning Scheme* in accordance with Attachment 3.**
- 3. Upon receipt of authorisation, prepare and exhibit Amendment C119moor to the Moorabool Planning Scheme in accordance with relevant requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**
- 4. Authorise the Executive Manager Community Planning and Development to make minor changes to the amendment documentation prior to exhibition where they do not alter the intent of the amendment.**
- 5. Authorise the Executive Manager Community Planning and Development to liaise and resolve any issues that are raised by submitters during the exhibition process prior to the amendment being reported back to Council to consider submissions.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The need for the Maddingley Planning Study (MPS) was identified in the *Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework 2018* (UGF) (which was implemented into the *Moorabool Planning Scheme* via Amendment C81 on 6 December 2018).

The key drivers for the MPS include:

- The existing planning controls are outdated and do not appropriately respond to the current and emerging issues facing the study area.
- A review of the Maddingley Framework area is necessary to consider:
 - The relevance of the Special Use Zone Schedule 1 (SUZ1; coal mining) that currently applies to the Maddingley Waste Resource and Recovery Hub (WRR hub) and surrounding land given its purpose are focused on coal mining.
 - The extent of the SUZ1 as it applies to land uses outside of the mining license boundary. This is a concern for affected landowners and Council where land not used or proposed to be used for coal mining is captured within the limits of the SUZ1.

Throughout the project officers have consulted with key agencies including Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Sustainability Victoria (SV), Recycling Victoria (RV), the former Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (Earth Resources Regulation, DJPR; now Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action [DEECA]) and the former Department of Land Water and Planning (DELWP; now DEECA and Department of Transport and Planning [DTP]).

An updated MPS has been prepared having regard to feedback from agencies and stakeholders. It has incorporated recent changes to Statewide guidelines released by the EPA in 2024. The Study has responded to the challenges presented by the proximity of the Maddingley WRR hub to the urban area. It proposes a suite of strategies to guide future decision making under headings for:

- Land use and economy
- Land use compatibility and buffer
- Environment
- Transport infrastructure
- Utility Infrastructure

Changes to the planning scheme are proposed to guide planning application decisions as well as provide strategic direction for landowners to initiate zoning changes compatible with existing land uses and aligned to a viable and cohesive future for the area.

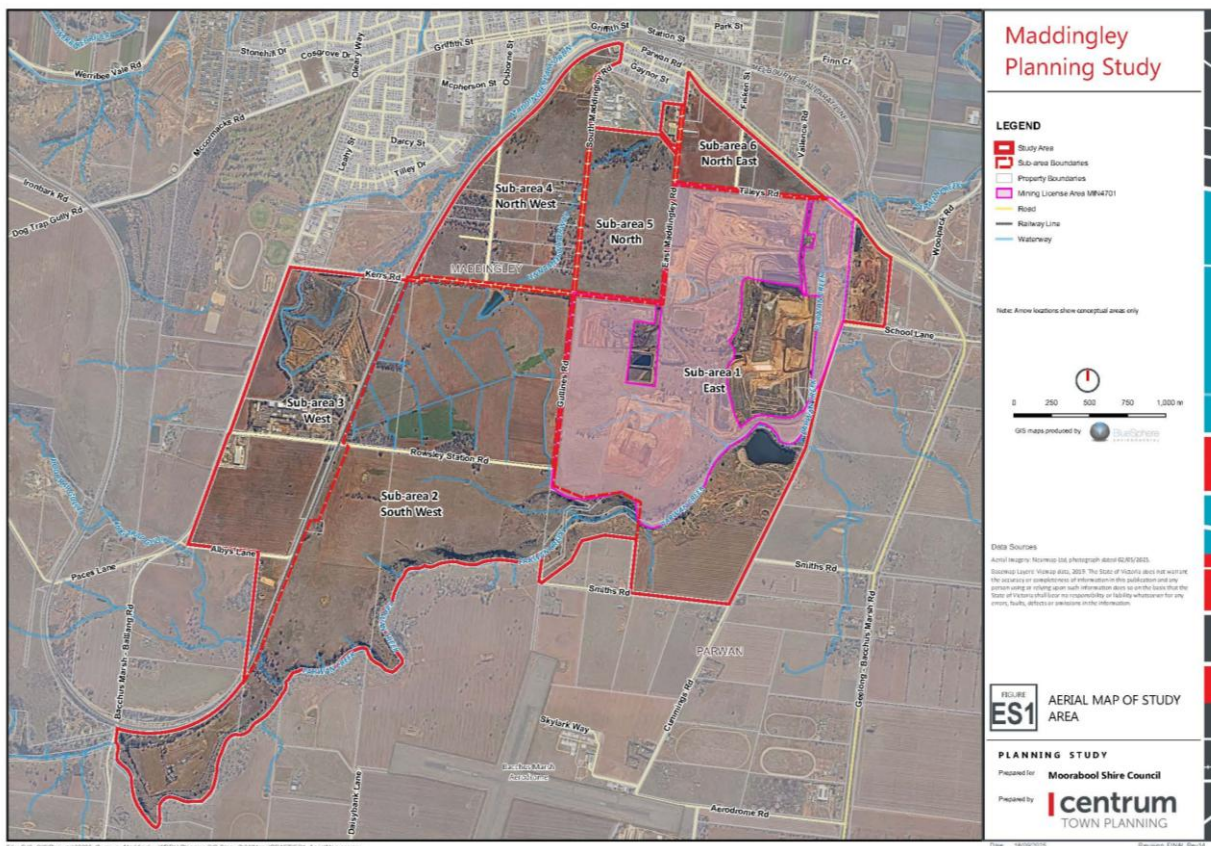


Figure 1: MPS study area (red line)

PROPOSAL

Community and stakeholder consultation

Council undertook community and stakeholder consultation on the draft MPS from 3 May to 1 July 2022. Seventeen written submissions were received from community, landowners, businesses and agencies and raised the following issues:

- The need to protect the ongoing operation of the Maddingley WRR Hub, recognising that it has been declared a waste hub of state significance (Recycling Victoria, Sustainability Victoria and Maddingley Brown Coal).
- The need to acknowledge the state importance of coal and hard rock resources in the Maddingley area (DJPR).
- The need to acknowledge the importance of buffers / separation distances (EPA).
- Opposition to the recommendation to rezone JBD industrial estate from IN2Z to IN1Z (RV and local businesses).
- Concern about the recommendation to rezone land from SUZ1 to IN3Z/C2Z, due to the potential for future sensitive land uses (EPA).
- The need to acknowledge and protect places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance (Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC)).
- The need to plan for potential expansion of education uses to the west of South Maddingley Road, subject to consideration of environmental risks (Bacchus Marsh Grammar).
- Concern that the draft MPS does not align with the state government policy direction to increase recycling and transition to a more sustainable circular economy (Recycling Victoria, Sustainability Victoria and Maddingley Brown Coal).

