



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 2 April 2025

Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2025

Time: 6.00pm

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

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1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

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

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

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

4 PRESENT

Cr Paul Tatchell, Mayor

Cr Rod Ward, Deputy Mayor

Cr Moira Berry

Cr Jarrod Bingham

Cr Sheila Freeman

Cr John Keogh

Cr Ally Munari

Cr Tom Sullivan

Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor

Officers:

Mr Derek Madden

Chief Executive Officer

Ms David Jackson

General Manager Customer & Corporate Services

Mr Phil Jeffrey

General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Ms Leigh Callum

General Manager Community Strengthening

Mr Henry Bezuidenhout

Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Mr Joseph Spiteri

Manager Governance & Civic Support

5 APOLOGIES

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

7 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Jessica Robertson addressed Council in relation to Item 9.1.

Judith Bailey addressed Council in relation to Item 9.1.

9.1 PETITION - TO CHANGE THE SPEED LIMIT ON YANKEE FLAT ROAD FROM 100KM/H TO 80KM/H FROM NAVIGATORS ROAD TO RAMAGE ROAD AND FROM 80KM/H TO 60KM/H, FROM RAMAGE ROAD TO MOUNT BUNINYONG ROAD, AND INSTALL PERMANENT SPEED CAMERAS ALONG YANKEE FLAT ROAD FROM RAMAGE ROAD TO MOUNT BUNINYONG ROAD, TO MONITOR SPEEDING

Author: Pamela Roncon, Co-ordinator CEO's office

Authoriser: Joseph Spiteri, Manager Governance & Civic Support

Attachments:

1. Letter to Moorabool Shire Council (under separate cover)
2. Petition (under separate cover)
3. Radar Speed Data (under separate cover)
4. Email - Michaela Settle, Member for Eureka (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

Council has received a Petition containing 37 signatures from the President of the Koala Alliance Inc.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Petition states and seeks:

- Permanent reduction of the speed limit from 80km/h to 60km/h along Yankee Flat Road, from Ramage Road to Mount Buninyong Road.
- Permanent reduction of the speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h along Yankee Flat Road from Navigators Road to Ramage Road.
- Collaboration with Victoria Police to install a permanent speed camera to enforce the reduced speed limit between Ramage Road and Buninyong Road.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Keogh

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council:

1. Resolves to receive the petition containing 37 signatures seeking permanent reduction of speed limits on Yankee Flat Road from Ramage Road to Mount Buninyong Road, Yankee Flat Road from Navigators Road to Ramage Road and that Moorabool Shire Council collaborate with the Victorian Police to install a permanent speed camera between Ramage Road and Mount Buninyong Road.
2. Requests Council officers prepare a report for Council's consideration pertaining to the petitioner's request.

CARRIED

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.

Manager – Joseph Spiteri

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

Author – Pamela Roncon

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

CONCLUSION

Council received a petition containing 37 signatures from the President, Koala Alliance Inc. seeking the permanent reduction of the speed limit along Yankee Flat Road from Ramage Road to Mount Buninyong Road, Yankee Flat Road from Navigators Road to Ramage Road and collaboration occur between Council and Victoria Police to install a permanent speed camera between Ramage Road and Buninyong Road.

10 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Item	Report	Speaker/s	Attendance
9.1	Petition - To change the speed limit on Yankee Flat Road from 100km/h to 80km/h from Navigators Road to Ramage Road and from 80km/h to 60km/h, from Ramage Road to Mount Buninyong Road, and install permanent speed cameras along Yankee Flat Road from Ramage Road to Mount Buninyong Road, to monitor speeding	Jessica Robertson, Koala Alliance	In Person
		Judith Bailey, DarkSky Victoria, Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare, Friends of Canadian Corridor, Koala Alliance	In Person

11 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING REPORTS**11.1 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 - 9 December 2024 (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 9 December 2024	Cr Sheila Freeman Cr Moira Berry (sub)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Moira Berry

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 9 December 2024.

CARRIED

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

Attachments:

1. Minutes - Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall CAC, 31 October 2024 (under separate cover)
2. Minutes - Millbrook Community Centre CAC, 7 November 2024 (under separate cover)
3. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC, 25 November 2024 (under separate cover)
4. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC, 20 January 2025 (under separate cover)
5. Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC, 28 January 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
Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	31 October 2024
Millbrook Community Centre Community Asset Committee Meeting	7 November 2024
Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	25 November 2024
Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting	20 January 2025
Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting	28 January 2025

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council receives the following Community Asset Committee Minutes:

- 1. Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 31 October 2024.**
- 2. Millbrook Community Centre CAC Minutes for meeting held on 7 November 2024.**
- 3. Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 25 November 2024.**
- 4. Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 20 January 2025.**
- 5. Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge CAC Minutes for meeting held on 28 January 2025.**

CARRIED

12 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**12.1 AUDIT AND RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL - REPORTS****Author:** Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Summary of Minutes - 11 December 2024 (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
Audit and Risk Advisory Committee	Wednesday 11 December 2024	Cr Moira Berry Cr Paul Tatchell Cr Rod Ward (Sub)

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

That Council receives the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Summary of Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2024.

CARRIED

12.2 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Author: Leanne Manton, Manager Customer and Communications

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Draft Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2027 (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

This report provides Councillors with the draft Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2027 for endorsement for a period of community consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2027 has been developed following initial community engagement.
- The draft document is ready to be considered by the community for feedback prior to final update and presentation for adoption by Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council:

1. Endorses community engagement of the draft Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2027 for a period of four weeks.
2. Notes that following consultation, the strategy will be presented to Council for final consideration and adoption at a later date.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Council Plan 2021-2025 includes the action Review the Customer Experience Strategy.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 1 May 2024 Council approved a four-week period of initial public consultation to inform a renewed strategy. The consultation ran during May 2024.

