



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 4 March 2026

Date: Wednesday, 4 March 2026

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

Mr James Hogan Chief Financial Officer

Ms Kate Barclay Manager Growth & Development

5 APOLOGIES

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Ally Munari

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

7 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Rose De La Cruz addressed Council in relation to item 9.1

9.1 PETITION - SAVE OUR AQUADUCT WALKING TRACK

Author: Joseph Spiteri, Manager Governance & Civic Support

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Petition - Save Our Aquaduct Walking Track (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

Council has received a petition containing 69 signatures from the head petitioner, Rose De la Cruz on behalf of The Moorabool Environment Group.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The petition states:

The old, disused aqueduct runs from opposite Crossroads through to the Western Highway. This land is owned by Barwon Water and is at risk of being sold to the housing developer who has brought the 90 hectares of farmland east of the aqueduct track.

Many of us want this strip of land to be saved and kept as a walking/bike track for the public. The aqueduct has historical value (built in 1900) and provides habitat for frogs and native grasses. The track offers a perfect opportunity for a hike and bike track.

Please sign the petition below if you would like to support this campaign to save this land for public use. We plan to submit the petition to Council, the housing development company and Barwon Water.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Tatchell

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council:

1. Receives the petition containing 69 signatures in relation to saving the aqueduct walking track.
2. Requests Officers receive and note the petition and respond accordingly.

CARRIED

Brendan Hehir addressed Council in relation to item 9.2

9.2 PETITION - COUNCIL TO PURCHASE THE EMPTY BLOCK AT 17-19 MARTIN STREET BLACKWOOD TO BE USED AS OPEN SPACE FOR BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY USE

Author: Joseph Spiteri, Manager Governance & Civic Support

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Council to purchase the empty block at 17-19 Martin Street Blackwood to be used as open space for Blackwood community use (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

Council has received a petition containing 18 signatures from the head petitioners, Jinny Coyle and Brendan Hehir.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The petition states:

We, the undersigned, petition the council to purchase the empty block at 17-19 Martin Street Blackwood to be used as open space for Blackwood community use.

Due to the generosity of the current owner, Karen Bermingham, this land, in the heart of Blackwood, has been used by the community for many events over the past 10 years. It is a favourite spot for both visitors and locals to relax and picnic taking in the magnificent views. It is currently offered for private sale.

As more regional communities are pressured into relinquishing green space, the township of Blackwood has a once-only opportunity to secure this unique asset.

The value of open space for the community in the centre of town, while supporting the tourist economy, cannot be overestimated. It would be a huge setback to the future capacity of our town to lose this shared space.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Paul Tatchell

That Council:

1. Receives the petition containing 18 signatures in relation to Council purchasing the empty block at 17-19 Martin Street, Blackwood to be used as open space for Blackwood community use.
2. Requests Officers receive and note the petition and respond accordingly.

CARRIED

10 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Item	Report name	Speaker/s	Position	Attendance
9.1	Petition – Save Our Aquaduct Walking Track	Rose De la cruz	Head Petitioner	In person
9.2	Petition – Council to purchase the empty block at 17-19 Martin Street Blackwood to be used as open space for Blackwood community use	Brendan Hehir	Head Petitioner	In person
11.1	Planning Scheme Amendment C115moor – Retail Strategy – Consideration of Submissions	Raph Krelle	Proponent	In Person
11.2	Planning Scheme Amendment C103moor - Hopetoun Park North - Adoption	Clare Mizzi	Objector	In Person
11.2	Planning Scheme Amendment C103moor - Hopetoun Park North - Adoption	Ross Closter	Supporter	In Person

11 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Raph Krelle addressed Council in relation to item 11.1.

11.1 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C115MOOR - RETAIL STRATEGY - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Author: Liam Prescott, Senior Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Attachments: 1. Summary of submissions (under separate cover)
2. C115 Ordinance post-exhibition changes (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

To consider all submissions received in response to the recent public exhibition of Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C115moor – Moorabool Retail Strategy and to request the Minister for Planning appoint an Independent Planning Panel to consider the amendment and submissions received.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Amendment C115moor seeks to change the Moorabool Planning Scheme to implement the recommendations of the Moorabool Shire Retail Strategy 2024, adopted on 4 September 2024.
- The Retail Strategy sets out Council's vision for a retail hierarchy across Moorabool Shire, provides guidance on activity centre scale, location and supports retail development in appropriate locations throughout the Shire over the next 10 years.
- At its meeting on 7 May 2025, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C115moor. Conditional authorisation was received on 8 August 2025.
- The amendment was exhibited from 24 October to 30 November 2025, and 11 submissions have been received.
- It is recommended that an independent Planning Panel be appointed to consider all submissions. Following a Panel Hearing and receipt of a Planning Panel report, Council will have the opportunity to either adopt the amendment, adopt the amendment with changes, or abandon the amendment.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Tatchell

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council:

1. Request the Minister for Planning establish an independent planning panel to consider all submissions received in response to Amendment C115moor, in accordance with section 22 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

2. **Authorise the Executive Manager Community Planning and Development to continue to liaise with submitters and seek to resolve submissions prior to and during the independent Planning Panel process prior to Amendment C115moor being reported back to Council for consideration.**
3. **Delegate authority to the Executive Manager Community Planning and Development to consider any further late submissions received by Council in relation to Amendment C115moor and refer them to the independent planning panel.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

In 2022 Council commenced an assessment of the retail environment across the shire, as part of the development of a shire-wide retail strategy. At the same time, Council prepared a town centre structure plan for Bacchus Marsh which was an action of the *Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework 2018*.

Development of the *Moorabool Retail Strategy 2024* (the Strategy) was informed by targeted engagement with the Ballan and District Chamber of Commerce, the Moorabool Local Business Advisory Committee (LBAC), the community at Bacchus Marsh Town Centre Structure Plan drop-in sessions, and meetings with retail investors and developers.

The community provided feedback on the draft Strategy, with three strong themes emerging identifying the need for:

- Increased retailer diversity to provide an improved range of retail and services in centres.
- Centres to be accessible by public transport, walking and car, and close to where people live.
- General clothing retail to be available within Moorabool.

The Strategy sets out Council's vision for a retail hierarchy across the Shire and guidance for the development of future retail activity centres.

The Strategy provides:

- A vision for retailing in Moorabool Shire.
- A purpose and description of each objective.
- Principles for activity centre networks in growth areas.
- Actions and an implementation program.

The Strategy was adopted by Council on 4 September 2024.

Why was a Retail Strategy prepared

As Moorabool Shire grows, new retail activity centres will be required to serve everyday shopping needs and to provide central locations which promote community interaction. Existing centres will also require support and enhancement.

The Strategy ensures Council is setting clear expectations for developers and investors and provides strategic justification for future planning scheme controls which will guide appropriate retail centre development. The Strategy will assist in discussions and assessment of applications (both planning scheme amendments and planning permits) for new retail and activity centre

proposals, including those relating to the proposed new growth precincts in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan.

Retail Strategy Implementation

The objectives of the Strategy are to be implemented through Planning Scheme Amendment C115moor, which formalises the retail hierarchy and provides planning certainty for future developments.

Other actions coming from the Strategy include the *Bacchus Marsh Town Centre Structure Plan* (adopted 11 September 2024), a future Ballan Town Centre Structure Plan, and various planning and economic development activities and advocacy. The *Bacchus Marsh Town Centre Structure Plan* will be implemented in the planning scheme by a future planning scheme amendment.

AMENDMENT C115

The amendment proposes to amend the *Moorabool Planning Scheme* to implement the statutory recommendations of the Strategy by making the following changes:

- Amend Clause 02.03-1 *Strategic Directions* to describe Bacchus Marsh as a Major Activity Centre and include updates to Ballan and Small Towns and Settlements sections.
- Amend Clause 02.03-7 *Economic Development* to include minor changes to existing policy.
- Amend Clause 11.01-1L-03 *Ballan* to remove Ballan Town Centre strategies.
- Amend Clause 11.03-1L *Activity Centres* to include an updated Retail Centre Hierarchy and add Ballan Town Centre strategies.
- Amend Clause 17.02-1L *Business* to add strategies for Bungaree and Gordon and expand on the existing bulky goods strategy.
- Amend Clause 17.04-1L *Tourism* to include local strategies derived from the Visitor Economy Strategy 2024.
- Amend Clause 18.01-3L *Sustainable personal transport* to provide support for a pedestrian-bicycle link between a future Ballan South neighbourhood activity centre and Inglis Street.
- Amend the Schedule to Clause 34.01 *Commercial 1 Zone* to update *1.0 Maximum leasable floor area requirements* based on the Retail Strategy assessments.
- Amend the Schedule to Clause 72.08 *Background Documents* to include new background documents *Moorabool Shire Retail Strategy 2024* (Tim Nott with Hansen Partnership, 2024), *Moorabool Shire Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027* (Urban Enterprise, 2024), and *Moorabool Shire Visitor Economy Strategy 2023-2027* (Urban Enterprise, 2024).
- Amend the Schedule to Clause 74.02 *Further strategic work* to remove the Retail Strategy update and add an 'urban design framework or structure plan for Ballan town centre'.

AUTHORISATION AND PUBLIC EXHIBITION

On 8 August 2025, the Minister for Planning provided conditional authorisation of Amendment C115moor.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 19 of the Act, the Amendment was placed on public exhibition from 24 October 2025 to 30 November 2025. Further details about the exhibition process are included in the 'Communications & Consultation Strategy' section below.

Consideration of Submissions

At the close of the exhibition period, 11 submissions had been received comprising:

- One submission from a resident.
- Two submissions from government agencies.
- Three submissions from landowners/commercial developers within the amendment area supporting the amendment.
- Four submissions from landowners/commercial developers within the amendment area requesting changes to the amendment.
- One submission from an industrial landowner with concerns the amendment should be delayed until completion of the C119moor - Maddingley Planning Study amendment.

A summary of submissions along with a Council officer response is included in Attachment 1.

The content of submissions is summarised below:

- Support for the amendment including its' identification of new Neighbourhood Activity Centres in greenfield residential areas.
- Objection to identifying new Neighbourhood Activity Centres in greenfield residential areas in Bacchus Marsh.
- Concerns around growth impacts on the heritage, character and traffic in Ballan.
- Requests for changes to the amendment in relation to individual sites, including identifying sites for future commercial rezonings or facilitating development in other ways.
- Request for minor changes relating to the transport system.
- Concerns that C115moor may prejudice the outcomes of C119moor - Maddingley Planning Study.

Any late submissions received will be referred to an independent planning panel for consideration.

Recommended Changes to the Amendment

The Department of Transport and Planning – Transport branch provided a submission requesting changes to the ordinance and providing advice for Council's consideration. Officers have sought to resolve the issues raised in this agency submission by recommending changes to the ordinance (refer Attachment 2, orange text). These recommended changes are minor in nature, however it is noted part of the submission remains unresolved.

Options

At this stage in the amendment process Council has three options under Section 23(1) of the Act:

1. Change the amendment in the manner requested (by submissions); or
2. Refer all submissions (including any late submissions) to a Panel appointed under Part 8 of the Act; or
3. Abandon the amendment or part of the amendment.

Given the number of competing submissions, Council is unable to change the amendment to achieve option 1.

Officers recommend that Council refer the submissions to a Panel (option 2) as:

- The amendment, including the introduction of a retail hierarchy of activity centres, is supported by the strategic direction in the Moorabool Planning Scheme and the *Moorabool Retail Strategy 2024* report which has been adopted by Council.
- Changes to the planning scheme ordinance are proposed to address issues raised in submissions where appropriate.
- At this time, Council is only being asked to decide on whether submissions on the Amendment should progress through the planning scheme amendment process to an independent Planning Panel which will hold a public hearing and provide a report with its findings and any recommendations to Council.
- Should the Amendment be referred to a Panel, as recommended by officers, Council will be required to consider the Panel's report before deciding whether or not to adopt the Amendment, with or without changes, or abandon it. If Council decides to adopt the Amendment (with or without changes), it will then need to submit the Amendment to the Minister for approval.

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

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 2016*. 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.

Costs associated with the planning scheme amendment, including expert evidence and the planning panel process are budgeted for in the recurrent budget of Council's Growth and Development department.

Given this there are no significant financial implications created by the amendment.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

No specific risks have been identified in requesting a planning panel for Amendment C115moor.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Amendment C115moor was on public exhibition from 24 October to 30 November 2025.

Notification of the Amendment was undertaken by:

- Letters sent to owners and occupiers of properties directly affected by the proposed amendment.
- Letters to Prescribed Ministers and relevant statutory authorities.
- Advertisement in the Moorabool News and the Victoria Government Gazette.
- Posts on Council's social media.