Throughout the project, officers have consulted with key agencies including Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Sustainability Victoria (SV), Recycling Victoria (RV), Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and Department of Land Water and Planning (DELWP now DEECA and DTP). Officers met with the EPA, SV, RV and DJPR to gain a better understanding of the matters raised in their submissions.

A detailed summary of submissions and how the final MPS has been updated in response to submissions is included in Attachment 2.

Finalising the Study

The final MPS (Attachment 1) includes changes in response to issues raised in submissions and updated EPA guidelines released in May and August 2024.

The key changes responding to submissions include improved acknowledgement of the State significance of the Maddingley WRR Hub and alignment with State policies relating to waste management, circular economy, earth resources and education.

Updates have been made to reflect EPA's three updated guidelines released in 2024. These guidelines will apply to any future proposals for mining, composting and landfill activities beyond existing approvals and include:

- *Separation distance guideline* (EPA Publication 1949, August 2024).
- *Landfill buffer guideline* (EPA Publication 1950, August 2024); and

- *Operating organic waste processing facilities guideline* (EPA Publication 1588.2, May 2024).

Implementation of the Study

The strategic guidance and land use changes outlined in the MPS are to be implemented through future planning scheme amendments.

A three phased approach to planning scheme amendments is recommended in the MPS. Phase 1 would introduce strategic planning guidance to support amendments for future rezoning and overlay controls in Phases 2 and 3 (see diagram below). Amendment C119moor, that forms part of this report, proposes to implement the first phase of Planning Scheme changes.

Further amendments to implement site specific recommendations of the MPS (Phases 2 and 3), such as rezoning land to industrial and other uses, would need to align with the Strategic Framework Plan and be at the request of proponent landowners.

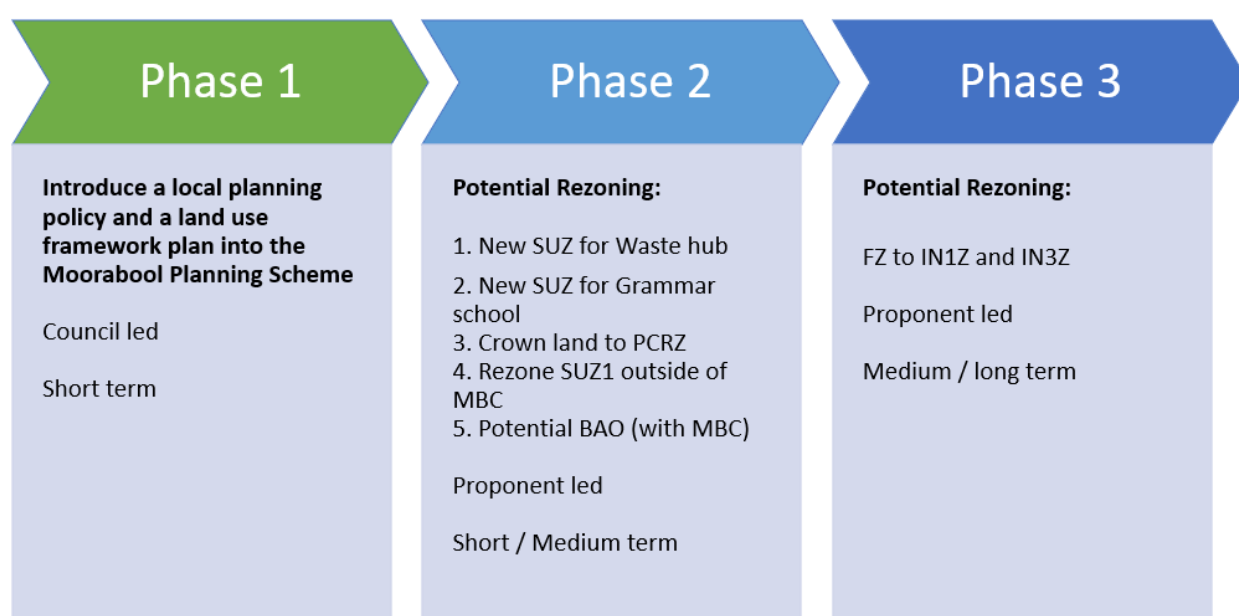


Figure 2: Three Phases of Planning Scheme amendments

Other actions outlined in the Study include the ongoing liaison with agencies to plan for infrastructure upgrades that will facilitate land use change and monitoring of State Government requirements for waste and coal mining facilities.

Amendment C119moor: Phase 1 amendment

Amendment C119moor proposes to implement Phase 1 amendment recommendations of the Maddingley Planning Study into the *Moorabool Planning Scheme*. This phase will provide long-term guidance that supports the ongoing use of the area for waste and resource recovery, mining and other industries. It will also provide support for the transition of surrounding land to industrial uses, provide direction for planning decisions, and support for Phase 2 and 3 amendments.

Amendment C119moor makes the following Planning Scheme changes:

- Introduce local policy Clause 17.03-2L-02: Maddingley Framework Plan.
- Update Clauses:
 - 02.03-1: Strategic directions – Bacchus Marsh
 - 02.03-7: Strategic directions – Economic development

- 19.03-3L-02: Integrated Water Management
- 72.08: Background Documents to refer to the Maddingley Planning Study, October 2025.