The community consultation survey received 135 responses from customers throughout the Shire. Analysis of this feedback indicated that the current strategy and charter remain aligned with current expectations of Council's customers and community.

This also aligns with results from Council's Voice of the Customer program and results of the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey.

PROPOSAL

A new strategy has been drafted and will provide a roadmap for the next 2-3 years with a focus on addressing key pain points for customers.

Key actions proposed in the new Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2027 (the Strategy) are:

- Design and implementation of additional online forms to allow customers to self-serve via the website.
- Consideration of new and innovative ways of supporting and enhancing the customer experience e.g. leveraging artificial intelligence (AI).
- Reviewing our Customer Charter and associated service commitments and designing a refreshed charter in line with this review.
- Continuing to improve the customer online portal MyMoorabool to increase customer self-service options.
- Implementation and promotion of smartphone application (app) technology to allow customers to make reports and receive Council communications via the app.
- Updating of our Complaints Management Policy and Procedure.
- Review and improvement of customer experience reporting to the public for transparency.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 3: A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities

Priority 3.5: Be recognised for demonstrating a culture of excellence, creativity and inclusiveness

The proposal to present the Strategy for final community engagement is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with the drafting of the Strategy and further consultation.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Reputation with community and stakeholders	Strategy does not meet customer wants or needs	Medium	Council providing draft strategy based on community feedback for further consultation to ensure it meets expectations

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Residents	Feedback form	Online with hard copies available	April-May 2025	Will provide final feedback from the community on the draft Customer

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
					Experience Strategy
Consult	Staff, particularly those who participated in workshops during initial consultation period	Feedback form	Online with hard copies available	April-May 2025	Will provide final feedback from the community on the draft Customer Experience Strategy

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 draft Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2027 has been developed following initial community engagement and is now ready for presentation to the community for final review and feedback. Following this, the strategy will be finalised and presented to Council for adoption at a later date.

13 COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

13.1 RESPONSE TO THE BLACKWOOD PETITION

Author: Michael Seifollahi, Senior Project Engineer

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

At the December 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council, a petition signed by 43 residents was received, requesting that Council address concerns regarding the recently installed guardrail at the bus stop on Martin Street, citing obstruction of visibility. Additionally, petitioners highlighted safety risks, noting that children were climbing on the rail and could potentially fall onto the concrete below. This report presents a review of the issue and provides a formal response to the petition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Moorabool Shire Council received a petition containing 43 signatures, requesting the removal of the bus stop handrail which was installed as part of Blackwood Township Improvement Works.
- The Blackwood Bus stop and connecting footpath have been upgraded to comply with all current relevant standards.
- Considering the drop of approx. 200mm from top of the bus stop to the adjacent private property, and batter slope of steeper than 1 to 5, a partial barrier fence is required in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and Guidelines.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council:

1. **Replaces the existing fence in front of 15 Martin Street, Blackwood, with a timber and wire fence similar to the fence recently installed along Martin Street.**
2. **Requests that officers notify the convener of the petition of the decision.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

A CIP project, Blackwood Township Improvement Works, were completed on 2 October 2024. As part of these works, existing bus stop and connecting footpath were upgraded. The design of the upgrade works complied with the relevant Australian Standards and Acts.

There is a difference in the finished surface level of the reconstructed footpath and the adjacent property (No. 15 Martin Street), and the steep slope of the existing batter away from the footpath.

In accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and Acts, a partial barrier fence with height of 1.2 to 1.4m is required in order to mitigate the risk of falling of footpath users.

At the December Ordinary Meeting of Council, a petition signed by 43 residents was submitted stating the following:

We, the undersigned, petition the Council to address the issues of the installation of the guardrail at the bus stop.

The community has long expressed its desire to maintain the iconic view to the west and its resistance to the installation of anything which interrupts the view.

Far from being a safety measure, this rail has attracted children to play on it, risking a fall onto the concrete below.

We request that the rail be removed immediately, and alternatives explored in consultation with the community.

Council Officers met with the Petitioners on 27 February 2025 in order to discuss the available options, Petitioners were requested to inform Council of their preferred options and preference.

The following was sent to Council in an email dated 3 March 2025.

First preference: maintain the existing fence, replacing the guard rail pipe with 10mm plate and painting with a “disappearing” colour similar to the existing drab grey green (sprayed on by some unknown local). Use the savings from this cheap alternative to fund procurement of three extra seats for the bus stop/scenic viewing area.

Second preference: replace with a fence similar to the one across the road (wooden posts with stainless steel wire).

Third preference: incorporate a bench seat onto the existing fence, adding 10mm back support plate and 10mm plate replacing guard rail pipe.”

PROPOSAL

A review of the installed fence was undertaken in relation to the obstruction of visibility and safety risks to children. Petitioners preferred options were also reviewed.

It is recommended not to remove the fence as it is required in accordance with the appropriate standards and guidelines but replace it with a timber and wire fence similar to the one recently installed along the east side of Martin Street. The total cost will be approximately \$5,000 (excluding GST).

This option was discussed with the convener of the petition in a meeting on 27 February 2025.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods

Priority 1.2: Improve access and opportunities for integrated transport

The proposal is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications associated with the recommendation within this report is approximately \$5,000 (excluding GST). The works will be an overspend on this CIP project.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no risk and occupational health & safety issues associated with the recommendation.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Inform	Petition Convener	Outcomes of the Report to Council provided to the petition convener	N/A	April 2025	Stakeholder/s advised of outcome

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 – Michael Seifollahi

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

CONCLUSION

Council received a petition requesting actions be undertaken to remove the fence along the footpath/bus stop at Blackwood Township, and alternative options be explored.

Noting the drop of approximately 200mm from top of the bus stop to the adjacent private property, and batter slope of steeper than 1 to 5, it is recommended not to remove the fence but replace it with a timber and wire fence.