All Amendment documentation was available on Council's Have Your Say page and hard copies of the documentation were available for inspection at Council's offices.

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 General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Liam Prescott

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

CONCLUSION

Amendment C115moor implements the *Moorabool Retail Strategy 2024* by providing guidance on activity centre scale and location and supporting retail development in appropriate locations throughout Moorabool Shire. The amendment is required to ensure that the Strategy can be considered in planning for existing and future developments.

It is recommended that an independent Planning Panel be appointed to consider all submissions. Following a Panel Hearing and receipt of a Planning Panel report, Council will have the opportunity to either adopt the amendment, adopt the amendment with changes, or abandon the amendment.

Cr Moria Berry left the meeting at 6.34pm.

Clare Mizzi addressed Council in relation to item 11.2.

Ross Closter addressed Council in relation to item 11.2.

11.2 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C103MOOR - HOPETOUN PARK NORTH - ADOPTION

Author: Liam Prescott, Senior Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Attachments:

1. Moorabool C103moor Planning Panel Report (under separate cover)
2. Response to Panel recommendations (under separate cover)
3. C103moor Ordinance (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

To consider the Planning Panel's report and recommendations relating to Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C103moor (the Amendment) and adoption of the Amendment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The subject land is identified for further investigation for residential growth in the *Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework 2018* and at Clause 11.01-1L-02 of the Moorabool Planning Scheme.
- The Amendment is proponent-led and seeks to rezone 62 hectares of land from Farming Zone to Neighbourhood Residential Zone, which could support approximately 400 lots.
- The Amendment includes community and open space infrastructure which will service a master planned community of 1,200 future residents and provide benefit to the existing residents of Hopetoun Park.
- At its meeting on 7 February 2024, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C103. Following Ministerial authorisation, the Amendment was exhibited from 21 March to 4 May 2025.
- Council received 32 submissions from community members, landowners and government agencies. Submissions generally relate to existing lot sizes in Hopetoun Park, impacts on native habitat and local fauna, and potential negative impacts on residential amenity, particularly increased traffic.
- At its meeting on 2 July 2025, Council resolved to refer the submissions to an independent Planning Panel for consideration.
- The Planning Panel Directions Hearing was held online on 4 August 2025 and the Planning Panel Hearing was held from 24 September to 3 October 2025 at the Moorabool Shire Council office in Darley.
- Council received the Planning Panel report from Planning Panels Victoria on 14 November 2025.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Paul Tatchell****Seconded: Cr Rod Ward****That Council:**

- 1. Consider the Planning Panel's report (Attachment 1) and accept in part the Panel's recommendations in relation to Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C103moor pursuant to Section 27 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, for the reasons outlined in this report.**
- 2. Adopt Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C103moor, in accordance with changes outlined in this report and the documents included in Attachment 3, pursuant to Section 29 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**
- 3. Submit 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

BACKGROUND**Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework and Planning Scheme Amendment C81**

Hopetoun Park North was identified for investigation as a residential growth area within the *Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework* prepared by Council in 2018. Amendment C81 updated the Moorabool Planning Scheme to support this investigation, including a strategy to:

'encourage residential growth including community facilities/amenities within Hopetoun Park where it would facilitate improved connectivity between Hopetoun Park and the Western Freeway, to and from the west.'

The Hopetoun Park North precinct is indicated in Figure 1. The land is surrounded by the Western Freeway to the north, by the existing large lot residential development of Hopetoun Park to the south, and on the east and west sides by escarpments looking over the Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District and Pyrites Creek; and Djerriwarrh Creek.



Figure 1: Extract from Plan 1, *Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework* (2018) edited to indicate site in purple outline.

Investigation of the Amendment area has now been completed, including preparation of multiple background reports relating to matters including stormwater, geology, flora and fauna, transport, and open space. As a result, Amendment C103moor has been exhibited and considered by an Independent Planning Panel.

The subject land

The Amendment land is comprised of eight lots held by three landowners totalling 62ha. The northern site boundary is adjacent to publicly owned land associated with the Western Freeway. The eastern boundary is formed by Hopetoun Park Road, a Council owned road, with access for new residents is proposed to come off this road. The southern site boundary abuts low density residential properties within the existing Hopetoun Park estate. The western boundary winds along the top of the Pyrites Creek escarpment, with the natural break of slope forming the boundary of the Amendment.

The proponent holds the largest area of developable land (58 ha). The land is currently in the Farming Zone, with existing land uses being limited to cropping, and some grazing and equine activities. Two dwellings are located within the site. There are identified areas of remnant native vegetation, particularly close to Hopetoun Park Road and areas of the escarpment. The boundary of Amendment C103moor is illustrated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Aerial photo and site boundary Source: Nearmap 2025

PROPOSAL

Amendment C103moor

The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone approximately 62ha of land from the Farming Zone (FZ) to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone Schedule 8 (NRZ8).
- Introduce and apply the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 7 (DPO7) to provide a framework for future development including subdivision, transport, open space, community facilities, stormwater management and bushfire management requirements.
- Introduce and apply the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 17 (DDO17) to manage setbacks and siting requirements for future dwellings, including to manage bushfire hazard.
- Apply the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 7 (ESO7) to two areas of biodiversity significance.

- Remove the existing Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1) and Design and Development Overlay (DDO2) which relate to rural land development.

Ministerial Authorisation

At its meeting on 7 February 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*.

On 27 November 2024, the Minister for Planning provided conditional authorisation of Amendment C103moor.

Public Exhibition

The Amendment was exhibited in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* from 21 March 2025 to 4 May 2025. Letters were sent to all owners and occupiers of properties within the existing Hopetoun Park residential estate, neighbouring properties, government agencies and prescribed ministers. A full-page notice was included in the Moorabool News on 21 March, with reminder notices included in Council's advertisement for the following six weeks.

A full-page notice was also published in the *Melton Star* on 25 March, and the *Victorian Government Gazette* on 27 March 2025. A post was published on Council's Facebook page on 21 March 2025. All Amendment information was available on Council's 'Have your say' website and the Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP) website.

Three community consultation sessions were held during the exhibition period, between 11.00am to 2.00pm and 4.00pm to 7.00pm on 3 April, and 4.00pm to 7.00pm on 29 April 2025. The sessions provided the community an opportunity to ask Council officers, the proponent (Bacchus Marsh Property Group), and their planning consultant any questions about the Amendment and future development of the subject land. Approximately 30 residents attended the information sessions.

Council's consideration of submissions

32 submissions were received. The submissions were considered at the ordinary Meeting of Council on 2 July 2025. Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent Planning Panel to hear submissions relating to Amendment C103moor.

Planning Panel Hearing

A Directions Hearing was held by video on 4 August 2025. The Planning Panel hearing was held from 29 September to 3 October 2025 at the Moorabool Shire Council offices in Darley.

The Panel considered the 32 submissions made to the Amendment, and 5 of the submitters lodged a request to be heard by the Planning Panel.

Council made the following submissions to the Panel:

- Part A Submission which was 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 and an overview on how the Amendment responds to the *Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework*.
- Part B Submission which was presented on day one of the Panel hearing. The Part B Submission expanded on Council's Part A Submission and provided a summary of the issues raised in submissions and an explanation on which submissions had been resolved and how.

- Closing Submission which was 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 Panel hearing.

PANEL REPORT

Officers received a copy of the Planning Panel report on 14 November 2025 (Attachment 1). Council identified errors in the Panel report, and an updated Corrections report was issued on 10 February 2026. The Panel report states that the Amendment is supported and has recommended that the Amendment should be adopted as exhibited, subject to some changes. The Panel report includes the Panel's preferred version of the DDO17 and DPO7.

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

The Panel concluded that the Amendment:

- Is supported by, and implements, the relevant sections of the Planning Policy Framework;
- Is consistent with the relevant Ministerial Directions and Practice Notes;
- Is well founded and strategically justified.

The Panel supports the Amendment proceeding and has recommended some changes to the Amendment in response to submissions.

Western Freeway on ramp roundabout

The Panel considered the matter of the Western Freeway on-ramp roundabout which was initially included in the infrastructure requirements for developing the area. The proponent advised DTP and Council prior to the Panel hearing that their traffic expert had identified that this infrastructure was no longer necessary and should not be constructed. The Head, Transport for Victoria, who originally required the roundabout, confirmed the roundabout was no longer needed. The Panel reached the same conclusion based on the expert evidence provided.

Council questioned whether there had been a denial of procedural fairness due to this change to the Amendment. The Panel found that there was no denial of procedural fairness on the basis that no community submissions had referred to specific support for the roundabout, one community submission queried the need for the roundabout and DTP confirmed that the roundabout was not needed.

Hopetoun Park Road and the Old Western Highway

In developing the Amendment, the proponent agreed to complete an upgrade to the intersection of Hopetoun Park Road and the Old Western Highway to address safety issues at the intersection. The Panel was satisfied that a 350 lot trigger for these works, being later in the overall development, was appropriate. The Panel also supported the proponent's request to allow this delivery to be further delayed by agreement to allow future flexibility.

An indicative subdivision plan tabled at the Panel hearing by the proponent shows up to 393 lots on the proponent's land. Following analysis of this plan, officers consider there is risk in adopting a 350 lot delivery trigger for this intersection. It is noted that there is a 43 lot difference between the indicative yield available and the trigger for the intersection works.

The proponent's lot yield has not fully accounted for required bushfire setbacks, 1500m² minimum lot sizes on the western interface and potential additional changes which may emerge through development plan preparation. If further changes reduce the developable area and ultimate yield, a yield of 350 lots may represent the upper end of what is achievable. This would

introduce a risk that delivery of the required intersection upgrades may be challenging or may not eventuate.

Officers consider the trigger should be moved slightly earlier to ensure the infrastructure is delivered within an appropriate horizon. The option to delay delivery by agreement will be maintained in the controls to allow flexibility once further design and planning work is complete.

Discussions with Department of Transport and Planning Transport (DTP-T) confirmed their preference for a lot trigger that ensures the timely delivery and completion of the planned upgrade to ensure the safety of the road network and road users.

In accordance with the considerations outlined above, it is recommended that Council adopt the Amendment with a revision to trigger delivery of the intersection upgrade of Hopetoun Park Road and Old Western Highway at the creation of the 300th lot.

Updated Amendment Documents

Attachment 3 contains an updated version of the Amendment documents with the Planning Panel's recommendations accepted in part, for the reasons outlined in this report.

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 C103moor is consistent with Council Plan Priority 2. 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 ultimately approved, then the number of dwellings and residents in Hopetoun Park will increase. Development contributions will provide significant contributions towards expanded community, road and open space infrastructure requirements generated by the proposed development. Ongoing maintenance costs for facilities and open space will need to be included in future Council budgets.

The developer has entered into a Section 173 Agreement with Council committing to deliver infrastructure. The Section 173 Agreement secures:

- 2 hectares of embellished active open space.
- An outdoor netball court with lighting to be constructed in Bacchus Marsh.
- 0.43 hectares of land and 48% of the estimated construction costs for a Hopetoun Park North community facility.

The developer will be entering into a separate Section 173 Agreement with Council and the DTP-T regarding the design and delivery for upgrades of the intersection of Hopetoun Park Road and Old Melbourne Road, and the external shared path connection to Cowans Road.

The proponent and all other landowners within the precinct will be required to provide further contributions for community infrastructure of \$1,530 (2025-2026 rate, indexed yearly) per residential lot as the land is developed.

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.

Council had previously identified a risk that the Amendment could be considered for Ministerial intervention, if Council were to delay or decide to abandon the Amendment. If Council were to determine to abandon the Amendment at this stage, the proponent may ask the Minister for Planning to consider approving the Amendment. In that scenario, any community benefits negotiated by Council (such as developer contributions, open space provision, movement network, etc.) could also be reduced or removed.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

All submitters to the Amendment were provided with the opportunity to be heard by the Planning Panel.

If the Amendment is ultimately approved by the Minister for Planning, notices of approval will be published in the Victorian Government Gazette.

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 – Liam Prescott

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

CONCLUSION

Amendment C103moor has a strong strategic justification 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 Planning 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 documents included in Attachment 3. This will enable the Amendment to be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

11.3 SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION SERVICE - UPDATE**Author:** Ricky McDonald, Coordinator Building Services**Authoriser:** Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development**Attachments:** Nil**PURPOSE**

At the 4 September 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council it was resolved to approve the commencement of the swimming pool and spa barrier compliance inspection service and to undertake a review of the program.

This report provides Council with an assessment of the Swimming Pool and Spa Inspection Service. It examines compliance outcomes, evaluates the performance and uptake of the service and reviews the staffing and resourcing requirements needed to effectively deliver the program.