NEXT STEPS

To prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C119moor, Council is required to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning.

Following receipt of authorisation:

- A period of public exhibition will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environmental Act 1987* and Ministerial Direction No. 15.
- Businesses, residents, landowners and the wider community and State Agencies will be invited to make submissions to Council on the proposed Amendment.
- A report will be brought to Council following public exhibition to consider and respond to any submissions received.
- Council will be able to request a planning panel to consider any unresolved submissions to the amendment.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 3: Places and spaces that meet the needs of our many and varied communities

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

The proposal to adopt the Maddingley Planning Study and progress Planning Scheme Amendment C119moor to the Moorabool Planning Scheme is consistent with Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As a Council initiated planning scheme amendment, Council is required to pay statutory fees in accordance with the planning and environment fees regulations. Council is also responsible for covering other costs associated with the Amendment as allowed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, including advertising and panel costs. The fees for Council led Planning Scheme Amendments are covered by the Growth and Development recurrent budget.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

No specific risks have been identified in seeking authorisation for Amendment C119moor.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Individual property owners and general community. Prescribed	Mail out, notification in gazette and Moorabool newspaper, and Council's Have Your Say	Moorabool wide	40 business days (approx.) from receipt of authorisation from the	Submissions will be reported to Council. Unresolved submissions can be referred to an

	Ministers.	website.		Minister.	independent Planning Panel.
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Exhibition of an amendment is the statutory process of consulting on a Planning Scheme Amendment under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Section 19 of the Act requires Notice to be given to owners and occupiers of land that may be materially affected by the amendment as well as prescribed or affected Ministers, public authorities and councils. Consultation will occur in accordance with the Act.

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 – Jillian McQuade

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

CONCLUSION

The Maddingley Planning Study provides clear direction that supports the ongoing use of the area for waste and resource recovery, mining and other industries, and provides support for the transition of the surrounding land to a range of industry, complementary light industry and other uses that can benefit from good access to the Bacchus Marsh urban area, arterial road networks and existing industries.

It sets out three phases of planning scheme changes as well as actions for Council to progress. The study has comprehensively responded to the complexities of existing land uses in the Maddingley area, informed by extensive research and stakeholder engagement.

Amendment C119moor is proposed to implement the Phase 1 Planning Scheme changes recommended by the MPS to give statutory certainty for the future of the Maddingley Framework Plan area.

13 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 INVESTIGATION OF A MUNICIPAL CHARGE

Author: James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to consult on the potential introduction of a municipal charge and invite submissions for consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Municipal Charge would reallocate existing rate revenue from the variable, property valuation-based component to a fixed charge applied equally across properties or property categories.

Implementing a municipal charge does not change the amount of Council funding. Rather it reallocates existing Council revenue between variable and fixed components, as opposed to having a variable component only.

The Local Government Act 2020 provides Victorian councils with the authority to implement municipal charges subject to community engagement requirements.

It is recommended to proceed with a combined community education and engagement program, analyse collected feedback and provide Council with comprehensive Municipal Charge information for consideration including community input.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Paul Tatchell

That Council:

- 1. Approves community engagement on the implementation of a Municipal Charge for a period of three weeks.**
- 2. Notes that following consultation, the collected feedback will be presented to Council for further consideration.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 provides Victorian councils with the authority to implement municipal charges subject to community engagement requirements.

Implementing a municipal charge does not change the amount of Council funding. Rather it reallocates existing Council revenue between variable and fixed components, as opposed to having a variable component only. Under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, councils have the authority to implement municipal charges as a fixed component of rates that applies equally

to properties within defined categories, while correspondingly reducing the variable rate component that is calculated based on property valuations.

This reallocation mechanism changes how rate burden is distributed across different property types and values within a municipality. Properties with higher valuations typically experience reduced rate obligations under a municipal charge system. A portion of their rate burden shifts from the variable component (where they pay more due to higher valuations) to the fixed component (where they pay the same amount as other properties in their category). On the other side, properties with lower valuations may experience increased rate obligations as they benefit less from the shift away from valuation-based calculations.

With this understanding in mind, the Victorian Local Government Act 2020's principles of financial management and service performance require councils to consider how rate structures support equitable service delivery while ensuring that rate burden distribution reflects community values and capacity to pay.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to undertake community consultation on a municipal charge which will include a combined community education and engagement program. Results of the consultation will be brought back to Council for consideration.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

Priority 4.3: Focus resources to deliver on our service promise in a sustainable way

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation contained within this report.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no identified risks associated with this process.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Subject to Council endorsing the introduction of a Municipal Charge, details of the investigation will be published on Council's website. The community will be invited to provide feedback through a formal submissions period.

Information about the investigation, including background material and FAQs, will be available on Council's website at moorabool.vic.gov.au. The process and opportunities to participate will also be promoted online.

Residents will be invited to make submissions in relation to the municipal charge investigation via Council's online engagement platform at moorabool.engagementhub.com.au. The submissions period will remain open until 5.00pm on Friday 20 February 2026.

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

Implementing a municipal charge changes the way Council generates its revenue. It does not change the amount of Council revenue. When implementing a municipal charge careful attention must be given to the impacts including changes to distribution of rate burden, community perceptions of fairness and administrative requirements. It is recommended to proceed with a combined community education and engagement program, analyse collected feedback and provide Council with comprehensive municipal charge information for consideration including community input.