13.2 DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Author: Dimitrios Russo, Senior Landscape Architect

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Draft Moorabool Open Space Strategy (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the Moorabool Open Space Strategy and seek Councillor approval to undertake public exhibition on the draft strategy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In alignment with the objectives outlined in the Council Plan 2021-2025, the development of the Open Space Strategy has been identified as a key priority to guide the future planning, management and enhancement of open spaces across Moorabool Shire.
- Initially @Leisure Planners were engaged to undertake the foundational research, background investigations and analytical assessments necessary to inform the development of the strategy.
- As part of their engagement, @Leisure Planners conducted a comprehensive review of open space strategies from surrounding Councils, along with a detailed analysis of Moorabool Shire's existing open space network, community consultation, community needs and future demands. This extensive body of work culminated in the development of four key volumes, which have since served as internal working documents for Council. These volumes include:
 - Volume 1: Strategy – Outlining the overarching vision, principles and strategic directions for open space planning.
 - Volume 2: Locality Analysis – Providing a detailed assessment of open space provisions, gaps and opportunities within specific localities across the Shire.
 - Volume 3: Appendices – Containing supporting data, mapping and technical information relevant to the strategy.
 - Volume 4: Planning Open Space in New Development – Offering guidance on the integration of open space in future residential and commercial developments.
- Council staff have utilised the background documents as a foundation to prepare the Draft Open Space Strategy.
- Following the community consultation and development of background reports, a series of internal workshops have been conducted to review and refine both the background documents and the Draft Open Space Strategy, ensuring alignment with Council priorities, community needs and best practice planning principles.

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan****Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham****That Council:**

1. **Endorses the draft Open Space Strategy for the purpose of community engagement for a four-week period.**
2. **Requests that a further report be presented following the engagement period.**

CARRIED**BACKGROUND**

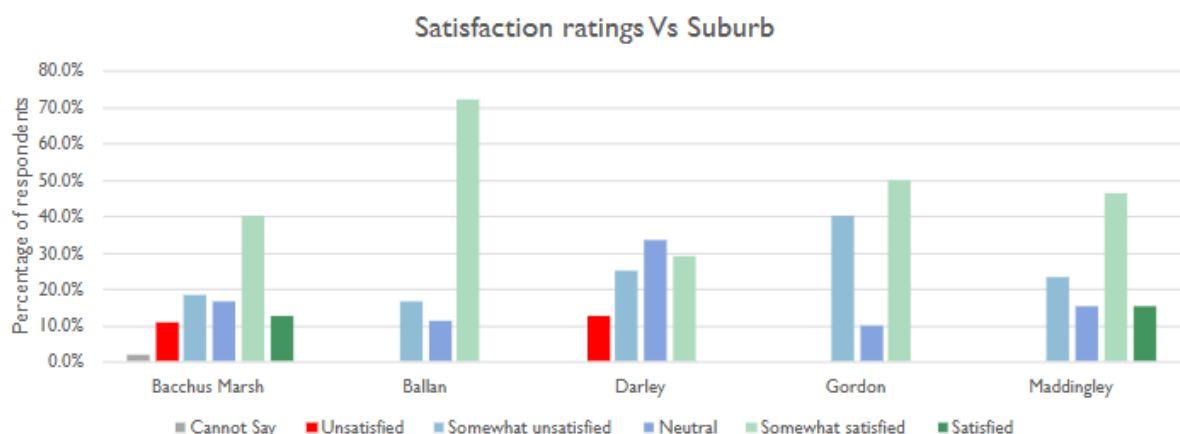
In accordance with the Council Plan, the Moorabool Shire Open Space Strategy was identified for development within the 2023-2024 financial year. The strategy is now being brought for consideration, with the objective of seeking approval for public exhibition.

To support the strategy's development, Council engaged @Leisure Planners as a consultant to prepare comprehensive background documents. These documents provided critical research, analysis and insights to inform the strategy. Based on this foundation, Council staff proceeded with the development of the Draft Open Space Strategy.

The process began with an initial community consultation, in which 142 community members from diverse age groups and localities participated. The feedback received was extensive and showed that residents were generally satisfied with open space offering, however highlighted some concerns, particularly around existing open space facilities and a perception that many open spaces lack appropriate infrastructure to meet community needs.

Given this community input, the Draft Open Space Strategy aims to provide a strategic framework for improving, enhancing, and better aligning open spaces with community expectations.

Suburb	Responses						Total
	Cannot Say	Unsatisfied	Somewhat unsatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Satisfied	
Bacchus Marsh	1.8%	10.9%	18.2%	16.4%	40.0%	12.7%	55
Ballan	0	0	16.7%	11.1%	72.2%	0	18
Darley	0	12.5%	25.0%	33.3%	29.2%	0	24
Gordon	0	0	40.0%	10.0%	50.0%	0	10
Maddingley	0	0	23.1%	15.4%	46.2%	15.4%	13
Total (count)							120



Following the consultation @Leisure Planners undertook a detailed review of surrounding Council's Open Space Strategies and an analysis of the existing Open Space needs and demands throughout Moorabool Shire. This resulted in four volumes which are utilised as Council working documents. These include:

- Volume 1: Strategy
- Volume 2: Locality Analysis
- Volume 3: Appendices
- Volume 4: Planning Open Space in New Development

Council staff developed the Draft Open Space Strategy which provides a clear direction for the planning of open space across the Shire, including in greenfield development areas, and meeting the community's needs today and into 2030. The brief for this Open Space Strategy required the following items to be addressed:

1. A classification system/hierarchy for public open space defining non-encumbered vs encumbered Open Space.
2. Levels of service for each hierarchy level.
3. Future Actions for the strategic period.