The assessment covers activities and trends across the 2024–25 and 2025–26 periods, providing an informed basis for future service planning and decision-making.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council has identified that some property owners, particularly in rural areas, are experiencing difficulties in finding inspectors to attend their properties. The introduction of a Council-delivered inspection service directly addresses this accessibility gap.
- Outstanding compliance certificates have dropped from 257 to 59. This reduction directly aligns with VACG findings.
- This service strengthens Council's ability to meet obligations under the *Building Act 1993* and *Building Regulations 2018*, reducing drowning risks by improving barrier compliance.
- It also provides an essential option for residents unable to access private inspectors – critical in a semi-rural municipality.

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Paul Tatchell**Seconded:** Cr John Keogh**That Council:**

1. Notes the findings of the Swimming Pool and Spa Barrier Compliance Inspection Service review.
2. Approves the continued offering the Swimming Pool and Spa Barrier Compliance Inspection Service.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Council's Role, Regulatory and community benefit

In Victoria, the *Building Act 1993* and *Building Regulations 2018* set the safety regulations for private pool barriers.

Councils play a key role in ensuring that pool owners comply with safety regulations. This includes ensuring property owners:

- Register their pool with their Council.
- Engage an inspector to certify that their pool barriers meet safety standards.
- Lodge a certificate to Council showing their pool meets safety standards.

Increased compliance directly aligns with the intent of State legislation and strengthens Council's role in reducing drowning risks associated with non-compliant safety barriers. The service provides an accessible alternative for residents who may otherwise struggle to secure private inspections.

Compliant and properly maintained pool and spa barriers that restrict access to private swimming pools can save lives. The *Building Regulations 2018* mandate the registration of all private swimming pools and spas in Victoria along with compliant safety barriers.

In addition to the registration process, owners must also engage registered building inspectors to undertake periodic four yearly inspections of their safety barriers.

If an owner does not register their pool with the Council, Council cannot track if it meets safety standards.

Once a swimming pool or spa is registered with Council, property owners are required to engage an inspector to carry out an inspection and to lodge a certificate of barrier compliance every four years to Council.

Victoria Auditor General's Office (VAGO)

In February 2023 the Victorian Auditor General Office (VAGO) found that 816 pools or spas were registered within the shire, however approximately 46% of an estimated 1500 were not registered and Council could not be satisfied the safety barriers met safety requirements.

Since these findings, Council's building team focus on the swimming pool and spa safety has resulted in higher numbers of initial registrations and compliant barriers.

Current Process

The registration and compliance process comprises the following key steps:

1. Initial registration.
2. Compliance inspection (Form 23) undertaken.
3. Reinspection of non-compliance.
4. Lodgement of a Certificate of Compliance with Council.

Lodgement of the Certificate of Compliance is required every four (4) years and therefore provides a continuing need for this service.

Council provides a safety inspection service as part of its standard service delivery and relies on private inspectors to service the community.

The number of registered pools in the Shire has increased since the implementation of the service from 816 to 1180 to date, with the number of registered barriers to be re-inspected per financial year being:

- 2025-26 - 223 Certificate of Compliance required to be lodged with Council
- 2026-27 - 208 Certificate of Compliance required to be lodged with Council
- 2027-28 - 443 Certificate of Compliance required to be lodged with Council
- 2028-29 - 247 Certificate of Compliance required to be lodged with Council

On 4 September 2024, Council approved an out-of-budget fee adjustment that allowed Building Services staff to deliver a pay-for-service swimming pool and spa safety-barrier inspection program at a reduced cost (\$250 for the initial inspection and \$100 for any required reinspection). The intent of this service is to provide property owners with an additional, accessible inspection option and to encourage higher compliance across the Shire.

KEY FINDINGS

The review of Council's Swimming Pool and Spa Inspection Service has identified the following key outcomes:

Service uptake:

Council had to develop a process and procedure and implement this on a manageable scale to identify and refine the process and procedures. The statistics provided below are the basis of the initial process, procedures and client interface.

During the services inception period, 4 September 2024 to 30 June 2025, Council:

- Received payment and completed six compliance inspections between January to June 2025.
- Issued six Certificates of Compliance.

These modest numbers were a result of initiating the service and engagement from property owners and constraints from staff workloads.

Since 1 July 2025 to 27 January 2026, Council has:

- Received payment to complete 24 inspections.
- Completed 23 inspections with one scheduled.
- Received payment to complete eight re-inspections.
- Completed five re-inspections with three scheduled.
- Issued 19 Certificates of Compliance.
- Had one case of building enforcement issued for a non-compliant barrier.

These growing numbers are a result of Council's refinement of the service, clear community willingness to use Council's service as an accessible inspection option and advocating the service to the community.

Improved Compliance Rates

At the start of the program, 257 Compliance Certificates were outstanding. This number has reduced to 59, with Council's building teams' dedication to educating pool and spa owners of their requirements and this inspection service contributing to increased compliance and improved safety outcomes for children across the shire.

Regulatory and Community Benefit

Increased compliance directly aligns with the intent of State legislation and strengthens Council's role in reducing drowning risks associated with non-compliant safety barriers. The service provides an accessible alternative for residents who may otherwise struggle to secure private inspections.

PROPOSAL

Costs Assumption Validation

Council is required to inspect registered and unregistered swimming pool and spa barriers where no evidence of a booked compliance inspection is provided.

While these safety inspections are conducted at no cost to the property owner, offering a Council compliance inspection service enables income generation and supports improved compliance through early engagement.

Fee Calculation

The fees are in line with the cheapest options currently available to the community, assisting in minimising the financial impact to pool owners and encouraging compliance.

These calculations are based on variables such as:

- Time spent on inspecting, assessing and finalising the inspection.
- Officer cost (salary).
- Logistical costs e.g. fuel and vehicle charges.

The fee modelling estimate has been reviewed, and Council's current fee of \$250 per initial inspection and \$100 per reinspection continues to be commercially competitive.

It is recommended that Council continue offering the service and consider a modest CPI-aligned fee adjustments as part of the next budget cycle to maintain cost recovery and ensure long-term sustainability of the program.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

Priority 1.1: Improve access to services for all communities

The proposal for Council to extend the Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Barrier Inspection Service at is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The swimming pool and spa safety barrier inspection service would be provided utilising existing Council officers, without any additional resources required.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Swimming pool and spa barrier non-compliance	Near drowning or death.	High	Offer a reduced fee for swimming pool and spa safety barrier inspections to encourage compliance.

Swimming pool and spa barrier non-compliance	Council brought into Coroner Proceedings.	High	Council being proactive and fulfilling requirements under the Building Act and Regulations to reduce the act of negligence by offering a reduced fee for swimming pool and spa safety barrier inspections to encourage compliance.
Reputation risk to Council	Community loses confidence in Council in regulating swimming pool and spa safety barrier compliance.	Medium	Offer a reduced fee for swimming pool and spa barrier compliance can improve the Council's reputation and relationship with the community.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

If approved, the inspection service and associated fees would be advertised through Council's current promotional channels including social media and direct mail out.

Level of Communication	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date
Communicate to the community that Council is offering a reduced fee to swimming pool and spa owners to encourage compliance with the swimming pool and spa safety barriers.	Property owners with a swimming pool and/or spa.	Social media Council's website Printed media Letters/emails to property owners who have registered their pool and/or spa with Council.	Various	March 2026 onwards.

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 – Ricky McDonald

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

CONCLUSION

The review demonstrates that the Swimming Pool and Spa Inspection Service is achieving its intended objectives by improving compliance, operating efficiently and contributing to safer outcomes for young children within the Shire. Demand for the service indicates that the program is both viable and valued by the community.

It is recommended that Council continue offering the service with a modest CPI-aligned fee adjustment as part of the next budget cycle to maintain cost recovery and ensure long-term sustainability of the program.

12 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING REPORTS

12.1 INDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY CONCEPT DESIGN

Author: Travis Kirwood, Manager Community Development and Activation

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. Concept Design - Bacchus Marsh Aquatic Centre (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a proposed concept design for the Indoor Aquatic Facility and to seek approval to progress to the next stage of project development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council, through the advocacy prospectus, has been advocating to potential funding partners for the construction of an indoor aquatic facility.
- Following the May 2025 federal election, the Labour Government committed \$25 million towards the construction of the project. In September 2025 Council received an invitation from the Australian Government to make application for this funding and this application was submitted in November 2025.
- The Labour Governments commitment of \$25 million towards the project adds to the Victorian Government's \$10 million commitment, making a total of \$35 million in commitments from funding partners.
- Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan allocates \$15 million from Council loans, taking the total budget for the project to \$50 million, for the full project cost.
- At the 3 September Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council accepted the following recommendation in relation to the Indoor Aquatic facility:
 - Approves Officers to proceed with the design of the indoor aquatic facility, based on the available project budget and market conditions.
 - Notes that the design should aim to meet the functional areas outlined in the report, within project budget parameters.
 - Notes that once a draft design is developed, a report will be brought back to Council for consideration.
- Further designs have been completed by Peddle Thorp Architects and a supporting cost estimate sought to ensure the project is achievable within the project budget, in the current economic climate.
- Officers are seeking approval to continue to progress the design of the Indoor Aquatic facility, including the continuation of Peddle Thorp Architects to undertake the required further design of the indoor aquatic facility, with design costs forming part of the overall project budget.

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

- 1. Receives the proposed concept layout for the Bacchus Marsh Indoor Aquatic Facility, as attached.**
- 2. Approves Officers to proceed with the design of the indoor aquatic facility, generally in accordance with the proposed concept layout**
- 3. Notes that the concept design has undergone a cost estimate provided by a suitably qualified Quantity Surveyor and the estimated total project cost at this stage of the project is within the available project budget of \$50M.**
- 4. Approves the continuation of Peddle Thorp Architects to undertake the required further design of the indoor aquatic facility, with design costs forming part of the overall project budget.**

CARRIED**BACKGROUND**

The Bacchus Marsh Sports Precinct Master Plan (2020) identified the Taverner Street, Maddingley site as the proposed location for an Indoor Aquatic facility to be co-located with an Indoor Stadium (MARC Stadium). Council has been advocating to the state and federal government for funds to deliver the Aquatic component of the facility.

The current funding model for the full project cost consists of:

- \$15M Council commitment
- \$10M State Government commitment
- \$25M Federal Government commitment

TOTAL: \$50M

A high-level concept design of the aquatic facility has been prepared. The design includes the following components:

Area	Functional Areas
Aquatic Pool Hall	25m lap pool with accessible ramp
	Warm water pool to support seniors programming and rehabilitation programming
	Facilities that support a learn to swim program
	Dry Sauna, Steam Room and Spa offerings for community use (provisional, subject to available budget)
	Toddlers play area which will incorporate zero depth water play
	Supporting change facilities

	Kiosk offering
Health and Fitness Facilities	Gymnasium
	Group fitness
	Supporting change facilities

The attached concept design has undergone a cost estimate provided by a suitably qualified Quantity Surveyor, and the estimated total project cost at this stage of the project is within the available project budget of \$50M.

PROPOSAL

Officers are seeking approval to proceed with the design of the indoor aquatic facility, generally in accordance with the proposed concept layout.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

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

The proposal of progressing the Indoor Aquatic facility to design is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The adopted Long Term Financial Plan allocates \$45 million for the Indoor Aquatic facility, with \$30 million from grants and \$15 million from Council loans. With the increased funding commitment from the Labor Government the total budget for the project is \$50 million for the full project cost.

Design costs are expected to be in the order of \$1.28M and will form part of the overall \$50M budget for the project. Once the design has been finalised the Quantity Surveyors cost estimate will determine the anticipated project construction cost.

The current funding model for the full project cost is:

State	\$10M
Federal	\$25M
Council	\$15M
TOTAL	\$50M

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Delays in design progression	Funding agreements and obligations not met.	High	Continue to progress the design and obtain cost estimates.
Reputation damage	Community feedback and displeasure if the designs and project do not progress and updates are	Medium	Project updates provided to the community and government agencies.

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
	not provided.		
Project cost escalations	Costs may escalate and project costs therefore increase.	Medium	Undertake further design and costing estimates to understand the risk in greater detail.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Inform	Sport and Recreation Victoria	Project Working Group meetings	Online	2023 - Present	Ongoing advocacy to obtain required funds to deliver project since receiving a \$10 million state commitment.
Consult, inform and engage	Community	Surveys and feedback requests	Online	2020	Feedback and support sought for the location and contents of the Indoor Aquatic facility.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

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

Author – Travis Kirwood

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

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council approve Officers to continue to further progress the design of the Indoor Aquatic facility.