14 OTHER REPORTS

Nil

15 NOTICES OF MOTION**15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 343 - MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL DEMANDS SOLUTION TO BACCHUS MARSH TRAFFIC WOES**

Attachments: Nil

I, Councillor Rod Ward, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 17 December 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council:

- 1. Writes to the Victorian Government and Opposition asking for a bi-partisan approach to deliver a solution to the crippling traffic congestion in Bacchus Marsh.**
- 2. Write to the Australian Government and Opposition asking for a bi-partisan approach to deliver a solution to the crippling traffic congestion in Bacchus Marsh.**
- 3. That this letter note that:**
 - (a) There has been a recognisable need for an 'eastern link' since advocacy first commenced over 25 years ago, and this need has grown significantly.**
 - (b) Much of the town's local traffic and north-south regional traffic is funnelled through a single intersection in the town centre that is experiencing significant congestion and queuing.**
 - (c) An eastern bypass of Bacchus Marsh from Geelong Road to Gisborne Road with a freeway interchange would alleviate congestion at the Bacchus Marsh-Gisborne Road interchange that sees in excess of 280,000 heavy vehicle movements annually.**
 - (d) The establishment of a road corridor for this link is critical so that alignments can be set and land use determined into the future.**
 - (e) Since advocacy commenced in the late 1990s the population of Bacchus Marsh has grown from 11,729 to 26,763 (growth of 128%). The towns' population is expected to reach 55,566 in 2046 (growth of 374%).**
 - (f) Significantly, the Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan area is expected to be home to approximately 20,000 residents in 7,000 homes. This development will result in a large number of residents in this precinct adding to the already heavily congested and gridlocked Gisborne Road traffic.**
 - (g) Further, that the Moorabool Shire Council has been asked by the State Government to build 20,000 new homes by 2035. This will significantly impact traffic congestion and the State and Federal Government are duty bound to help deliver the road infrastructure to accommodate this growth.**

- (h) After approximately 28 years of advocacy, consultation and a \$3M planning study that took 8 years to complete, on the Transport Victoria website it states: *There are currently no plans for the construction of an eastern link road.*
- (i) Everyone has recognised the critical need for an eastern link solution to the Bacchus Marsh increasingly crippling traffic congestion over two decades – can we just get on with it?

4. Sends the letter to the following in the Victorian Government and Opposition:

- (a) Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jacinta Allan
- (b) Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Jaclyn Symes
- (c) Minister for Roads & Road Safety, the Hon Melissa Horne
- (d) Minister for Economic Growth & Jobs, the Hon Danny Pearson
- (e) Minister for Planning, the Hon Sonya Kilkenny
- (f) Minister for Local Government, the Hon Hick Staikos
- (g) Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Gabrielle Williams
- (h) Member for Eureka, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Sport, Michaela Settle MP
- (i) Member for Melton, Stephen McGhie MP
- (j) The Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Liberal Party and Shadow Treasurer, Ms Jess Wilson
- (k) Shadow Minister for Regional Development & Liveability, Shadow Minister for Roads & Road Safety, Leader of the Nationals and Deputy Leader of the Coalition, Mr Danny O'Brien
- (l) Shadow Minister for Local Government, Ms Beverley McArthur
- (m) Shadow Minister for Planning & Housing, Mr Richard Riordan

5. Sends the letter to the following in the Australian Government and Opposition:

- (a) The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP
- (b) Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, and Member for Ballarat, the Hon Catherine King MP
- (c) Minister of Aged Care & Seniors, Member for Hawke, the Hon Sam Rae MP
- (d) Leader of the Opposition & Leader of the Liberal Party, the Hon Sussan Ley MP
- (e) Leader of the Nationals, the Hon David Littleproud MP
- (f) Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development, Senator Bridget McKenzie

CARRIED

RATIONALE

Background & Relevant Information

- **Late 1990s:** The Bacchus Marsh Council identified the need for an “eastern link” to remove large trucks from the town centre, reduce traffic congestion, improve road safety including on the Avenue and Western Highway, improve access for visitors and connect with a future arterial road network.

Population of Bacchus Marsh at that time: 11,279 (1996 census)

- **February 2010:** Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announce joint State and Federal funding for \$200million (\$160m Federal and \$40m State) to reconstruct Anthony’s Cutting and to provide a new link to and from Bacchus Marsh with Woolpack Road extended from Bacchus Marsh Road with direct freeway connections in all directions via a new Interchange.

Population of Bacchus Marsh at that time: 14,914 (2011 census)

- **2012:** After 15 months of controversy over the proposed removal of 5 Dutch Elms Tree’s in the Avenue of Honour to construct the required roundabout for the Woolpack Road extension, Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced the \$23million would not proceed to protect the Elm Trees. Minister Guy stated “an alternative solution would be found”. MSC Mayor Pat Griffin asked Premier Ted Baillieu to attend a public meeting in Bacchus Marsh to identify the alternative that would allow Bacchus Marsh to get 140,000 truck movements every year off our main streets. MSC asked the State Govt to “safeguard” the budgeted \$23m for a future solution. It was reported in the media that VicRoads and the DTP then considered a Fiskin Street solution that would require the removal of 16 homes.

Population of Bacchus Marsh at that time: 15,600 (estimated)

- **2014: Central Highlands Regional Transport Strategy released**

This Strategy identified the following:

Bacchus Marsh is a regional centre experiencing rapid population growth. Its arterial road network is, however, significantly constrained outside of the Western Freeway, with much of the town’s local traffic and north-south regional traffic funnelled through a single intersection in the town centre that is experiencing significant congestion and queuing.

An eastern bypass of Bacchus Marsh from Geelong Road to Gisborne Road with a freeway interchange (possibly via the extension of Woolpack Road) would alleviate congestion at the Bacchus Marsh-Gisborne Road interchange and service the sand quarries on Gisborne Road that generate in excess of 250,000 heavy vehicle movements annually. The establishment of a road corridor for this link is critical so that alignments can be set and land use determined into the future.

Improvements to Woolpack Road will also support the development of a new employment precinct at Parwan. Similarly, a western route road needs to be established with freeway connection to support the substantial residential growth expected in Bacchus Marsh.

Forecasts of traffic through the Bacchus Marsh area indicate severe congestion and delays through the Bacchus Marsh town centre. These delays can only be ameliorated by significant upgrades of the road network and effective traffic management. The impact would be principally on the Gisborne Road/Grant Street corridor, which would require duplication to accommodate forecast volumes and signalisation of some of its intersections to adequately control delays in the town centre.