PROPOSAL

An open space strategy is important because it provides a structured plan to protect, develop and manage public open spaces within a community, ensuring that current and future residents have access to quality green areas for exercise, recreation, social interaction, environmental benefits and overall well-being, especially as populations grow and urban environments change; essentially acting as a roadmap to address the evolving needs of a community regarding open space access and quality.

The Moorabool Draft Open Space Strategy comprises the following main components and builds on the previously prepared Background Analysis document. The strategy includes:

- Part 1: Introduction, which includes a glossary, document structure, purpose, strategic framework and the definition of Public Open Space.
- Part 2: Vision, which demonstrates how this document fits within the strategic framework of Council and the principles that guide the strategy's direction. All principles are consistent with the State Planning Policy (Clause 11. Settlement, Moorabool Planning Scheme 2021).
- Part 3: Open Space Classification system, which demonstrates each type of classification. These are primary function, catchment, landscape setting and settlement types.
- Part 4: Applying this strategy, provides examples on how to apply the classification system in-line with the overarching strategic values and principles
- Part 5: Actions, provides a 5-year action plan or the duration of the Open Space Strategy.

The draft Open Space Strategy aims to address any uneven design and delivery of open space throughout the Shire both within Council projects and gifted assets.

It is proposed to take the draft strategy to the community for public exhibition. The primary focus of this consultation is on the actions proposed within the strategy.

Following this, final content and design edits will be made and proposed to be brought back to Council to adopt the strategy in June 2025.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 2: Liveable and thriving environments

Priority 2.2: Beautify our Shire including our parks, gardens, streetscapes, public and open spaces

The proposal to consult and complete the Open Space Strategy is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development of the strategy has been funded from adopted Council budgets. The strategy has a number of actions with budgetary requirements that will require budget proposals to be developed as part of the annual budget process.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

No specific risks have been identified in undertaking community consultation on the Strategy.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Involve	Internal Council Teams	Email and In-person discussion	Online / In-office	2022	Key stakeholders are informed about the strategy and provided the opportunity to comment on the draft.
Involve	Stakeholders	Workshop on background document	Various	2023	Feedback and suggestions were incorporated into background document
Involve	Stakeholders	Workshops on Strategy	Various	2024	Feedback and suggestions were incorporated into draft strategy

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 – Dimitrios Russo

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

CONCLUSION

The draft Moorabool Shire Open Space Strategy 2025-2030 has been developed through a detailed process which included community and stakeholder consultation. It is requested Council resolve to present the draft strategy to the community for a four-week period. At the end of the public exhibition period the final Open Space Strategy will be presented to Council for consideration.

13.3 WOMBAT STATE FOREST - JUNE 2021 STORM RECOVERY - URGENT BUSINESS ITEM

Author: Cherie Graham, Chief Emergency Management Officer

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

At the 5 February 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council, a motion was passed that a report be prepared and brought back to Council that provides recommendation, directions, and strategies to ensure the safety of the residents of the small towns that are located within and nearby the Wombat State Forest.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In June 2021, a storm impacted the majority of Moorabool Shire Council and caused extensive damage to both private property and the Wombat State Forest.
- Funding was provided to Council by Emergency Recovery Victoria to work with affected communities on social and community recovery after this event.
- Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) as part of Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) are responsible for the recovery management within the Wombat State Forest.
- Moorabool Shire Council along with Hepburn Shire Council and Macedon Ranges Shire Council provided correspondence detailing concerns about the impact to the Wombat State Forest early in the Storm Recovery process and Moorabool provided a follow up letter of advocacy after a further request from Council in March 2024 with a response received from the Minister in June 2024.
- FFMVic have led the Central Highlands Storm Recovery Team since the event and are funded to be in place until June 2026.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council resolves to:

1. Invite the June 2021 Storm Recovery Team from FFMVic to present to Council on the status of clean up and fire mitigation works in the Wombat State Forest including the removal of trees in close proximity to Moorabool's towns and hamlets within and around the forest.
2. Writes to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action advocating for regular updates on the status of clean up and recovery works in the Wombat State Forest for community and Council.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

This information provides the background and community information being provided from the FFMVic Storm Team on the status of clean up and the recovery.

Wombat State Forest Impact

The 2021 storm impacted around 45,000 hectares across the Wombat State Forest – approximately 1,600 hectares was severely impacted.

Key issues are to manage storm debris and hazardous trees which can:

- Increase fuel for a bushfire.
- Block access for community, and vital firefighting personnel and equipment.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) have an obligation to ensure the safety of communities, and the protection of the environment from the risk of bushfires.

The severely impacted areas (approximately 1,600 hectares or 4% of the impacted area) are being addressed for fire risk. They are not removing every tree that has fallen during the storms, only those that are necessary to reduce bushfire and other safety risks.

This is not commercial timber harvesting operations.

Without these works they would not be able to keep the community in and around the Wombat State Forest safe.

Due to the extent of the damage, this is a multi-year program to reduce bushfire risk from the storm debris. They are continuing to prioritise areas that pose the biggest fire safety risk.



Images of the Daylesford-Trentham Road impacts and clean up

Timeline

Works are currently underway. The agency is expecting to complete the program to reduce bushfire risk in storm-affected areas of the Wombat State Forest by June 2026, weather permitting.

Debris management

They are removing some fallen trees. These can generate significant radiant heat and block essential firefighting access during a bushfire. They do not remove every tree that has fallen during the storms, only those that are necessary to reduce bushfire and other risks. Some trees that have fallen are left for wildlife habitat.

Supporting the environment during storm recovery

The storm, like a bushfire, significantly damaged the forest.

As DEECA did after the 2019–2020 fires, they support the plants and animals that live there while it recovers.