12.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL - REPORTS

Author: Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments:

1. Minutes - Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting - 11 August 2025 (under separate cover)
2. Minutes - Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting - 15 December 2025 (under separate cover)

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Committee	Meeting Date	Council Representatives
Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Monday 11 August 2025	Cr Sheila Freeman Cr Moira Berry (sub)
Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Monday 11 August 2025	Cr Sheila Freeman Cr John Keogh (sub)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council receive and note the following Advisory Committee Minutes:

1. Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday 11 August 2025.
2. Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday 15 December 2025.

CARRIED

12.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES - REPORTS**Author:** Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening**Attachments:** 1. Amended Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC, 23 September 2025 (under separate cover)**BACKGROUND**

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Committee	Meeting Date
Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting	23 September 2025

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Rod Ward**Seconded:** Cr John Keogh

That Council receives the Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC Amended Minutes for meeting held on 23 September 2025.

CARRIED

12.4 DRAFT ELAINE RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Author: Travis Kirwood, Manager Community Development and Activation

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. Draft Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan to proceed to public exhibition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A Master Plan was developed for Elaine Recreation Reserve in 2013, however the document was not adopted by Council and whilst some improvements have been made to the reserve there is an opportunity for a new and updated Master Plan.
- The changing community aspirations and gaps in current infrastructure provision requires an updated Master Plan for the Reserve that provides a co-ordinated and collaborative approach for its future development.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council:

1. Approves to progress the draft Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan to a four-week public exhibition phase.
2. Notes that following consultation the Master Plan will be presented to Council for final consideration.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Elaine Recreation Reserve is one of many recreation reserves in Moorabool Shire that facilitates opportunities to be physically active through organised sport and non-structured recreation. As part of Moorabool Shire's commitment to its growing communities, a collaborative master planning process has been undertaken.

The draft Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan presents prioritised reserve improvements that can be achieved within a 10-year timeframe. Current use and tenancy of the reserve are expected to remain unchanged until the long-term Master Plan is fully implemented. Future use, infrastructure provision and occupancy will be guided by ongoing demand analysis.

The draft Master Plan has been developed by consultant Simon Leisure in partnership with the Elaine Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee, Elaine Cricket Club, Tennis Victoria, Ballarat Cricket Association and broader community. The draft Master Plan reflects the Project Brief approved by the Project Control Group.

PROPOSAL

The draft Master Plan presents urgent, short, medium and long term site improvements. It is proposed the draft Master Plan, incorporating these identified improvements, is presented to the community for a four-week public exhibition period.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

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

The proposal for progressing the draft Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Upon adoption of the Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan, a quantity surveyor cost estimate will be sought for identified priorities.

External funding opportunities through state and federal grant programs have been identified as potential sources to assist with the delivery of the identified projects.

A strategic approach towards project funding will be required to implement the priorities outlined in the draft Master Plan. Priority projects will need to be considered in Council's Strategic Financial Plan and Capital Improvement Program to allow for preparation of external funding applications and consideration of community contributions.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Financial – Inadequate funds to finish project.	Funding required to implement any infrastructure priorities outlined within the Master Plan.	High	Financial resources will need to be allocated within Council's Strategic Financial Plan to meet required Council contributions for external funding applications.
Community needs are not met.	Reserve improvements identified and delivery of projects do not meet the diverse needs of community.	Medium	Implement the evidence-based project prioritisation concept documented in the Master Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Reserve Community Asset Committee and User Groups	Meeting with groups	In person at Elaine Recreation Reserve	July 2025	Meeting outcomes summarised and formed part of the site analysis and draft Master Plan.

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Sporting Associations	Liaison with Ballarat Cricket Association and Tennis Victoria	Online	July 2025	Informed site analysis and requirements of sporting activities at the Reserve.
Consult	Community groups	Community survey	Online	August 2025	Community survey open to be completed via the 'Have Your Say' Moorabool Online Community Engagement Portal.
Inform	Committee	Meeting with group	In person	October 2025	Presented initial Master Plan concept map to the CAC.
Inform	Reserve Community Asset Committee and User Groups	Meeting with groups	In person	January 2026	Presented draft of Master Plan prepared for public exhibition.
Consult	Community	Community survey	Various	April 2026	Community survey collecting feedback on draft Master Plan.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

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

Author – Travis Kirwood

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

CONCLUSION

The draft Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan considers all consultation, background information, strategic context and existing facility conditions. The Master Plan aims to respond to the needs, aspirations and challenges for Moorabool Shire Council and its communities, and outlines a clear approach to enhancing the Reserve into the future.

The draft Master Plan has been developed in partnership with the Community Asset Committee, Elaine Cricket Club, Tennis Victoria, Ballarat Cricket Association and broader community input. This was gathered via a community survey and meetings with relevant stakeholders. Further comment will be captured in the four-week public exhibition period. The feedback received from the exhibition period will help inform the final Master Plan which will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

13 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 COUNCILLOR SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY UPDATE

Author: Leanne Manton, Manager Customer and Communications

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Councillor Social Media Policy updated 2026 (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an updated Councillor Social Media Policy for adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Councillor Social Media Policy was adopted by Council in February 2025.
- The adopted policy was based on a model policy create by the Victorian Local Governance Association with input from Councils.
- Since its adoption the policy has been reviewed and minor updates are recommended.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Paul Tatchell

That Council adopts the updated Councillor Social Media Policy.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

In the Local Government Victoria publication Guidance on the Model Councillor Code of Conduct October 2024, it is stated that “to avoid breaching the Model Code of Conduct, Councillors should act consistently with any social media or communications policies or protocols that their own Council has developed to guide the responsible use of social media by Councillors”.

Councils were advised to adopt a Councillor Social Media Policy to provide guidance to Councillors in the use of social media to ensure they do not breach the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, and a range of legislative or other risks that may apply.

To assist Councils in developing a Social Media Policy for Councillors, the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) has developed a Model Councillor Social Media Policy with input from across the sector. The VLGA is an independent governance organisation supporting Councils and Councillors.

The policy was designed to enshrine the right of Councillors to fully engage with the municipal community via social media and that any policy restrictions placed on their social media activity should be limited in scope.

Moorabool Shire Council adopted the Councillor Social Media Policy based on this model policy in February 2025.

PROPOSAL

Social media is a complex and ever-changing area.

As such it is appropriate for any policy regarding social media to be regularly reviewed and updated.

The current Councillor Social Media Policy has been reviewed and minor updates have been made.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

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

The proposed updates to the Councillor Social Media Policy are consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of the adoption of a Councillor Social Media Policy.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Possible breach of Model Councillor Code of Conduct and a range of legislative and other risks.	It is advised councils maintain a Councillor Social Media Policy to provide guidance to Councillors in the use of social media to ensure they do not breach the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, and a range of other legislative and other risks that apply.	Medium	Adoption and regular review of an up-to-date Councillor Social Media Policy.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	VLGA	The VLGA conducted consultation across the sector in developing its model policy.	Various	2024	Model Councillor Social Media Policy developed.

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 – Leanne Manton

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

CONCLUSION

The updated Councillor Social Media Policy ensures Council continues to meet the Local Government Victoria advice that councils adopt and maintain a Councillor Social Media Policy to provide guidance to Councillors in the use of social media. Once adopted, the updated policy will be finalised and placed on Council's website.

13.2 DECEMBER 2025 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**Author:** James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer**Authoriser:** David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. December 2025 Quarterly Report (under separate cover)**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the financial performance for the period ending 31 December 2025, in accordance with Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This Quarterly Report provided in Attachment 1 outlines the year-to-date financial position of Council for the period from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025. It also contains a comparison between the adopted budget and the year-end forecast.
- The Income Statement reports the year to date adjusted underlying result is a surplus of \$21.209 million that is \$0.121 million favourable when compared to budget. The adjusted underlying result extracts the impact of the non-recurrent capital income items, including one-off capital grants, donated assets from subdivisions and developer contributions.
- The Statement of Capital Works reports year to date expenditure of \$9.222 million that is \$0.563 million less than budget. The variance primarily relates to the timing of contract payments and the deferral of some projects to next financial year.
- Council's cash balance as at 31 December 2025 is \$11.016 million.
- Council's overall financial position at the end of December 2025 is considered sound and continues to be closely monitored to ensure the achievement of budgeted outcomes.

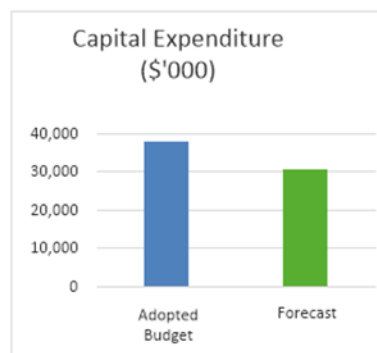
RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr John Keogh**Seconded:** Cr Paul Tatchell

That Council receives and notes the Quarterly Financial Report – December 2025, provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED**BACKGROUND**

The attached Quarterly Financial Report provides an explanation of the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and Capital Works Statement with the year-to-date actuals compared to the year-to-date budget, with reference to the annual budget. It also contains a comparison of the adopted budget and the year-end forecast.

	Year to Date				Annual			
	YTD Adopted \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	Variance		Adopted Budget \$'000	Forecast \$'000	Variance	
			\$'000	%			\$'000	%
Operating Income	54,779	55,632	853	2%	68,513	71,255	2,742	4%
Operating Expenses	33,691	34,423	732	2%	70,011	73,288	3,277	5%
Adj Underlying Surplus / (Deficit)	21,088	21,209	121	1%	(1,498)	(2,033)	(535)	36%
Capital / Non-recurrent income	7,719	1,374	(6,345)	-82%	17,825	20,635	2,810	16%
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	28,807	22,583	(6,224)	-22%	16,327	18,602	2,275	14%
Capital Expenditure	9,785	9,222	(563)	-6%	37,858	30,541	(7,317)	-19%



Income Statement

The main changes within the Income Statement are as follows:

- Year to Date Operating Income - \$0.853 million favourable
 - Favourable in "Other Income" (\$0.960m). This is mainly due to contributions received for the Western Renewables Link.
- Year to Date Operating Expenses - \$0.732 million unfavourable
 - Unfavourable in "Other expenses" (\$0.448m). This is mainly due to unbudgeted expenditure for Illegal Dumping and Planning Scheme Amendments.

The main forecast adjustments relate to the impact of grant funded projects being carried over from previous financial years and costs and income related to Western Renewables Link Advocacy.

Balance Sheet and Cashflow Statement

The Balance Sheet reflects Council's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and is prepared in accordance with the Australia Accounting Standards. The Cashflow Statement captures Council's cash movement for the period.

Council is showing a cash position of \$11.016 million, which is \$1.978 million less than the same time last year.

At the end of December, Council's Balance Sheet continues to show a strong net position. This is represented by \$953.758 million of assets which is largely made up of Council Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment. Council's total liabilities are \$53.306 million, which results in net assets of \$900.452 million.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Total capital expenditure at the end of December 2025 is \$9.222 million, which is \$0.563 million less than the year-to-date budget. This is mainly due to timing variances with contract payments.

There are also a number of projects that will be incomplete at year end and will be carried over to next financial year. These grant funded projects include Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Community & Multi Sports Hub and Woolpack Road Bridge.

PROPOSAL

That Council receives the Quarterly Report – December 2025.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025 - 2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts**Priority 4.2: Align services and resources to sustainably meet the needs of our community**

The proposal to adopt the Quarterly Report – December 2025 is consistent with the Council Plan 2025 - 2029.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no identified risks associated with this process.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

To Council, through the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 4 March 2026 and to the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee meeting on 25 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

That Council's overall financial position at the end of December 2025 is considered sound and Council notes the December Quarterly Report.

14 COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS**14.1 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 341 - INTRODUCTION OF GREEN WASTE BINS TO GORDON, MT EGERTON, MYRNIONG, GREENDALE, DALES CREEK AND BLACKWOOD**

Author: Mitchell Cunningham, Manager Environment & Waste

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Minutes - Notice of Motion No.341 - Introduction of Green Waste Bins to Gordon, Mount Egerton, Myrning, Greendale, Dales Creek and Blackwood.pdf (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

To provide a response to Notice of Motion No. 341 regarding the investigation and feasibility of expanding the kerbside green waste collection service to Moorabool Shire areas in Gordon, Mount Egerton, Myrning, Greendale, Dales Creek and Blackwood.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 3 September 2025, Council resolved to support a Notice of Motion relating to investigating the feasibility of expanding the kerbside green waste collection service to Moorabool Shire areas in Gordon, Mount Egerton, Myrning, Greendale, Dales Creek and Blackwood.
- This report provides a summary of this investigation and provides information relating to estimated costs, number of households who will benefit, timelines, environmental benefits and likely implementation timeline.
- A targeted survey of 2,802 rural properties received 616 responses, with 71% indicating they do not wish to receive a FOGO service and preferring on-site composting.
- Five townships, Blackwood, Dales Creek, Greendale, Myrning and Gordon (north of the railway and south of the Western Freeway), have sufficient interest and practical collection logistics to offer an opt-in FOGO service on a user-pay basis.
- The remaining rural areas didn't indicate support for a FOGO service as part of the survey feedback. These towns will have the opportunity to manage their own FOGO waste through methods such as on-site composting or local Council transfer station drop off.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council notes the report in relation to the investigation of expanding of the kerbside FOGO Service as an opt-in arrangement in Blackwood, Myrning, Greendale, Dales Creek and Gordon (north of the railway and south of the Western Freeway).