The proposed project includes:

- *Planning for and construction of an eastern bypass of Bacchus Marsh from Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road to Gisborne Road with a freeway interchange (possibly via the extension of Woolpack Road) and reserving the land;*
- *Upgrading Woolpack Road between the Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road and Bacchus Marsh Road to 'C' class road standard*

Population of Bacchus Marsh at that time: 16,000 (estimated)

- **2015: Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy released**

Amongst the many challenges identified, I note the following:

Key Challenges

- Traffic congestion which reduces liveability of urban areas and productivity of the economy.
- Population and Economic Growth which provides any benefits to the town but also places pressure on the transport network.
- Missing links which force trips through already congested areas. This is evident in the already constrained north-south connection through the township.
- The transport network in Bacchus Marsh is already under significant strain, and at times struggles to cope with the level of traffic generated by the growing community.
- A stated goal that by 2021 Bacchus Marsh needs the construction of an Eastern Town Bypass to cater for expected growth within the township and surrounding areas and to remove freight movements from the town centre.

Mayor Paul Tatchell and CEO Rob Croxford “urged” the State Government to find a solution for Bacchus Marsh traffic congestion.

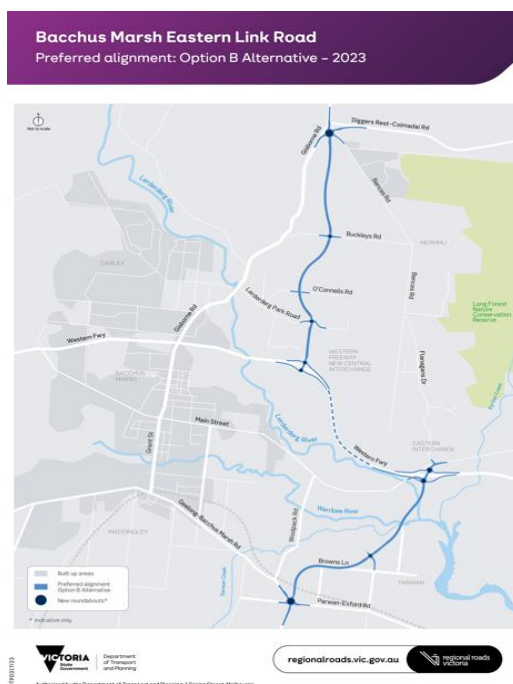
Population of Bacchus Marsh at that time: 17,303 (as per 2017 census)

- **Mid 2017:** The Victorian Government announced it was allocation \$3 million to a corridor study to investigated road alignment options.

Population of Bacchus Marsh at that time: 17,202 (as per 2017 census)

- **February 2025:** Preferred Option “B Alternative” (see below) was the preferred alignment after examining a range of potential options for a future north-south route to the east of the Bacchus Marsh township.

Population of Bacchus Marsh at that time: 26,763 (as per ProfileID)



It should be further highlighted that:

- Council has been advocating for the “eastern link solution” since the “late 1990s” – so it is approaching 27 years.
- Since then the population of Bacchus Marsh has grown from 11,729 to 26,763 – growth of 128%.
- The population of Bacchus Marsh is predicted to reach 37,726 by 2036 – growth of 221% since 1998.
- The population of Bacchus Marsh is predicted to reach 55,566 by 2046 – growth of 374% since 1998.
- In 2025 the State Government announced that as part of its housing targets for Victorian to ensure that every planning scheme identifies enough realistic opportunities for new development to deliver the targeted number of homes. The target for Moorabool Shire Council is to build 20,000 new homes by 2035. This will significantly impact traffic congestion.

In Summary

After approximately 27 years of advocacy, consultation and a \$3m study (that took eight years to complete) it has been identified that:

- There is a need to increase land supply for housing and Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) areas have been designated for future communities. A north-south link road would help ease the congestion caused by this significant growth.
- The Moorabool Shire Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy and the Urban Growth Framework has identified an eastern bypass as key transport infrastructure required to alleviate congestion for Bacchus Marsh.
- Previous studies have demonstrated that an eastern link road will divert heavy vehicles and through traffic away from the Bacchus Marsh town centre. The congestion during peak periods in Bacchus Marsh has resulted in a heavy reliance on Gisborne Road/Grant Street to provide north-south access to the Western Freeway.

- An eastern link road will also provide an alternative north-south arterial road connection to Gisborne Road/Grant Street.

The planning study identified an alignment option that will deliver the following benefits:

- Provide an efficient, safe and direct connection to the Western Freeway for freight transportation between the Port of Geelong, Ballarat, Adelaide and the Calder Freeway.
- Reduce congestion, improve reliability and reduce travel times, therefore encouraging other modes of transport such as cycling and walking.
- Improve amenity in the Bacchus Marsh town centre.
- Improve safety on the existing road.

In closing, and of great concern to Moorabool Shire Council residents is that according to the Transport Victoria website the current status of the project is:

DTP is seeking direction on the required planning pathway.

DTP will refer the project to the Minister for Planning to determine if an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required as part of the planning process.

An EES assesses the potential environmental impacts of a proposed development.

Once a planning pathway is determined, we will provide further updates regarding:

Planning pathway for the Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA). The PSA includes a Public Acquisition Overlay to reserve land for road purposes and enable land to be acquired for the project.

Process for the public to provide a formal submission and make comments on the preferred alignment.

There are currently no plans for the construction of an eastern link road.

This can be viewed at the following:

<https://transport.vic.gov.au/news-and-resources/projects/bacchus-marsh-eastern-link-road-planning-study>

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

15.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 344 - MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO THE FUNDING AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Attachments: Nil

I, Councillor Rod Ward, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 17 December 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Paul Tatchell

That Council:

- 1. Lodge a written submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport into the funding and financial sustainability of local governments in Australia by 3 February 2026. This submission to note that:**
 - (a) Sustainably funded, councils can deliver local solutions to national priorities but need a significant increase in untied and non-competitive federal funding.**
 - (b) Financial Assistance Grants to local governments to be reinstated to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.**
 - (c) Reform the Financial Assistance Grant formula such that distributions are made on an equity basis, based on an assessment of local governments relative capacity to raise revenue noting that under the current structure well-resourced interface councils receive the majority of the allocations and peri-urban and small councils are in a growing financial crisis.**
 - (d) As evidence of the growing crisis, in the 2022/23 financial year, 55 out of 70 Victorian Councils were projecting an adjusted underlying operating deficit.**
 - (e) Make permanent the Housing Support Program to support enabling infrastructure projects and provide certainty with recurrent funding.**
 - (f) Establish grant funding (distinct from debt facilities) from the Commonwealth to bring forward and/or make viable infrastructure projects that support new housing. This includes essential services like water, power and sewage; footpaths; local roads; upgraded and/or signalised intersections; and infrastructure projects that provide amenities to support new housing, including shared facilities like community centres and parks.**
 - (g) Commonwealth infrastructure funding be equitably distributed, noting that some programs (e.g. Growing Regions Program) disadvantage those Australians living in States like Victoria where local government cannot readily access co-contributions from the State.**

- (h) The Federal Government to create growth funds specifically for councils experiencing rapid growth such as and including peri-urban councils. The Moorabool Shire Council has a projected population increase of 94% placing enormous strain on existing infrastructure and services, and investment in new infrastructure such as roads and community infrastructure. Moorabool Shire Council and other peri-urban councils have no access to growth funding, limited revenue options and are further restricted by rate capping.

Implement disaster recovery funding arrangements to include “betterment” funding, allowing councils to rebuild infrastructure with improved resilience to future climate events.

- (i) This submission further notes that it is in line with Council’s obligation under the Local Government Act 2020 to ensure long term financial sustainability.

2. That a copy of the submission be sent with a covering letter to the following in the Australian Government and Opposition:

- (a) The Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
- (b) Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government and the Member for Ballarat, The Hon Catherine King MP
- (c) Minister of Aged Care & Seniors, Member for Hawke, The Hon Sam Rae MP
- (d) Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Liberal Party, The Hon Sussan Ley MP
- (e) Leader of the Nationals, The Hon David Littleproud MP
- (f) Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development, Senator Bridget McKenzie
- (g) Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, The Hon Kristy McBain MP
- (h) Chair of Standing Committee on Regional Development Infrastructure & Transport, The Hon Fiona Phillips MP

CARRIED

RATIONALE

The following background is provided to reinforce the need for a positive outcome from this Inquiry.

The Australian Government has been providing Financial Assistance Grants to local governments since 1974–75, and this was initially set as 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

The Federal Financial Assistance Grants funding is untied and it can be used to address local priorities. The Grants have two components:

- A general purpose component which is distributed according to population;
- An identified local road component which is distributed between the states and territories according to fixed historical shares.

For almost 25% of councils, federal Financial Assistance Grants make up at least 20% of their annual operating revenue.

However, the value of Financial Assistance Grants as a percentage of Commonwealth taxation revenue has increasingly been reduced over the past 30 years, from 1% in 1996, to 0.76% in 2011/12, to 0.57% 2021/22 to just 0.5% in 2024/2025 – meaning it now half of the percentage of taxation as it was when introduced.

Over the past 2 years the following has occurred:

MAY 2023 – VICTORIAN INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND SERVICES

The Victorian Legislative Council Economy & Infrastructure Committee announced an Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services.

The Terms of Reference were to inquire into, consider and report (by 28 November 2024), on local government funding and service delivery in Victoria, including but not limited to:

- a. The effects of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils in an examination of vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances;
- b. Whether local councils are adequately delivering on their core service delivery objectives;
- c. The overall revenue structure of local government;
- d. Whether the existing revenue structure is sustainable and appropriate or if alternative models of funding would be more sustainable and appropriate; and
- e. Any other related matters

Amongst the recommendations in the Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee Final Report the following recommendations were noted that were most relevant to Moorabool SC:

i) Challenges Facing Peri-Urban Councils

Peri-urban councils, located on the fringes of metropolitan areas, are among the fastest-growing regions in Victoria. These councils face unique challenges, including:

- Population Growth: Rapid urban expansion increases demand for infrastructure and community services, often outpacing revenue growth.
- Infrastructure Backlogs: These councils are required to provide new infrastructure while maintaining existing assets, resulting in financial strain.
- Funding Gaps: They experience significant financial shortfalls due to limited rate-raising capacity and reliance on grants, which are often competitive or tied to specific outcomes.
- Environmental Pressures: Managing green wedges, agricultural land, and adapting to climate change adds complexity and cost to their operations.

ii) Infrastructure Funding for Growth Areas:

Peri-urban councils are managing fast growth without the financial support previously provided under programs like the *Growing Suburbs Fund*. This contributes to delays in infrastructure delivery and financial strain.

iii) Support for Long-Term Planning:

Peri-urban councils face workforce shortages, particularly in planning and engineering roles, which exacerbates delays in development approvals.

iv) Climate Change and Disaster Resilience:

Peri-urban councils face significant cost pressures related to climate resilience, including disaster relief, infrastructure repair, and upgrades to mitigate risks.

v) Simplifying Grant Processes:

Well-resourced councils are better equipped to secure grants, creating inequities between metropolitan and peri-urban councils.

The Victorian State Government released its response to the Inquiry in June 2025.

It is notable that of the 48 recommendations from the Inquiry, only 9 were fully supported by the Government, with a large number either deferred for further review or only supported in principle, leaving key issues like rural roads funding, service partnerships and cost shifting unresolved.

It was particularly disappointing that the recommendations to assist in delivering more sustained and meaningful funds to the local government sector were not supported, including adequate funding for capital expenditure. It was also disappointing that a review of the rating system was not supported.

Councils have little to no way of combating rising costs and increased community expectation, and with no meaningful assistance resulting from the Victorian Government Inquiry this problem will only get worse. As a result, councils will not be able to meet the infrastructure and service delivery needs of our communities.

MARCH 2024 – FEDERAL INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY

In March 2024 the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP issued the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport with a Terms of Reference for an *“Inquiry into local government sustainability”*.

Over the following 12 months, the Committee held 16 public hearings (many in regional areas) and received 287 submissions – including 170 from individual Councils and 32 submissions from national, state, territory associations of local government and regional groupings of councils.

- **February 2025** – The Interim Report was released and it recognised that the responsibilities of local government has changed fundamentally and it is having to navigate complex regulatory environments while managing limited financial resources and addressing diverse and competing community needs.