This means recovery and bushfire risk reduction works may also include:

- Biodiversity surveys to check for environmental values
- Excluding sensitive areas from works
- Re-planting indigenous plant species
- Repairing tracks following operations
- Minimising soil disturbance
- Treating invasive weeds
- Creating new tree hollows for animals in storm-affected areas
- Installing rope bridges that connect animals with habitat

What progress has been made so far?

They have graded more than 100 km of roads, cleared 1,400 km of roads and fire access tracks of hazardous debris, and reopened them in both the Wombat State Forest and Cobaw State Forest.

In the Wombat State Forest, they have:

- Addressed fire risk in 387 hectares out of 1638 hectares to date
- Created more than 185 nesting hollows for threatened wildlife in the Wombat State Forest, and 300 on private property
- Installed three rope bridges between trees to connect habitat for animals
- Provided firewood for the community

Where is the timber and debris going?

Windblown timber that is removed from the forest during storm recovery works is made available as domestic firewood and to support local businesses.

Debris has also been given a second life as fencing posts back into affected local communities, plant stakes and wood wool for animal bedding, among other things. Root balls are being used for fish habitat along streams.

PROPOSAL

The FFMVic Storm Recovery Team have continued to visit and undertake community information sessions in the Barkstead, Blackwood, and other areas during the Wombat State Forest recovery process.

They have established an extensive webpage focussed on the storm recovery with an interactive map that details the status of clean up in the areas and includes many of the communities in Moorabool that are around or within the Wombat State Forest.

Much of the detail and status of clean up detail in this report has been extracted from the website.

FFMVic storm recovery team members attended many of the Council Community Storm Recovery Hubs during the 2 years after the initial storm and the emergency management team have attended information sessions in Blackwood and Barkstead during 2023 and 2024 where updates on clean up and risk mitigation works in the Wombat State Forest have been provided to the community.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 3: A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities

Priority 1.1: Improve the health and wellbeing of our community

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil for Council.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risks are detailed by FFMVic regarding hazard trees and bushfire risk.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Inform	Community	Share messaging from the FFMVic/DEECA Storm Recovery Team	Various	Ongoing until June 2026	Awareness

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 – Cherie Graham

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

CONCLUSION

Moorabool Shire Council has worked with many agencies and communities during the storm recovery which impacted the community, social, infrastructure, environment, cultural heritage, and economic components of the affected areas since June 2021.

FFMVic and DEECA led the Timber Utilisation team for the Central Highlands area (Moorabool, Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Shires) which included the early clean up in the Wombat State Forest and the re-use of timber for community and environmental benefit.

The Team attended many Recovery Hubs, Recovery BBQs and Anniversary Events providing information and updates over the initial 2 years of the Recovery. The FFMVic and DEECA teams have held community update sessions since that time in 2023 and 2024 in Barkstead, Korweinguboorra and Blackwood with works update flyers provided to communities via social media and letterbox drops.

The clean-up and bushfire mitigation works, and program are continuing through to June 2026 and an invitation to the team to provide an update and answer any questions from Councillors could be an avenue for continued advocacy for the Moorabool communities.

A further letter to DEECA could provide continued advocacy on behalf of communities living in and around the Wombat State Forest.

13.4 HARD WASTE DROP OFF, FREE GREEN WASTE AND HALF PRICE MATTRESSES - THREE YEAR TRIAL REVIEW

Author: Ekta Jayaswal, Coordinator Sustainable Environment

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

This report is to provide an analysis and evaluation of the outcomes observed over the three-year trial period since 2022, focusing on hard waste, free green waste and half-price mattress month. This report aims to assess the effectiveness, benefits, challenges and overall impacts of these initiatives on the Moorabool Shire community, waste management efficiency and environmental sustainability.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the 6 April 2022 OMC, a combined report in response to Notice of Motion 298 Hard Waste Collection and 299 Transfer Station Vouchers was considered with a resolution to provide a three-year trial for transfer station vouchers, free green waste month and half-price mattress month.
- This report evaluates the effectiveness of the three-year trial (2022 – 2025) of the hard waste drop-off, free green waste and half-price mattress disposal, by offering affordable disposal options, in an attempt to reduce illegal dumping and aiding in fire season preparation and clean ups.
- It is inconclusive in relation to its success in reducing the volume of dumped rubbish in the Shire.
- The transfer station voucher showed strong initial usage, while green waste disposal peaked in November, demonstrating its importance for fire season preparedness. The half-price mattress month was successful, encouraging proper mattress disposal and reducing illegal dumping.
- This report recommends improving promotion, raising awareness and implementing educational programs and media campaigns to boost participation should it continue.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor

That Council approves the transition of the trial into an ongoing annual program at each transfer station for the 1m³ hard waste drop-off, free green waste month and half-price mattress month.

Cr Sullivan called for a division:

In Favour: Crs Jarrod Bingham, Moira Berry, Rod Ward and Steven Venditti-Taylor

Against: Crs Tom Sullivan, John Keogh, Ally Munari, Paul Tatchell and Sheila Freeman

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MOTION LOST 4/5

BACKGROUND

At the 6 April 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council Officers presented a detailed report in response to Notice of Motion 298 and 299 outlining key considerations regarding the potential implementation of a Hard Waste Collection Service and a Transfer Station Voucher. Council resolved to proceed with a three-year trial with following consideration:

- One 1m³ hard waste drop off service issued annually with rates notice commencing in the 2022/2023 financial year.
- Introduction of free green waste month in November and half-price mattress month in March at transfer stations commencing in the 2022/23 financial year.

This included the following increment in the waste management charges:

- A \$19 increase per tenement of the Waste Management Charge for the provision of 1 x 1m³ hard waste drop off service.
- A \$7 increase per tenement of the Waste Management Charge for the provision of free green waste and half-price mattress month at transfer stations.