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Moorabool Shire Council currently delivers waste services across designated urban, rural and non-compulsory collection zones in accordance with the Waste & Resource Recovery Policy. These collection areas were established based on planning zones. Within these waste zones, households located in Urban Township areas, specifically residential and low-density residential zones such as Bacchus Marsh, Darley, Maddingley, Hopetoun Park and Ballan, currently have the option to opt into a green waste (Garden Organics) bin service.

The State Government has developed Draft Waste Service Standards where Councils and Alpine Resort Victoria (ARV) are required to provide a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service, which will become mandatory within these urban areas by 1 July 2027. Council is presently undertaking planning to support this transition and will align service delivery with the requirements of the Service Standards.

The Service Standards also recognise that, due to the geographically dispersed population within rural areas of Moorabool Shire, Council has discretion to consider the roll-out of a kerbside FOGO services beyond the urban areas.

COMMUNITY SURVEY AND FEEDBACK

To understand community support for the potential expansion of the future FOGO service, a targeted survey was distributed to all properties located within Rural Living, Conservation and Township Zones. In total, 2,802 survey letters were issued to the community. Recipients were invited to provide feedback either by completing an online survey via the QR code included in the letter or by returning a hard copy using the pre-paid envelope provided. The survey was open from 18 November 2025 until 22 December 2025. Any survey responses received after 22 December 2025 were also included in the final results, as there may have been delays in receiving these due to the influx of workload at Australian Post during the Christmas Period.

The results of the survey are outlined below:

Table 1 - Targeted FOGO Survey Results Total

Total responses	616	
FOGO – Yes	178	29%
FOGO – No	438	71%

The overarching survey results indicated a majority “no” preference to receiving a kerbside FOGO service. Among respondents who indicated a preference not to receive the service, the main reason for their response was a strong interest in home composting. As the kerbside FOGO service expansion would be non-compulsory under the legislation requirements for Moorabool, it is not required to be implemented uniformly across the rural areas within the municipality. Accordingly, further analysis was undertaken to determine whether there were differing levels of interest within individual townships and service areas.

It is important to note that any consideration to expand the service to a specific township must also consider the associated kerbside collection. For example, if Blackwood were to be considered for inclusion in the non-mandatory FOGO service, Greendale and Dales Creek would also need to be included, as they form part of the same JJ Richards Waste Services collection run.

The township-level survey results are outlined below:

Table 2 - Targeted FOGO Survey Results Township

Township	Total	FOGO – Yes		FOGO - No	
Ballan	19 (145)	7	41%	12	59%
Barkstead	6 (29)	2	33%	4	67%
Blackwood	56 (416)	23	42%	33	58%
Blakeville	2 (35)	1	50%	1	50%
Bullarto South	3 (18)	2	67%	1	33%
Bunding	2 (1)	2	100%	0	0%
Bungaree	12 (47)	5	45%	7	55%
Clarendon	14 (43)	5	36%	9	64%
Coimadai	11 (98)	3	27%	8	73%
Dales Creek	31 (199)	18	58%	13	42%
Darley	4 (18)	1	25%	3	75%
Elaine	5 (39)	0	0%	5	100%
Dunnstown	6 (36)	1	17%	5	83%
Gordon	75 (346)	21	29%	54	71%
Greendale	49 (237)	10	20%	39	80%
Korweinguboora	21 (120)	2	10%	19	90%
Lal Lal	56 (270)	7	13%	49	88%
Long Forest	28 (100)	7	29%	21	71%
Maddingley	2 (9)	1	50%	1	50%
Merrimu	7 (109)	2	29%	5	71%
Mount Egerton	61 (303)	18	30%	43	70%
Myrniong	18 (110)	8	44%	10	56%
Pentland Hills	3 (11)	1	33%	2	67%
Wallace	9(72)	7	78%	2	22%
Yendon	12 (83)	3	25%	9	75%
Blank	104	21	15%	83	85%
Total	616	178	29%	438	71%

Note – Numbers in bracket indicate total number of surveys sent out

Excluding statistical outliers within the “yes” preference results, specifically townships where only a single response was received despite a population of more than 50 properties, there is some service areas that warrant further consideration for the introduction of an optional FOGO service.

The locations identified are as follows:

Table 3 - Optional FOGO Service Location

Township	Total	FOGO – Yes		FOGO - No	
Blackwood	56	23	42%	33	58%
Dales Creek	31	18	58%	13	42%
Greendale	49	10	20%	39	80%
Gordon	75	21	29%	54	71%
Myrniong	18	8	44%	10	56%

PROPOSED RURAL ROLLOUT AREA FOR FOGO

Due to the location of Blackwood, Dales Creek, Greendale and Myrniong between two compulsory FOGO service zones in Ballan and Bacchus Marsh, and the addition of the Gordon township with compulsory zone, the combined size of the five townships and the elevated bushfire risk within these communities, it is proposed that these areas be included in the FOGO rollout on an opt-in basis. Based on the survey distributed late 2025, there are approximately 950 properties across these townships that would be eligible to opt into the service. From the survey results it is estimated that approximately 360 properties (around 38%) would initially opt in. It is acknowledged that, following implementation, additional properties may choose to opt into the service over time, potentially resulting in higher participation rates.

All these areas are currently serviced via kerbside waste collection and it is proposed that the FOGO service operate in the same manner. Due to the absence of suitable locations for centralised bin storage within these townships, and noting that the service would operate on a user-pay basis, a kerbside model is considered the most appropriate. Introducing a shared or centralised bin arrangement would present a high risk of unauthorised use by non-paying residents and would require significant ongoing administration and compliance management to ensure service functionality and cleanliness.

The rollout of the opt-in FOGO service would occur concurrently with Council's broader FOGO service rollout, which is currently in the planning phase and anticipated to commence 30 June 2027. For consistency and effective service management, it is important that all FOGO services are implemented at the same time.

With the transition of the green-lid bin to a FOGO service that includes all food organics, it is not proposed to alter the current fortnightly collection frequency. Data from other Council rollouts indicates that regular collection is critical to ensuring correct use of the FOGO bin and achieving the intended environmental outcomes.

While this approach results in a large portion of the municipality not receiving a FOGO bin, this is not considered a negative outcome. Survey responses indicate that a majority of residents in these areas do not wish to receive a FOGO service and instead meet FOGO objectives through on-site composting. Although FOGO services can contribute to fire preparedness and general garden maintenance, survey results do not demonstrate strong community demand for this function. Residents also have access to an alternative disposal option, with garden organics able to be disposed of at half price at all transfer stations, which provides a practical and cost-effective solution.

Finally, expanding the FOGO service on an optional basis to other rural areas across the municipality would result in increased service costs for all users, due to the significant travel

distances involved. This would reduce the overall cost-efficiency of the service and impact affordability for participating households.

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 to include Myrniong, Dales Creek, Blackwood and Greendale as an opt-in for the FOGO Service rollout by 1 July 2027 is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council. The proposed FOGO service would be delivered on an opt-in, user-pay basis, with all costs recovered from participating properties.

Any property opting into the service would incur a fee of approximately \$75 for delivery of the bin and caddy in 2026/2027 and an ongoing service fee of around \$100 in 2027/2028 based on current green waste collection service costs.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Community Perception	If the survey results are not considered or acted upon, there is a risk of negative community perception, dissatisfaction and reduced trust in Council decision-making.	Medium	Clearly communicate survey outcomes and Council's rationale for decisions; ensure transparency through reports, website updates and community notifications; provide opportunities for ongoing feedback.
Operational Challenges	Introducing an optional service in selected townships may create logistical challenges for collection runs and scheduling.	High	Integrate optional areas into existing collection routes; co-ordinate closely with the waste contractor; plan rollout alongside the broader FOGO service for consistency.
Community Expectations	Residents may expect a future expansion to other rural areas, creating pressure for service beyond the approved opt-in locations.	Medium	Clearly communicate that the service is opt-in and limited to identified areas; provide education on alternative disposal options; manage expectations through Council communications.

Environmental Risk	Areas that do not receive the FOGO service may have increased risk of improper disposal of food and garden organics which could impact soil quality, fire preparedness and waste management outcomes.	Medium	Provide education and resources to residents on onsite composting, garden organics management, and fire preparedness; promote transfer station alternatives; share best practice guidance and case studies.
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COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Targeted community within rural areas	Post and online	Various	November 2025 – December 2025	Support for a FOGO service was mixed as detailed within the above report.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

General Manager – Phil Jeffrey

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

Author – Mitchell Cunningham

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

CONCLUSION

Moorabool Shire is required to implement a kerbside FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) service in urban township areas by 1 July 2027. While rural areas are not required to receive the service under the draft standards, Council has discretion to consider an optional rollout within these areas. A targeted survey of rural Living, Conservation and Township Zone properties received 616 responses, indicating that the majority of residents do not wish to receive a FOGO service and prefer to manage organics through on-site composting.

Analysis of township-level responses identified five areas – Blackwood, Dales Creek, Greendale Myrniong and Gordon where there is sufficient interest and practical rationale to offer an opt-in FOGO service. These townships are located between existing compulsory service zones and are accessible for kerbside collection. It is proposed that the service be offered on a user-pay basis, with estimated costs of around \$100 per property per annum and be implemented concurrently with the broader FOGO rollout in June 2027.

For the remainder of the rural municipality, the decision not to extend the service is supported by survey feedback, alternative disposal options at transfer stations, and considerations of cost efficiency and service logistics. This approach ensures environmental and operational objectives are met, while providing flexibility for interested residents to participate in the FOGO service where practical.

14.2 KERBSIDE WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY POLICY ADOPTION

Author: Mitchell Cunningham, Manager Environment & Waste

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy, which sets out Moorabool Shire Council's approach to delivering kerbside services in accordance with State legislation and the Kerbside Waste Service Standards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy provides a framework for kerbside and transfer station waste services across Moorabool Shire, covering urban, rural compulsory and rural opt-in areas.
- It ensures that Council is compliant with the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 and supports the transition to a standardised four-waste service (general waste, recycling, FOGO and glass). Note the rollout of a glass bin from a kerbside bin perspective is deferred until after the Service Standards have been released and analysed by Council staff.
- Clearly defines service zones, service levels, eligibility and operational requirements, improving transparency and consistency for the community.
- Supports improved resource recovery and reduced landfill disposal while remaining financially sustainable and operationally practical.
- Enables a rollout of FOGO in line with Victorian Government standards and timeframes.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr John Keogh

That Council:

1. Adopts the Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy.
2. Endorses the rollout of the FOGO services to urban areas and rural areas as specified within the Policy and include the costs of the purchasing of the bins and kitchen caddies within the draft 2026/2027 budget.
3. Defers the rollout of a glass kerbside bin service until after the State Government Service Standards have been finalised and requests a further report to Council following finalisation of the standards.

In Favour: Crs John Keogh, Rod Ward, Sheila Freeman and Steven Venditti-Taylor

Against: Crs Tom Sullivan, Jarrod Bingham, Ally Munari and Paul Tatchell

The Mayor Cr Venditti-Taylor exercised a casting vote in favour of the recommendation.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Victorian waste and recycling system is undergoing significant reform following the introduction of the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* and the State Government's *Recycling Victoria* policy. These reforms are designed to standardise household waste and recycling services across Victoria, improve material recovery, reduce contamination and support the transition to a circular economy by keeping valuable resources out of landfill.

As part of this reform agenda, the Victorian Government has released draft Waste Service Standards which require Councils and Alpine Resort Victoria (ARV) to provide a consistent four-stream waste system comprising general waste, recycling, food and garden organics (FOGO) and glass. Under the draft standards, kerbside collection of all four streams is the default service model, unless a Council determines that providing a kerbside service is not reasonably practicable. Circumstances where kerbside collection may be deemed not reasonably practicable include situations where households do not have sufficient onsite space for bin infrastructure, where collection vehicles cannot safely or reasonably access properties, or where highly dispersed settlement patterns make kerbside collection unfeasible. In such cases, Councils are required to provide alternative drop-off services for the affected waste streams.

The Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy has been developed to align with these legislative and policy reforms while recognising the diverse urban, rural and remote characteristics of Moorabool Shire. The policy establishes a compliant framework for the staged implementation of the four-stream system, including the rollout of FOGO services and the continued use of drop-off arrangements where kerbside collection is not reasonably practicable.

As the service standards are yet to be finalised, it is being recommended that a decision on implementation of a kerbside glass collection service be deferred and the service in the interim to be satisfied through transfer station drop offs the Container Deposit Scheme. Following the standards being finalised, the requirements will be reviewed to allow Council to fully assess the finalised Waste Service Standards and to determine the best model for servicing the community.

This approach enables Council to meet its current legislative obligations, prepare for future service changes and minimise service disruption and financial risk to the community, while continuing to support improved waste diversion and resource recovery outcomes in line with Victorian Government objectives.

PROPOSAL

The Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy establishes a framework for the delivery of kerbside services across Moorabool Shire, in line with the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* and the Victorian Government's draft Waste Service Standards. The policy provides operational clarity, supports compliance with legislative requirements and ensures that services are delivered in a financially sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. Key elements of the policy are summarised as follows:

- **Kerbside Collection Zones:** The policy defines collection zones based on planning zones, including Urban, Rural Compulsory, Rural Opt-In and non-serviced areas. This zoning approach ensures that higher-density areas receive mandatory services, while lower-density and remote areas retain flexible arrangements.
- **Service Levels:** Standard service levels are established for general waste, recycling and FOGO. The policy does not currently set a service standard for glass as the final standards have not yet been released.

- **Bin Ownership and Management:** Bins remain the property of Council and include replacement and maintenance arrangements. Special provisions cover replacement for theft, damage or normal wear and tear, ensuring residents can maintain consistent service access.
- **Waste Service Charges:** Services operate under a cost-recovery model, funded through the Waste Service Charge applied via Council rates. Charges are reviewed annually to reflect operational and contractor costs.
- **Opt-In Services:** The policy provides a framework for optional kerbside services for commercial and industrial properties, educational facilities, community groups and recreation reserves and halls, ensuring equitable access to waste management solutions beyond residential requirements.
- **Operational Conditions:** The policy outlines collection procedures, including collection times, missed collections, partial bin emptying, contamination management and guidelines for proper bin presentation and maintenance.
- **Transfer Station Services:** Where kerbside collection is not reasonably practicable, residents may access Council transfer stations and voucher systems. The policy provides guidance on access, usage and support for non-serviced properties, community groups and opportunity shops.
- **Education, Contamination Reduction and Regional Collaboration:** The policy supports community education initiatives, contamination reduction programs and collaboration with regional partners to improve waste management outcomes, maximise resource recovery and enhance long-term environmental and financial sustainability.

This policy ensures Moorabool Shire Council is compliant with legislative requirements, provides clear guidance for service delivery and supports a community transition to a standardised four-stream waste system while maintaining flexibility to address local operational constraints.

MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL'S PROPOSED WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Moorabool Shire Council currently delivers waste services across designated urban, rural compulsory and non-compulsory collection zones in accordance with the Waste & Resource Recovery Policy. Collection areas have historically been established based on planning zones and altered where practical to do so from a collection perspective to ensure services are provided in a manner that is equitable, operationally practical and financially sustainable and the new policy mirrors this approach.

Under the future service model, the rollout of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) will be compulsory in all urban areas, consistent with Victorian Government waste reforms. This will apply to residential and low-density residential zones in urban townships including Bacchus Marsh, Darley, Maddingley, Hopetoun Park, Gordon and Ballan. No changes are proposed to existing general waste or recycling service frequencies or bin sizes as part of the FOGO rollout.

Targeted community consultation was undertaken across Township Zones, Rural Living Zones and Conservation Zones to inform the proposed service approach in these areas with respect to FOGO bins. Feedback indicated there was no broad community support for a mandatory FOGO rollout in rural and low-density areas, and in many cases limited support for receiving a FOGO service at all. This feedback reflects the unique characteristics of these areas, including larger lot sizes, on-property organic waste management practices, access constraints and service costs. In response to consultation outcomes and recognising their location between two existing compulsory service areas, it is proposed that Myrniong, Dales Creek, Blackwood, Greendale and the Rural Living zones

surrounding Gordon between the Freeway and railway line be offered an opt-in FOGO service. This approach provides an appropriate balance between meeting State reform objectives and respecting local context and community expectations.

Outside of these areas, no FOGO service is proposed for rural and remote properties at this time. Residents will continue to manage organic waste through on-property solutions or by using Council transfer stations. The existing zoning-based approach will continue to provide flexibility for households within non-compulsory areas, allowing residents to opt into kerbside services, utilise transfer station vouchers or engage private waste contractors, while ensuring compulsory services remain focused on higher-density urban areas.

No changes are proposed to existing garbage and recycling services across Moorabool Shire as part of the future kerbside waste service model. Current service arrangements, including bin sizes, collection frequencies and eligibility across urban, rural compulsory and non-compulsory areas will be maintained. The introduction of a separate glass bin will be deferred until Victorian Government standards and service requirements are formally released and assessed, allowing Council to fully evaluate operational, financial and infrastructure impacts.

Table 1 - Proposed Moorabool Kerbside Collection Model from 1 July 2027

Area Type	General Waste	Recycling	Green Waste
Urban*	120L Weekly (compulsory)	240L Fortnightly (compulsory)	240L: Fortnightly (compulsory)
Rural Compulsory(a)**	240L Fortnightly (compulsory)	240L Fortnightly (compulsory)	240L: Fortnightly (Opt-In)
Rural Compulsory(b)***	240L Fortnightly (compulsory)	240L Fortnightly (compulsory)	Not Offered
Rural Opt-In****	240L Fortnightly (Optional) or Transfer Station or private options	240L Fortnightly (Optional) or Transfer Station or private options	N/A
Remote – Not Serviced	Transfer Station or private options	Transfer Station or private options	N/A

*Residential and Low-Density Residential Zone.

** Greendale, Myrniong, Dales Creek, Myrniong and Gordon (north of railway, south of Western Freeway).

*** Township Zone and Rural Living Zone excluding Rural Compulsory (a).

**** Rural area not in the above zones and falling within a collection zone.

ROLLOUT OF NEW SERVICE AND NEXT STEPS

The rollout of the Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) service within Moorabool Shire will be undertaken in accordance with the legislative requirement to implement a standardised four-stream waste system by 30 June 2027. The rollout will focus initially on urban areas, with targeted opt-in services for specific rural communities including Myrniong, Dales Creek, Blackwood, Greendale and Gordon.

There are no proposed changes to existing general waste (red bin) or recycling (yellow bin) services within the municipality. The introduction of a separate glass bin (purple lid) will be

deferred until Victorian Government standards and operational requirements are formally released and assessed, allowing Council to analyse the implications prior to implementation.

Currently there are approximately 6,500 green bins servicing around 11,200 lots in urban areas of Moorabool, meaning approximately 5,000 new green (future FOGO) bins will be required for the mandatory rollout. In addition, upwards of 1,000 bins may be required for properties in the opt-in areas. Due to high demand and anticipated supply constraints, it is proposed that bin orders be placed in July 2026 to ensure sufficient stock is available. These bins will be stored and delivered prior to the service commencement in July 2027. All serviced properties within Moorabool will also be provided with a kitchen caddy.

Council will incur the cost of mobile bin and kitchen caddy purchase and delivery in 2026/2027, which will need to be recovered from properties receiving bins and/or caddies as part of the 2026/2027 rates. Delivery of the bins is anticipated around May/June 2027 in preparation for the commencement of the FOGO service in July 2027. Ongoing cost of the service will then form part of the annual budget in subsequent years.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 4: A Council that engages and adapts

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

The proposal Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Kerbside waste services are funded through waste service charges and therefore ongoing operations of the FOGO service will have no direct financial impact on Council. However, it is anticipated that approximately \$450,000 will be required in the 2026/2027 financial year to purchase and deliver the FOGO bins and kitchen caddies prior to the service rollout. These upfront costs will be recovered from residents receiving the service through their 2026/2027 rates.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Legislative Non-Compliance	Failure to rollout the FOGO service by 30 June 2027 could result in fines or other enforcement actions under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.	High	Early procurement of bins and caddies, staged rollout plan, regular progress monitoring and engagement with the Victorian Government for compliance guidance.
Supply Constraints	Delays or inability to procure sufficient bins or kitchen caddies due to high demand or limited supplier availability.	Medium	Place orders by July 2026 to secure stock, maintain contingency with alternative suppliers, and schedule storage until rollout.
Community	Low uptake in opt-in areas	Medium	Targeted community

Acceptance	or negative community perception may reduce program effectiveness.		consultation, clear communication of benefits and service details, and provision of opt-in flexibility for rural areas.
Operational / Contractor Readiness	Delays or errors in bin delivery or collection logistics could disrupt rollout.	Medium	Targeted community consultation, clear communication of benefits and service details, and provision of opt-in flexibility for rural areas.
Uncertainty of Glass Bin Standards	Lack of confirmed Victorian Government standards for glass bins creates uncertainty in service design and future infrastructure requirements.	Medium	Defer glass bin rollout until standards are released and analysed, monitor updates from Government, and incorporate findings into future planning.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Moorabool-wide community consultation was not undertaken for the FOGO service rollout, as the majority of changes are driven by State legislation and are therefore mandatory. However, targeted consultation was conducted in rural and non-compulsory areas to assess interest in opting into the FOGO service. This engagement helped inform Council's decision to offer opt-in FOGO services to communities such as Myrniong, Dales Creek, Blackwood, Greendale and Gordon, ensuring local preferences and service feasibility were considered while maintaining compliance with legislative requirements.

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Targeted Community within Rural Areas	Post and Online	Various	November 2025- December 2025	Support for a FOGO service was mixed. Proposed opt-in service in specific areas only as specified within the policy.
Consult	Councillors	Briefing and in-person discussion	Online / In-office	September, October & November 2025	The Policy has been developed with consideration to Councillor comments.

Involve	Internal Council Teams	Email and in-person discussion	Online / In-office	September–December 2025	Key stakeholders informed about the Policy and provided opportunity to comment on the draft.
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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 – Phil Jeffrey

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

Author – Mitchell Cunningham

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

CONCLUSION

The adoption of the Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Policy ensures that Moorabool Shire Council is compliant with the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 and aligned with the Victorian Government's draft Waste Service Standards. The policy provides a framework for the delivery of kerbside waste and recycling services across urban, rural compulsory and rural opt-in areas, supporting improved resource recovery, reduced landfill disposal and operational and financial sustainability. It also provides flexibility to address the unique characteristics of lower-density and remote communities, while ensuring transparency and consistency for residents.

The rollout of FOGO services will commence in urban areas with targeted opt-in services for specific rural communities, while the introduction of a glass kerbside bin is deferred pending the release and analysis of State Standards. No changes are proposed to existing general waste or recycling services ensuring continuity for residents. The planned procurement of bins and kitchen caddies in 2026/2027, along with the engagement of a delivery contractor, positions Council to meet the legislative deadline of 30 June 2027, manage supply and operational risks and transition the community to a standardised four-stream waste system in an efficient and cost-neutral manner.

14.3 BALLAN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY ADOPTION

Author: Adil Sundhu, Coordinator Infrastructure Development

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the final Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy (BITS) for adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy (BITS) has been developed to respond to the current and future transport challenges of Ballan, with the township expected to experience significant growth over the coming decades.
- The strategy was informed by:
 - Technical studies, traffic modelling, and future growth forecasts.
 - Community consultation through the Have Your Say (HYS) platform and Ballan Library community drop-in sessions (November–December 2025).
 - Targeted engagement with stakeholders including Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) formerly VicRoads, V/Line, schools and community groups.
 - Workshops with Council staff and Project Control Group (PCG) members.
- Feedback from the HYS, drop-in sessions and targeted engagement was reviewed and is reflected, as appropriate, in the final strategy.
- Approval is now sought to adopt the strategy and publish on Council's website.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy.**
2. **Requests a copy of the Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy be placed on Council's website.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

In 2023 Council commissioned a transport study to examine current and future transport performance in Ballan. Modelling indicated increasing pressure on key intersections, constrained walking and cycling permeability, gaps in station access and a lack of local public transport provision.