In particular committee chair Luke Gosling noted: *“Local governments around Australia are increasingly being called upon to provide healthcare services and housing, managing ageing infrastructure and assets, and respond to current and future climate adaptation needs. These additional responsibilities are placing a significant financial strain on local governments who are struggling to meet community expectations.”* He further noted that: *“local governments have increasingly been relied upon to deliver services and infrastructure which were traditionally under the purview of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.”*

The key theme to emerge from the Interim Report was clear - the current distribution model was not working and needed an overhaul.

Notably the inquiry received evidence that showed the current funding model favoured metropolitan regions over rural and remote councils, and Rural Councils Victoria noted the challenges of meeting the needs of small communities dispersed over a large geographic area and stated *“Rural councils have small rate bases and little access to substantial or helpful levels of ‘own source’ income.”*

Among the key recommendations were the following:

- Review the financial assistance grants program;

- Ensure the allocation of grants are consistent with horizontal equalisation between councils in all jurisdictions;
- Consider local governments' role in national cabinet and ministerial forums;
- Consider developing a new tripartite agreement between all three levels of government, that ends the cost-shifting onto local governments;
- Consider making councils eligible for fringe benefit tax exemptions and concessions;
- The Department of Defence and other Commonwealth agencies to contribute to infrastructure required to service their operations;
- Develop a national working group to proactively prepare and mitigate natural disasters and climate change impacts, with funding for local programs.

Unfortunately, the Inquiry was then prorogued (lapsed) for the 2025 Federal election.

NOVEMBER 2025: INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

On 6 November 2025 the Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon Kristy McBain MP moved for the Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport to conduct an Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.

The Committee is seeking written submissions by **Tuesday 3 February 2026** relating to any or all of the inquiry's terms of reference.

SUMMARY

There are serious risks to the financial sustainability of local councils, and in particular for Peri Urban Councils such as Moorabool Shire Council. Rapid growth, infrastructure backlogs, ageing infrastructure, rising costs, natural disasters, cost shifting, increased community expectations, etc are all contributing to financial challenges for local Councils. Increasingly, councils report underlying deficits, reductions in unrestricted cash and working capital, and deteriorating asset renewal rates.

These pressures are exacerbated by cost shifting from State and Federal Government, with councils and local communities bearing the cost. As a share of Commonwealth tax receipts, Financial Assistance Grants are now the lowest they have ever been.

For every dollar of revenue local Councils collect, Victorian councils manage \$10 of physical assets like parks, and roads and kindergartens. For the Victorian Government this figure is \$4, and for the Commonwealth \$0.40.

As mentioned above, it was very disappointing that the recommendations from the *Victorian Inquiry into Local Government and Funding* to assist local Councils through the delivery of more sustained and meaningful funds were not supported, including adequate funding for capital expenditure.

We are now hopeful that the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability will deliver the badly needed assistance.

With limited capacity to raise additional revenue, Councils have little to no way of combating rising costs and increased community expectation. Over the long term, councils cannot be expected to continue with adjusted underlying deficits without a deterioration in cash and/or infrastructure.

It is clear that councils are being squeezed from both directions, with increased demand for infrastructure spending, amplified by the rising cost of roads, materials and maintenance coupled with limited avenues to raise any additional revenue.

Without intervention and meaningful assistance resulting from this Inquiry this problem will only get worse.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

15.3 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 345 - GRIFFITH STREET UPGRADE**Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Jarrod Bingham, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 17 December 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham****Seconded: Cr Rod Ward****That Council:**

- 1. Acknowledges the ongoing deterioration of Griffith Street, Bacchus Marsh, including extensive potholes and surface failures that have remained unresolved for several years.**
- 2. Notes that while future upgrade works have been referenced on multiple occasions, there is currently no confirmed timeline for the commencement of these works, leaving the road in an unacceptable condition.**
- 3. Requests Officers to provide Council with a clear update on:**
 - (a) The current status of the Griffith Street Upgrade project;**
 - (b) Funding arrangements and any external agency involvement;**
 - (c) Expected timelines for design, community engagement, tendering and construction; and**
 - (d) Any factors causing ongoing delays.**
- 4. Investigate pedestrian safety improvements on Griffith Street including, but not limited to:**
 - (a) A pedestrian crossing;**
 - (b) A pedestrian refuge island;**
 - (c) Traffic calming measures; and**
 - (d) Any other feasible treatments to improve safety for elderly residents and other vulnerable pedestrians.**
- 5. Requests Officers to provide a report back to Council detailing interim repair actions taken and recommended long-term pedestrian and road safety solutions for Griffith Street, Bacchus Marsh.**

CARRIED**RATIONALE**

Griffith Street has been a long-standing concern for our community. For years now residents have been raising the same issues – potholes, surface failures and a road that is clearly deteriorating beyond what should be acceptable. We continue to be told that Griffith Street is scheduled for a

future upgrade, but the reality is that no firm timeline has been provided. In the meantime, the road has simply been left in limbo.

While I understand that large capital works require planning, funding and co-ordination, the current condition of Griffith Street poses real safety risks to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Waiting indefinitely for an upgrade is no longer reasonable. The community deserves interim action now.

Additionally, a significant number of elderly residents and vulnerable pedestrians use this corridor. There is currently no safe crossing point, and this has been raised with me repeatedly. It is appropriate that Council investigate all possible pedestrian treatments – whether that is a refuge, a formal crossing or any other suitable measure.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

16 NOTICES OF RESCISSION**16.1 NOTICE OF RESCISSION - RESPONSE TO ITEM 14.3 - RESPONSE TO NOM NO. 328
SUBSIDISED WASTE SERVICES**

Attachments: Nil

I, Councillor Paul Tatchell, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 17 December 2025, I intend to move the following rescission motion:

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Tatchell

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council:

- 1. The resolution for Item 14.3 – Response to Notice of Motion No. 328 – Subsidised Waste Services that was considered at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 3 December 2025 be rescinded.**
- 2. That an amended proposal be considered, being:**

That Council give consideration to the introduction of the following subsidised waste services in the 2026/2027 budget process to allow for community consultation and full costing:

- (a) Subsidised hard waste drop off service at Council's transfer stations via a 2x1m3 allocation annually; no charge at the gate.**
- (b) Subsidised greenwaste drop off service at Council's transfer stations via no charge at the gate for one month annually.**
- (c) Subsidised mattress drop off service at the transfer stations via half price at the gate for one month annually.**
- (d) Subsidised hard waste kerbside pick-up service for the unable or elderly residents via a 2x3m allocation capped at 500 properties annually.**

CARRIED

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 Rod Ward

That Council receives the Mayor's Report.