The above fees have been reviewed annually as part of the budget process and have been reduced since its introduction. The trial would allow for an evaluation of both services by monitoring ratepayer participation, service demand and overall effectiveness. The collected data and findings would then serve as the foundation for assessing whether one or both initiatives should be permanently adopted as ongoing services for residents with the Moorabool Shire Council.

The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 was adopted in 2020/2021 to explore innovative solutions for waste management, including the potential introduction of vouchers or a hard waste collection service. As part of strategy, a 2022 public consultation survey revealed that many rural residents favoured transfer station drop-offs over an on-call pickup service.

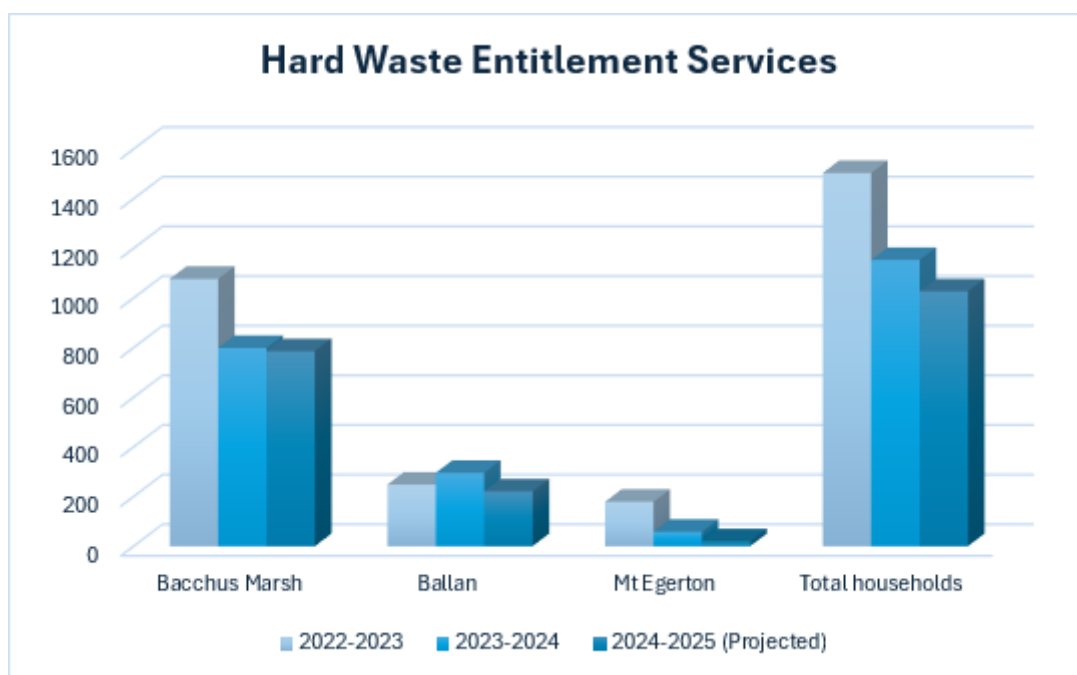
Illegal dumping has long been a concern, and it remains a significant issue today. In 2021, illegal dumping data indicated 582 incidents, a considerable portion of which involved materials that could have been disposed of at the transfer station at no cost. In response, Council implemented a variety of programs and initiatives such as regular inspections, public education campaigns, installation of signage and surveillance cameras at known hotspots. Additionally, Council introduced a 1m³ transfer station service and designated months for subsidised green waste and mattress disposal.

Hard Waste (1m³ allowance to general rated properties)

The hard waste service allows 1m³ hard waste such as furniture, household garbage, sporting equipment, toys etc. drop off service included in the general rated properties annually. The service is communicated through Facebook posts, local newspaper articles and Council website to promote the use of the service. The system is user-friendly for residents, requiring only the rates notice or proof of address (for tenants and social housing), thereby eliminating the need for physical vouchers that may be lost or require reissuance. Property owners are permitted to transfer their entitlement to tenants with written consent, either directly or through a real estate agent.

The cost associated with this service are reflected in the waste management charges, which are incorporated into residents' rates. These charges are typically less than \$10.00, providing an affordable option for residents to responsibly manage their hard waste disposal needs.

The hard waste entitlement service usage data for the three Transfer Stations (Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Mt Egerton) of Moorabool Shire Council are listed below. From the table below, usage data from the three transfer stations indicate high initial participation, likely due to residents clearing accumulated hard waste. The decline in subsequent years suggests a natural levelling off after initial cleanouts.



It is recommended that the service be continued, with an emphasis on promoting it through online channels and local newspapers to enhance participation. It is also essential to engage with real estate agents and social housing providers to ensure tenants are informed of the service. Council receives a lot of positive calls about the service and typically only hears feedback requesting more of it, rather than suggestions for its removal.

At present, the entitlement is aligned with the rates notice period, typically around September each year. Consideration should be given to aligning it with the financial year to improve consistency. Furthermore, allowing 'proof of address' to be accepted as a sufficient form of identification for all residents could simplify the process and reduce the need for revenue staff to

reissue rates notices upon request as there has been a noticeable increase in such requests coinciding with the distribution of advertisements.

Finally, the inclusion of tyres in the service should be explored, as these items are currently subject to a per-piece charge, which the contractor absorbs within their management fee. Although this may present some challenges, it is a potential consideration for future service enhancements.

Free Green Waste November

The free green waste service was first introduced in 2022, allowing Moorabool residents to drop off green waste at any Shire transfer station in November at no cost. This initiative helped residents prepare their properties for the fire season. There is no restriction on the volume of green waste accepted from properties if it is received in a residential vehicle or trailer. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill, is required. The service was advertised to the community through the Council's website, Facebook posts and an advertisement in The Moorabool News.