Following this work a Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy was initiated to translate those technical findings into an integrated transport framework that:

- Supports Ballan’s projected residential growth (including Precinct 5 and future precincts);
- Improves liveability and safety outcomes for residents;
- Provides a basis for advocacy to State agencies;
- Guides development contributions and infrastructure sequencing;
- Ensures new subdivisions integrate effectively with the existing township.

Council engaged Vision Zero Australia (in joint venture with Safe System Solutions) to prepare the strategy. Their methodology included multiple site visits, a workshop on active travel and the integration of community priorities into the draft. Following the first community engagement session via letters/flyers drops, email to Ballan Chamber of Commerce, Victoria Police, DTP and feedback received via Council’s HYS platform, Council officers worked with the consultant and integrated the community feedback in draft strategy. The draft Strategy was then placed on public exhibition in November 2025 for final community review. The feedback and officers’ responses are contained in the attachment.

The Strategy establishes a framework to guide how Ballan will manage transport, access, movement and safety as it grows. It considers all transport modes – walking, cycling, public transport and private vehicles – while focusing on long-term outcomes that support sustainable township development.

Key outcomes from the Strategy, to ensure that Ballan remains safe, connected and accessible include:

- Safer rail crossings with pedestrian and cycling integration, to be partly funded through developer contributions and subject to agency approvals.
- Active transport connections, including missing footpath links and a long-term pedestrian bridge linking Caledonian Park and Mill Park.
- Parking management improvements, particularly around Inglis Street and Atkinson Street near the railway station, balancing turnover with commuter demand.
- A future local bus/FlexiRide service options/feasibility study.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council adopt the Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy.

The Strategy provides a framework to:

- Provide clear direction on infrastructure investment priorities.
- Strengthen advocacy for external funding and developer contributions.
- Support sustainable township growth while preserving Ballan’s rural character.

The Strategy identifies several priority issues for Ballan:

- **Movement and access constraints** around schools, the railway station and the town centre.
- **Walking and cycling connectivity gaps**, particularly north–south across the Werribee River.
- **Car parking pressures** around railway station precinct streets such as Atkinson Street.
- **Dependence on State-managed infrastructure**, including arterial roads and rail assets.
- **Need for clear expectations for future growth precincts**, particularly regarding subdivision permeability, path networks and road hierarchy.

Recent feedback during secondary engagement supported the draft strategy direction and requested refinement in areas including:

- Clearer depiction of **active transport links** within new growth precincts.
- **Stronger safety language** relating to pedestrian and cycling environments.
- **Clarity around infrastructure responsibility** for new subdivision layouts.
- **Structured review cycle** to allow the Strategy to respond to growth.

These refinements have been incorporated at a high level to improve clarity without altering financial responsibility or delivery obligations for Council. Where feedback suggested shifting subdivision or infrastructure costs to Council, or weakening pedestrian/cyclist safety principles, this was not adopted.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2025-2029 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and safe communities

Priority 1.3: Improve access and opportunities for all modes of transport

The development of the Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy was initiated under the Council Plan 2021-2024 and is consistent with the current Council Plan 2025-2029.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Strategy does not commit Council to funding new capital works. Individual projects identified within the Strategy are subject to future:

- Budget processes.
- Grant opportunities.
- Development contributions.
- State government funding programs.
- Design development and approvals.

Infrastructure associated with new growth areas remains the responsibility of developers, consistent with standard planning processes. Similarly, arterial roads and rail assets remain State agency responsibilities, with Council's role limited to advocacy.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Financial	Insufficient funds to implement strategy actions.	High	Staged implementation, external funding advocacy, developer contributions.
Reputational	Community expectations not met if projects delayed.	Medium	Clear communication of funding dependencies.

Public Safety	Delay in footpath and crossing upgrades increases risk for vulnerable road users.	High	Prioritise upgrades in funding submissions.
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COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Councillors	Briefing Session	Online/In person	October 2025	Revised draft Strategy incorporating Councillors comments.
Consult	Community	Have our Say	Online	November / December 2025	Key stakeholders are informed about the Strategy and provided the opportunity to comment on the draft.
Consult	Community	Drop-in Session(s)	Ballan	November / December 2025	As above.
Empower	Councillors	Further briefing and presentation to OMC	Online/In person	March 2026	Final adoption of Strategy.
Inform	Community	Documents uploaded to Council website	Online	March 2026	Adopted documents publicly available.

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 – Phil Jeffrey

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

Author – Adil Sundhu

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

CONCLUSION

The Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy provides a clear, evidence-based framework for supporting Ballan's growth over the upcoming years. Engagement to date has validated the strategic direction, and feedback has been incorporated where appropriate. Adoption of the Strategy will enable Council to plan and advocate effectively without creating unfunded infrastructure obligations or assuming responsibilities beyond its control.

14.4 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - QUARTERLY REPORT DECEMBER 2025

Author: Corinne Jacobson, Manager Major Projects

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Individual Project Status Report (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an overview of the progress of Council's 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program to 31 December 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) consists of 69 projects reported to Council with the delivery principally managed by two Services Units, Engineering Services (42 projects) and Major Projects (21 projects). Six projects are managed by other Service Units.
- Delivery of the 2025-2026 CIP is on schedule with 33% of projects underway or completed and a further 30% of the projects in the procurement phase and/or awarded but yet to start.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr John Keogh

That Council resolves to receive the Capital Improvement Program Quarterly Report to 31 December 2025.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The delivery of the CIP is an important function of Council's operations and represents a significant portion of Council's overall expenditure. Accordingly, the status of the overall program is reported to Council every quarter.

PROPOSAL

This quarterly report provides Council with an overview of the progress of Council's 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program to 31 December 2025.

Implementation of the 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program

The 2025-2026 CIP currently consists of 69 projects reported to Council. This number may be adjusted throughout the year as other projects become active. Two projects have been added;

- Dales Creek Community Reserve upgrade - \$50,000 Tidy Towns grant.
- Dollys Creek Road Crossing (Moorabool River) - \$500,000 Corangamite CMA grant.

The list incorporates projects from various sources including, but not limited to, the following:

- Projects carried forward from 2024-2025 program.
- 2025-2026 Council funded projects.

- Grant funded projects.

The Community Assets & Infrastructure Directorate nominates 6 key stages of the project delivery process and will report with reference to these stages in regard to the overall program status.

The table below summarises the overall program status at 31 December 2025.

CIP Program Delivery Stage	Actual as of 31 December 2025				
	No. of Projects				%
	Capital Works	Major Projects	Other	Total	
Not Commenced - inactive/“On Hold”	1	5	1	7	10.1
Not Commenced	0	0	0	0	0.0
Documentation/Design Preparation	11	6	1	18	26.1
Tender/Quote Stage	7	1	2	9	13.0
Project Awarded – Waiting Commencement	7	5	0	12	17.4
In Progress/Under Construction	9	1	1	11	15.9
Complete	7	3	2	12	17.4
TOTAL	42	21	6	69	100

The attached report details the proposed timeframe and progress of each individual project. In addition, the report also provides comments in relation to each project and its status.

At 31 December 2025, expenditure is \$8.02M from a current budget of \$38.62M with an anticipated carry forward from multi-year projects and projects “On Hold” of \$11.82M. Of the \$11.82M, \$9.49M is grant funding some of which has been budgeted for but not received. The final outcome will be dependent on the physical progress of projects and any impacts from unforeseen events.

The current inactive/ “On-Hold” are:

Project Name	Project Description	Comment
Connor Court Drainage	Drainage Renewal associated with Melbourne Water drainage improvement.	Melbourne Water is undertaking a broader floodplain mapping project across MSC and has included Connor Court for a potential solution, which requires further survey work.
Maddingley Park Netball Facility	Upgrades to various netball facilities at Maddingley Park reserve.	The project is currently under review and subject to confirmation of scope.
Masons Lane Recreation Reserve, Bacchus Marsh	Installation of new Athletics Track.	Design is in progress and scheduled for completion in early 2026. Initial grant application was unsuccessful and construction is on hold pending successful grant funding.
Werribee Vale Road	Upgrade irrigation supply servicing Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and	Additional grant opportunities are being

Pump Station	Recreation Reserve.	investigated.
BMRRR Poultry Club	Internal structural works within the Poultry Club building.	Project on hold pending finalisation of scope with Council report planned for April OMC.
Woolpack Road Bridge	Replacement of existing Parwan Creek Bridge.	Activation is subject to successful grant funding application.
Young Street Kindergarten, Bacchus Marsh	Upgrade to Kindergarten facility.	Design is complete and construction is on hold pending confirmation of grant funding.

Program Status

Capital Works Projects

At this stage of the financial year the majority of the program is on schedule for completion by 30 June 2026.

54.8% of the capital works projects are either completed, underway or soon to commence with a further 42.9% at tender, design or document preparation stage.

Capital Works projects behind the original scheduled delivery timeframes include the Clarendon-Lal Lal Road Footpath (delayed due to extended approval timeframes, now been resolved), Clarendon – Lal Lal Road Road Upgrade / Lal Lal STEP (delayed due to contractors landscaping subcontractor availability) and Glenmore Road, Mt Wallace Road Upgrade Stage 2 (delayed due to design delays).

Major Projects

Major Projects is responsible for the delivery of buildings and open space projects. Given the complexity of some projects, the projects being delivered this year are a mix of projects finishing this year and next financial year.

At end of December 2025 the program is tracking well with the completion of three projects including Ballan Senior Citizens, Ballan office refurbishment and Federation Park, Darley. The Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve Community and Multi-sport Hub was awarded in mid-December 2025 to Bowden Corporation Pty Ltd and is scheduled to commence in February with completion anticipated for November 2026. Other projects awarded include Carberry Drive Reserve, Hopetoun Park.

In total there are 21 projects, 3 projects complete, 5 projects on hold, 6 projects in the design/documentation phase, 6 either tender/quote or construction phases. Projects on hold are awaiting either scope or funding confirmation.

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

Reporting of the Capital Improvement Program has been resourced as part of Council's budget. At 31 December 2025 the program is within budget, with 50% of projects being reported have been fully procured. The program is continuously monitored to maintain the expenditure within the budget parameters.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no irregular Risk and Occupational Health and Safety issues identified in this report. Specific risk elements are analysed and dealt with as part of the delivery of each individual project.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Progress on the Capital Improvement Program will be reported in the following formats:

- Infrastructure update on active projects Weekly
- Update on major projects Monthly
- Moorabool Matters Quarterly
- Moorabool News As required
- Report to Council Quarterly

Specific projects are communicated to the community and affected residents as required through a range of methods including, but not limited to, advertisements, mail outs and letters.

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 – Phil Jeffrey

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

Author – Corinne Jacobson

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

CONCLUSION

This report provides a summary of the progress of the Capital Improvement Program for the second quarter of the 2025-2026 period for the information of Councillors.

15 OTHER REPORTS

Nil

16 NOTICES OF MOTION**16.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 349 - REPORT ON BLUE TREE PROJECT TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**

Attachments: Nil

I, Councillor Rod Ward, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 4 March 2026, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That Council request officers prepare a report that considers the feasibility of establishing one (1) (or more) Blue Trees throughout Moorabool Shire Council to support the Blue Tree Project mental health charity.

In Favour: Crs Jarrod Bingham, John Keogh, Rod Ward, Sheila Freeman and Steven Venditti-Taylor

Against: Crs Tom Sullivan, Ally Munari and Paul Tatchell

CARRIED 5/3

RATIONALE

"Blue Trees", standing across the globe, are powerful symbols of mental health awareness which aim to promote open and meaningful conversations and assist in positively transforming attitudes towards mental health.

In 2024 there were 3,307 deaths by suicide in Australia, with an age-standardised rate of 11.8 per 100,000 people. Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians aged 15-44 years.

Key statistics (2024 preliminary data)

- Total Deaths: 3,307 Australians died by suicide, averaging around 9 deaths per day.
- Suicide Rate: The age-standardised suicide rate was 11.8 per 100,000 people.
- Gender: Males accounted for 76.5% of suicide deaths (2,529 deaths).
- Median Age: The median age of death by suicide was 46.0 years, compared to 82.0 years for all causes of death.
- Leading Cause of Death: Suicide was the 16th leading cause of death overall and the leading cause for people aged 15-44.

"Why is that tree blue?..."

This question sparks a conversation that can change everything.

The Blue Tree Project is a mental health charity that began in 2019 after the tragic loss of Jayden Whyte, a much-loved son, brother and friend to suicide in 2018. The Blue Tree Project began as a grassroots initiative in regional Western Australia which has grown into a widely recognised and impactful global charity with over 1,400+ registered blue trees across the globe.



These striking symbols of hope have resonated deeply, sparking open and meaningful conversations, positively transforming attitudes towards mental health.