CARRIED**Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor – Mayor's Report****Date:** 17 December 2025

4 December	- MAV Mandatory Mayor Training, Melbourne - MAV Mayors Institute Oration and Networking Event, Melbourne
5 December	MAV Mandatory Mayor Training, Melbourne
6 December	- Blackwood Historical Society Christmas Lunch - Ballan Lions Community Market - Bacchus Marsh Twilight Christmas Market
9 December	Councillor Professional Development Training
10 December	- Councillor Briefings - Lal Lal Falls Reserve Masterplanning; Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan Endorsement for Adoption; Contract PA-2508-0844 Cleaning of Municipal Offices, Public Toilets & BBQs; Investigation of a Municipal Charge; 2026-27 Budget Approach and Timeline; Review of the OMC Agenda - Development Assessment Committee

11 December	• Youth Christmas Twilight Market, Bacchus Marsh
13 December	• Official Opening – Bald Hill Summit Stage 3, Bald Hill • Bacchus Marsh Pro Rodeo Event • Bacchus Marsh Little Athletics • Bacchus Marsh Christmas Festival & Carols by Candlelight, Maddingley Park
14 December	• Emergency Services Expo, St Anne’s Winery, Myrniong
15 December	• Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC) Committee Meeting
16 December	• Councillor Professional Development Training
17 December	• 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 Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council receives the Councillors Reports.

CARRIED

At the request of Cr Tatchell, a one-minute silence was observed in recognition of the Bondi tragedy.

Cr Jarrod Bingham

Date: 17 December 2025

I wish to advise the Council that I have been endorsed by the Liberal Party as its candidate for the seat of Melton. This declaration is made in accordance with the MAV guidelines and for transparency purposes.

Cr Moira Berry

Date: 17 December 2025

6 December	• Darley Christmas Market with Appe FM 98.5
8 December	• Coimadaí Christmas Party
9 December	• Professional Development Training Darley
10 December	• Australia Day Awards Panel

12 December	• Bacchus Marsh Christmas Festival
13 December	• Official Opening – Bald Hill Stage 3 Summit Darley
13 December	• Bacchus Marsh Christmas Festival and Carols
14 December	• Emergency Services Expo St Annes Winery
14 December	• Bacchus Marsh Christmas Festival
16 December	• Councillor Professional Development Training Darley Hub

Cr Sheila Freeman

Date: 17 December 2025

3 December	• Councillor Briefing
3 December	• Moorabool Growth Management Committee
3 December	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
9 December	• Councillor PD Mandatory Training
9 December	• Councillor Only Session
10 December	• Councillor Briefing
10 December	• Development Assessment Committee
13 December	• Official Opening Bald Hill Stage 3 Summit
15 December	• Moorabool Health & Wellbeing Committee
15 December	• BMAM Board Meeting
15 December	• BMAM AGM
16 December	• Councillor PD Mandatory Training
17 December	• Ordinary Meeting of Council

Cr John Keogh

Date: 17 December 2025

2 December	• Councillor Professional Development Training Darley Hub
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3 December	• Come and play with me - International Day of People with Disability
3 December	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
7 December	• Fund Raise for Ruby
10 December	• Councillor Briefing
10 December	• Development Assessment Committee
11 December	• Probus Christmas Breakup
11 December	• Youth Services Twilight Event
13 December	• Bacchus Marsh Christmas Festival and Carols by Candlelight
15 December	• Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Committee Meeting
16 December	• Councillor Professional Development Training Darley Hub
17 December	• Ordinary Meeting of Council

Cr Ally Munari

Date: 17 December 2025

3 December	• Councillor Briefing
3 December	• Moorabool Growth Management Meeting
3 December	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
9 December	• Councillor Professional Development Training
10 December	• Australia Day Awards Panel Meeting
10 December	• Councillor Briefing
10 December	• Development Assessment Committee
16 December	• Councillor Professional Development Training
17 December	• Ordinary Meeting of Council

Cr Tom Sullivan***Date:*** 17 December 2025

16 September	• Tri-annual meeting of the Bungaree Recreation Reserve at Bungaree
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Cr Paul Tatchell***Date:*** 17 December 2025

Requested the observance of a one-minute silence in recognition of the Bondi tragedy.

Cr Rod Ward***Date:*** 17 December 2025

Nil

18 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr John Keogh

That Council adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7.15pm.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Ally Munari

That Council resumes the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 7.22pm.

19 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Tatchell

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

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 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD SELECTION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) confidential information - (f) 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 personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs..

19.2 CONTRACT PA-2508-0844 - CLEANING OF MUNICIPAL OFFICES, PUBLIC TOILETS AND BBQ'S

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) confidential information - (g) 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 private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that (i) relates to trade secrets; or (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

19.3 R1006 C0174-2025/2026 WINDLE STREET, BALLAN RECONSTRUCTION (CH320 – CH620)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - g(i) and g(ii) 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 private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

19.4 C0176-2025/2026 CARBERRY DRIVE RESERVE UPGRADE

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - g(i) and g(ii) 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 private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

19.5 C0182-2025/2026 BACCHUS MARSH RACECOURSE & RECREATION RESERVE COMMUNITY AND MULTI SPORTS HUB

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - g(i) and g(ii) 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 private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

19.6 CEO PERFORMANCE AND REMUNERATION REVIEW 2024/2025

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - f 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 personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

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

CARRIED

20 MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 7.47pm.

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CHAIRPERSON