Although the service is free for residents, the cost to Council during the trial period was approximately \$10,000 per financial year. The figure represents around 25-30% of the total green waste disposal costs for the entire financial year.

The table below presents a summary of green waste disposal data yearly and for the month of November since 2020. The data indicates that 'Free Green Waste November' has been widely used, with a fivefold increase in drop-offs during the first two years of implementation. This highlights the community's strong demand for accessible green waste disposal, particularly during fire season. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that over 30-40% of the total annual green waste drop-offs typically occur in November, illustrating a significant seasonal peak in the service's utilization during this month.



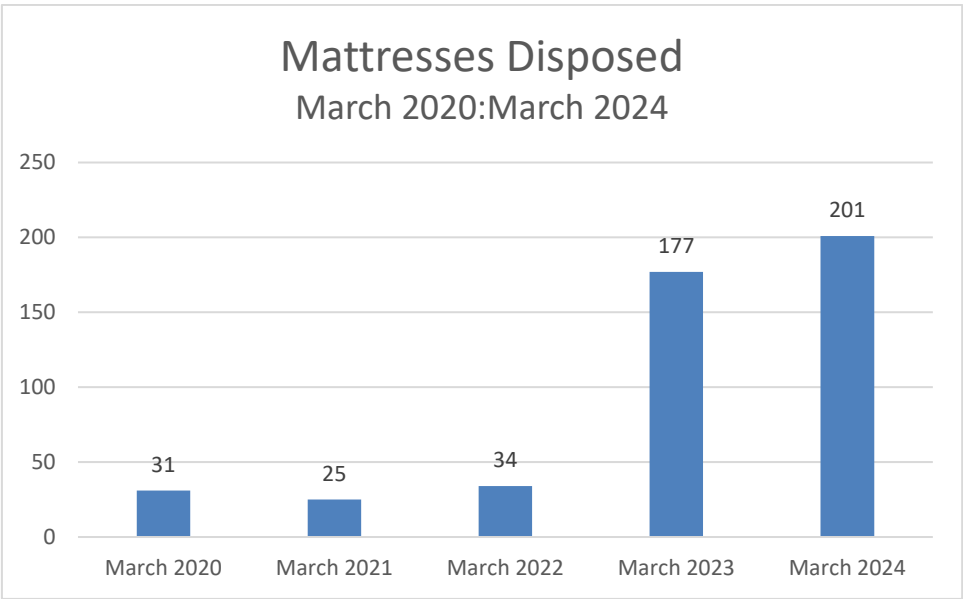
The significant utilisation of the free green waste disposal program in November has proven beneficial for the community. However, there are opportunities to further enhance its reach and effectiveness. Expanding advertising and promotional efforts could help increase public awareness and participate in the program.

Half-price Mattress March

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of a special offer each March, allowing them to dispose of mattresses at a reduced recycling fee. During March, the mattress disposal fee is reduced by 50% from the standard annual rate. While the program allows residents to benefit from half-price disposal fee, the cost amounted to Council is approximately \$20 per mattress for each financial year. This initiative has been met with widespread approval within the community, as shown by the significant increase in mattress disposals over the years.

To ensure broad awareness, the program has been effectively promoted through a combination of social media posts on Facebook throughout February and advertisements in the local newspaper. These marketing efforts have helped to drive engagement and participation in the mattress disposal service.

The table below summarises mattress disposal data for March since 2020. The data highlights strong community participation in 'Mattress Month.' During the first two years following the commencement of the service, there was a remarkable increase in mattress drop-offs, with the number of drop-offs rising by more than 500%, highlighting a strong demand for an affordable disposal option. Notably, over 25% of all mattresses disposed of annually are dropped off in March, demonstrating a clear seasonal peak in service usage.



The mattress disposal service has proven to be beneficial for the community. However, there are opportunities to further enhance its reach and effectiveness or expand the program to twice yearly. Additional avenues for advertising and promotion should be explored to increase public awareness of the program.

One observation from the data is the rising number of mattresses dumping incidents in the municipality. This increase may be attributed to various factors, including population growth and the general rise in disposal fees. The data suggests a steady upward trend in the occurrences of illegal mattress dumping:

Financial Year	Illegally Dumped Mattress Incident
2020-2021	26
2021-2022	47

2022-2023	59
2023-2024	64
2024-2025 (Feb)	33

This increase further underscores the importance of continuing and expanding the mattress disposal service.

The mattress disposal service has been a success in addressing the needs of the community, with continued demand and positive feedback. To further enhance its effectiveness, it is recommended that the service be maintained and expanded, with particular attention paid to improving promotional efforts and addressing logistical challenges.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 2: Liveable and thriving environments

Priority 2.3: Enhance our natural environments

The proposal is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation of funds and resource necessary for the implementation of the 1m3 hard waste services is currently incorporated into the budget planning and approval process for each ongoing financial year.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
OHS – Manual Handling	Strain to office worker when using equipment	Medium	Ergonomic Assessment, training, equipment
Budget over runs	Inadequate financial management	High	Supervision on budget

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 – Ekta Jayaswal

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

CONCLUSION

This Council report outlines the analysis of three-year trial of the hard waste drop off, free green waste and half-price mattress month. All three services were offered at the three transfer stations. The subsidised hard waste drop-off facilitated affordable disposal, while the free green waste service supported fire season preparedness and property clean-ups. Additionally, the half-price mattress disposal encouraged proper disposal at transfer stations. There is no data to support whether this trial has been successful in reducing illegal dumping however, the continuation of these services is being recommended as they provide accessible and affordable waste disposal options.