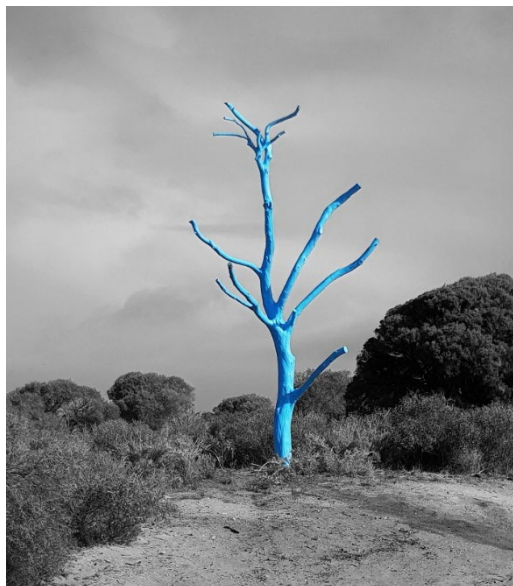
Blue Tree Project is a charity working to break the silence and the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide. What began as a grassroots movement in Western Australia has grown into a global mental health charity, driving change and amplifying the conversation around mental health.

As part of the Blue Tree Project, non-living trees are painted blue to give them a new lease on life which stems from the original blue tree story, involving Jayden Whyte and his friend Tjarda. Usually these trees are in high profile positions that will draw maximum attention and generate increased conversations.

Blue Tree Project helps through:

- Sparking conversations
- Mental Health education
- Support connection

I encourage the Moorabool Shire Council to investigate the establishment of one (1) (or more) Blue Trees as part of the Blue Tree Project and in doing so help transform attitudes towards mental health across the Moorabool Shire Council.



I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

16.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 350 - MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL TRACKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY**Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Rod Ward, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 4 March 2026, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION**That Council:**

- 1. Requests officers prepare a report outlining the feasibility of developing a Tracks and Trails Strategy.**
- 2. Present this report to Council as soon as practically possible to allow Council to consider undertaking this Strategy as a priority project in the future.**

In Favour: Crs Jarrod Bingham, John Keogh, Rod Ward, Sheila Freeman and Steven Venditti-Taylor

Against: Crs Tom Sullivan and Ally Munari

Abstained: Cr Paul Tatchell

CARRIED 5/2**RATIONALE**

The following background is provided to support this Notice of Motion.

The Moorabool Shire has a unique geographic setting, encompassing a significant area of state significant parks and places, residential growth areas and localised townships. Moorabool is located between the regional cities of Geelong and Ballarat, and shares borders with Western Melbourne's two most significant growth areas in Wyndham and Melton. Population growth of almost 300,000 people (an estimated 30% growth) between 2025 and 2035 will be on or around Moorabool's boundary over the next decade.

Moorabool's population is projected to grow by an estimated 14,300 people to 54,640 (a 35% increase) over the next decade. Key existing population centres of Bacchus Marsh (+3,300 residents) and Ballan (+1,750) will contribute to supporting some of this growth. However, it will be new development areas at the far east of the Shire including Merrimu and Hopetoun Park (+5,170) and Parwan Station (+2,800) that will experience the greatest residential increases. These new growth areas have limited existing infrastructure, particularly sport, recreation and leisure facilities. Planning for these new communities will be essential and will need to be targeted to local resident needs and activity preferences over time.

Moorabool Shire's population increase between 2025 and 2035 is predicted to be the highest in the 35–39 age cohort, followed by the 40–44. Typically, these age groups are family cohorts with children whose activities lean towards sport, active recreation, aquatics and modified and introductory sport programs.

The recently completed Moorabool Recreation & Leisure Strategy (MRLS) 2025-2035 identified the following as the most popular physical activities of Moorabool residents:

- Walking – 37%
- Fitness/gym – 12%
- Running/jogging – 11%
- Swimming – 9%
- Bushwalking – 5%
- Basketball – 5%
- Cycling/riding – 4%

It is notable from the above that the most popular of physical activities for MSC residents is a combination of walking/running and jogging, bushwalking and cycling/riding, which in total accounts for a combined “popularity” total of 57% for the respondents preferred physical activity as part of the preparation of the MRLS 2025 – 2035.

In addition, the Australian Government’s participation survey (Ausplay) collects data on sport and physical activities providing an insight into the patterns of participation from across the country. The Ausplay statistics for Victoria in 2022 (Jan-Dec) for the top 10 activities for both adults (15 years and above) and children (aged 0-14 years) are closely reflected by the Moorabool community survey responses recorded in the MRLS.

Walking (46% participation rate) and fitness/gym (38%) were the highest participated activities in Ausplay results for adults in Victoria. Other high participation activities were jogging and running (19%), cycling (16%) and swimming (16%).

It is also noted that the most recent Moorabool Shire Council Hike & Bike Strategy was completed in 2014, and whilst a number of the partially or incomplete priority projects have been included in the MRLS, the Strategy is considered out of date and not reflective of the current needs. The preparation of the MRLS did identify that community members are looking for more diverse ways to achieve their physical activity goals and connect with friends and family, and at the forefront of this change is an increasing preference to participate in activities that provide greater flexibility, are affordable and inclusive such as cycling, walking, jogging and bushwalking.

In the preparation of the MRLS respondents felt that the current track and trail offerings did not meet their needs for a variety of reasons, including lack of connectivity, concerns over the current state of trails and footpaths, lack of walking track circuits, shortage of shade, shelter and seating and general condition and functionality of facilities. Improvements that respondents wanted to see in the trail network included improved connectivity within the trail network, improved quality of trails, more signage and improved safety and accessibility

It is noted that in Volume 2: Implementation Plan of the MRLS that:

Item 1.3 - Plan and deliver facilities that offer multiple use opportunities to meet informal leisure needs, and support gender inclusivity.

The Action for this item was to “Conduct a full, shire-wide audit of all trails, linkages (including connecting footpaths) and identify the barriers to access the trail network from surrounding residential areas.”

Item 2.4 - Improve and connect the existing network of trails and bike paths in Moorabool to meet the needs of a variety of users for both physical activity and active transport.

The Action for this item was to “Develop relationships within local communities and work with partners to facilitate clearer roles and responsibilities for a more streamlined approach to trail planning, delivery and maintenance of existing (and future) trails”.

The above supports an overwhelming need for Moorabool Shire Council to undertake a new Tracks & Trails Strategy to respond to community demand and ensure fit for purpose infrastructure and spaces are provided to facilitate it. The preparation of this strategy will assist Council to manage its current trail assets and prioritise future investment, development and implementation of newly identified track and trail networks.

Future planning will have an emphasis on increasing active recreation, programming opportunities and meaningful connections within communities. This strategy will reflect the needs of our community and take into consideration the unique demographics of individual communities, including participation trends, health concerns and opportunities to increase the physical activity levels of Moorabool Shire Council residents.

It is expected that this strategy will ensure Council can effectively prioritise future upgrades, encourage physical activity, budget and proactively plan ongoing maintenance and monitor and evaluate the utilisation of tracks and trails across Moorabool Shire Council and between neighbouring Local Government areas.

The Scope of Work of the Tracks & Trails Strategy can be considered as part of this feasibility report, but as an example the following is provided:

- An audit and mapping analysis of the Shire’s current tracks and trail network and assets which capture:
 - Track and Trail locations
 - Conditions of existing networks
 - Landowner/management details
 - Areas of cultural sensitivity
 - Barriers/enablers to accessibility and utilisation
- An assessment of the current use and future demand for tracks and trails in the Moorabool Shire.
- Strategies/recommendations for addressing new trails, missing links and connectivity and realignments.
- Recommended participation and programming opportunities.
- Council’s vision and objectives for tracks and trails.

By assessing the current condition of our existing trails and their connectivity to towns, social and recreation spaces, accessibility for all and a review of use, Council will be better positioned to plan for future activation, maintenance and new infrastructure prioritisation of existing and new trails.

As part of the preparation of the Strategy Council will also explore opportunities to increase utilisation and activation of existing and recommended new trails by working with key stakeholders and community to implement programs like Park Run and Active Moorabool.

The strategy would be developed through a collaborative approach, working with internal departments, external contractors and most importantly our community. This will ensure Council

delivers a plan that clearly identifies the current and the future need, taking into consideration environmental, recreational and social issues.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

17 NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

18 MAYOR'S & COUNCILLORS REPORTS**18.1 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 Jarrod Bingham**Seconded:** Cr Sheila Freeman**That Council receives the Mayor's Report.****CARRIED****Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor – Mayor's Report****Date:** 4 March 2026

6 February	Peri Urban Councils Victoria Councillor Induction and Board Meeting, Melbourne
7 February	Peppertree Parkrun 250th Event
8 February	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial 22nd Anniversary Commemorative Service, Ballarat
9 February	Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
11 February	- Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting - Councillor Briefings – Overview of the 2026-2027 Budget and Strategic Financial Plan; December 2025 Quarterly Financial Report; Ballan Integrated Transport Strategy (BTIS); Draft Elaine Recreation Reserve Master Plan; Confidential City of Ballarat Service Level Agreement for Provision of Library Services 2026-2029; Planning Scheme Amendment C115Moor Retail Strategy (post consultation); Planning Scheme Amendment C103Moor Hopetoun Park North - Planning Panel Report; Community Grants Program Review

13 February	• MAV Masterclass: Speaking with Impact, Melbourne
15 February	• Ballarat Cup Polo, Yaloak Polo Club • Ballan Vintage Tractor and Car Show
18 February	• Councillor Briefings – Updated Councillor Social Media Policy; Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Barrier Inspection Service Update; Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan; Review of the OMC Agenda
21 February	• Councillor Budget Workshop
23 February	• Meet & Greet with Superintendent Troy Hargadon, Western Region – Division 3, Divisional Commander
24 February	• Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting • Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
25 February	• Audit & Risk Advisory Committee Meeting • Councillor Briefings – Capital Improvement Program Quarterly Report to 31 December 2025; Kerbside Transition Policy; Response to NoM No. 341 - Introduction of Green Waste Bins to Gordon, Mt Egerton, Myrniong, Greendale, Dales Creek and Blackwood; Indoor Aquatic Facility Concept Design
26 February	• Victorian Local Government Forum on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, Glen Eira • 6 Year Anniversary, Peppertree Park Run

18.2 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 Sheila Freeman**That Council receives the Councillors Reports.****CARRIED****Cr Moira Berry*****Date:*** 4 March 2026

6 February	• Peri Urban Councils Victoria Induction and Board Meeting, Melbourne
7 February	• Peppertree Park Run, Photo for Toilet block cause
9 February	• Probus Bacchus Marsh coffee with members
11 February	• ABC Radio PUCV
13 February	• Opening at Blackwood Special School, Blackwood
21 February	• Councillor Budget Workshop
24 February	• Peri Urban Councils Victoria, Delegations Strategy Meeting Online

Cr Sheila Freeman***Date:*** 4 March 2026

4 February	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
8 February	• Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial 22nd Anniversary Commemorative Service, Ballarat
9 February	• Moorabool Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
11 February	• Councillor Briefing
12 February	• Online Masterclass
16 February	• Bacchus Marsh Aerodrome Meeting
21 February	• Councillor Budget Workshop
24 February	• Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
25 February	• Councillor Briefing

Cr John Keogh***Date:*** 4 March 2026

4 February	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
9 February	• Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
11 February	• Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
18 February	• Councillor Briefing
21 February	• Councillor Budget Workshop
24 February	• Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting • Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
25 February	• Councillor Briefing
28 February	• Ballan Historical Society Annual General Meeting • A2z Basketball Grand Opening

Cr Ally Munari***Date: 4 March 2026***

4 February	• Ordinary Meeting of Council
18 February	• Councillor Briefing
21 February	• Councillor Budget Workshop
25 February	• Councillor Briefing

Cr Tom Sullivan***Date: 4 March 2026***

19 February	• Timber Town Victoria Meeting, online
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Cr Rod Ward***Date: 4 March 2026***

I would like to invite residents to attend the Coffee with a Councillor session on 14 March at Degani Café in the Village Bacchus Marsh, from 10am to 12pm.

19 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Sheila Freeman

That Council adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8.03pm.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sheila Freeman

Seconded: Cr Paul Tatchell

That Council resumes the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 8.09pm.

20 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RESOLUTION****Moved: Cr Rod Ward****Seconded: Cr Paul Tatchell**

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*:

20.1 City of Ballarat Service Level Agreement for Provision of Library Services 2026-2029

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - 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 if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

20.2 PA 2703-0110 Bulk Fuels

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.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Rod Ward****Seconded: Cr Sheila Freeman**

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

CARRIED

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 8.18pm.

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CHAIRPERSON