14 OTHER REPORTS

Nil

15 NOTICES OF MOTION**15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 325 - CONSTRUCTION WASTE ACCOUNTABILITY****Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Jarrod Bingham, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 2 April 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham****Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan****That Council write to:**

- 1. Minister for Housing and Building, Hon. Harriet Shing, and Minister for Environment, Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, to advocate for the introduction of legislation requiring polystyrene waffle pod systems to be stamped with site details.**
- 2. The Victorian Building Authority and Environment Protection Authority Victoria to seek support of mandatory stamping of polystyrene waffle pod systems with site details.**

CARRIED**RATIONALE**

Moorabool Shire Council, along with other government departments and community groups, spend a significant amount of time cleaning up builder waste in our rivers, parks and other public spaces. Polystyrene waffle pods used during construction are often left exposed to the elements and subsequently blown across our Municipality.

Picking up this rubbish comes at a significant cost to Council, at times also costing considerable amounts of money to remediate the land.

This particular problem is not only isolated to Moorabool and has a detrimental effect across Australia and its municipalities.

At present there is no way to trace back this waste to determine what site it came from and what builder is responsible. This makes it impossible to recover rate-payer money as we are not able to issue any fines.

I propose that the way forward would be to legislate that the manufacturers of these pods be mandated to stamp their products with site details, permit numbers and site supervisor contact details so that enforcement action can be undertaken and monies recovered.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) as part of permit conditions requires all sites to include an area dedicated to waste on each site. However, it does not require an enclosed area, and this is why rubbish is blown out of the site.

I propose that we also write to the State Government and the VBA to change that requirement so that all permits in the future require an enclosed area to store waste.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

15.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 326 - SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION - SWANS ROAD, DARLEY**Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Jarrod Bingham, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 2 April 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham****Seconded: Cr Moira Berry**

That following completion of Stage 3 of the Bald Hill Activation Project, Council write to Transport Victoria requesting a safety audit to be conducted on potential speed limit reduction and wildlife roadside signage suitability on Swans Road, Darley.

CARRIED

RATIONALE

With the upcoming opening of Stage 3 – Summit Trail of the Bald Hill Activation Project, we will start to see a lot more vehicle activity on Swans Road, Darley.

I request that officers write to Transport Victoria to conduct a safety audit to look at lowering the speed limit and other signage for Wildlife etc.

Whilst locals certainly understand the risk of wildlife, those from out of town may not.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

16 NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Tom Sullivan**Seconded:** Cr John Keogh**That Council receives the Mayor's Report.****CARRIED****Cr Paul Tatchell – Mayor's Report****Date:** 1 April 2025

11 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Bernard Katthagen
12 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Briefings – Draft Community Grants Policy & Guidelines for Community Consultation; Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Community Hub Design; Urgent Business - Wombat State Forest - June 2021 Storm Recovery; Hard Waste Drop Off, Free Green Waste & Half Price Mattresses - Three Year; Trial Review; Draft Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2027; Antenno Mobile App Demonstration; Budget Strategy Update; Review of the DAC Agenda
15 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMCC Iftar Dinner, Bacchus Marsh Public Hall
16 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballan Autumn Festival, Ballan
17 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Information Evening – Western Renewables Link Project, Ballan Recreation Reserve, Cowie Street, Ballan

19 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development Assessment Committee
26 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Briefings – Boral Dunnstown Strategic Direction Update, Draft Open Space Strategy – Approval to undertake community engagement, Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy, Response to the Blackwood Petition, AusNet presentation on Western Renewables Link
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dinner with Angus Taylor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dinner with Liberal Candidate for Ballarat regarding Moorabool Shire

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Tom Sullivan**Seconded:** Cr John Keogh**That Council receives the Councillors Reports.****CARRIED****Cr Tom Sullivan**

16 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballan Autumn Festival, Ballan
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Cr John Keogh

19 – 21 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuing Darkness – Solving Light Pollution Conference: Dark Sky Place Making conference
25 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee
27 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing West Implementation Committee

Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor

27 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BK Gymnastics certificate presentation
16 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballan Autumn Festival
Cr Venditti-Taylor congratulated the Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club on their recent premierships.	

Cr Ally Munari

16 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballan Autumn Festival
24 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netball Court Upgrade Openings, Wallace Recreation Reserve & Gordon Recreation Reserve

Cr Sheila Freeman

2 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Wellbeing Planning Workshop
Cr Freeman provided a Neighbourhood Watch update.	

Cr Moira Berry

13 March	Neighbourhood Watch forum, Bacchus Marsh
14 March	Moorabool Environment Group BBQ, Ballan
16 March	Ballan Autumn Festival
17 March	Election announcement by Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
18 March	Election announcement by Simone Cottom, Liberal candidate for Hawke
20 March	Peri Urban Councils Victoria State Delegation

Cr Jarrod Bingham

17 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Information Evening – Western Renewables Link Project
24 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netball Court Upgrade Openings, Wallace Recreation Reserve & Gordon Recreation Reserve
28 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFA Group Meeting

Cr Rod Ward

17 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Information Evening – Western Renewables Link Project
26 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce Networking Event
13 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Watch forum, Bacchus Marsh
18 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Attraction Strategy stakeholder workshop, Bacchus Marsh

28 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Western Highway Action Committee Meeting
<p>Cr Ward congratulated Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club and Darley Cricket Club on their recent premierships. Cr Ward also commended Jess Robertson and her team of volunteers on the work they do to assist injured wildlife.</p>	

18 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Ward raised an item of Urgent Business in relation to portable changerooms at Racecourse Recreation Reserve.

18 PORTABLE CHANGEROOMS AT RACECOURSE RECREATION RESERVE

MOTION

That Council accept the item of Urgent Business in relation to portable changerooms at Racecourse Recreation Reserve.

UNANIMOUS VOTE WAS NOT ACHIEVED

19 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council adjourn for a five minute break.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6.47pm.

The meeting resumed at 6.52pm.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

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

19.1 Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve Community Hub

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

CARRIED

20 MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 6.56pm.

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CHAIRPERSON