



# **MINUTES**

## **Special Council Meeting Wednesday, 14 May 2025**

**Date: Wednesday, 14 May 2025**

**Time: 6.00pm**

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

**Order Of Business**

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**1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER**

Almighty God be with us as we work for the people of the Shire of Moorabool. Grant us wisdom that we may care for the Shire as true stewards of your creation. May we be aware of the great responsibilities placed upon us. Help us to be just in all our dealings and may our work prosper for the good of all. Amen.

**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 PRESENT**

Cr Paul Tatchell, Mayor

Cr Rod Ward, Deputy Mayor

Cr Moira Berry

Cr Jarrod Bingham

Cr Sheila Freeman

Cr John Keogh

Cr Ally Munari

Cr Tom Sullivan

Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor

**Officers:**

Mr Derek Madden

Chief Executive Officer

Mr David Jackson

General Manager Customer & Corporate Services

Mr Phil Jeffrey

General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Ms Leigh McCallum

General Manager Community Strengthening

Mr Henry Bezuidenhout

Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Mr Joseph Spiteri

Manager Governance & Civic Support

Mr James Hogan

Chief Financial Officer

**4 APOLOGIES**

Nil

**5 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**6 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS**

Nil

## **7 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**

### **7.1 2025/26 REVENUE AND RATING PLAN**

**Author:** James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer

**Authoriser:** David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. Draft Revenue and Rating Plan (under separate cover)

#### **PURPOSE**

The draft Revenue and Rating Plan (Plan) establishes the revenue raising framework within which Council proposes to raise revenue. The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Moorabool Shire Council which in conjunction with other income sources, will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The *Local Government Act 2020* (that is more principles based and less prescriptive in nature), mandates for Council to have a Revenue and Rating Plan (R&RP) that covers four financial years.
- The Plan embodies a comprehensive view, the rational, objectives and core strategies that Council uses to raise its revenue purse through its rating option model, fees and charges, grants, contributions, interest income and borrowing strategy.
- The Plan will form part of Council's strategic framework to support understanding of medium to long term implication on resource allocation and Council's financial performance.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Rod Ward

**Seconded:** Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor

**That Council:**

- 1. Approves the draft 2025-2029 Revenue and Rating Plan to be made available for public inspection.**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the draft 2025-2029 Revenue and Rating Plan, make it available for public inspection and invite submissions under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 to 5.00pm, 5 June 2025.**
- 3. Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft 2025-2029 Revenue and Rating Plan and requests to be heard in support of the written submission, be heard at a Special Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 15 Stead Street, Ballan on Wednesday 11 June 2025, commencing at 6.00pm.**
- 4. Resolves to notify and place on public notice its intention to adopt the 2025-2029 Revenue and Rating Plan on Wednesday 25 June 2025 at a Special Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 15 Stead Street, Ballan, commencing at 6.00pm.**

**CARRIED**

## BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each Council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election.

This Plan is an important part of Moorabool Shire Council's integrated planning framework, which will support the achievement of the Community Vision and the Council Plan.

Strategies outlined in this Plan must align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan and will feed into our budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under our Council's strategic planning framework.

## PROPOSAL

This Plan will explain how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council's facilities and services.

The Plan sets out decisions that Council has made in relation to its currently adopted Rating Strategy to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners including methodology and principles relating to non-rate revenue including user fees and charges, government grants, developer contributions and all other Council income sources.

## COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

**Strategic Objective**                      **1: Providing Good Governance and Leadership**

**Context**                                      **1C: Our Business and Systems**

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications envisaged that will impede or put pressure on the 2025-2026 budgeting process. In future years, as Council progressively refines its Revenue and Rating Plan, the document will inform the development of future years budgets and the 10-year financial plan.

## RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

The Revenue and Rating Plan is a new requirement as part of the *Local Government Act 2020* and is required to be adopted by 30 June 2025. The draft Revenue and Rating Plan seeks to ensure legislative compliance and reduce the risk of non-compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Revenue and Rating Plan is closely aligned with the Draft Budget 2025/26. As such, it is recommended that the Draft Rating and Revenue Plan be endorsed for public comment at the same time that the Draft Budget 2025/26 is released for public consultation. Whilst deliberative community engagement is not prescribed for the Rating and Revenue Plan in the *Local Government Act 2020*, some level of engagement and input from the community may be seen as desirable.

## VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or

interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

**OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

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

*General Manager – David Jackson*

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

*Author – James Hogan*

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

**CONCLUSION**

The Revenue and Rating Plan is a legislative requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Plan forms an important component of the Integrated Strategic Planning Framework.

## 7.2 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2025-2035

**Author:** Robyn Head, Coordinator Financial Services

**Authoriser:** David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. Draft Long Term Financial Plan (under separate cover)

### PURPOSE

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to formally adopt a Long-Term Financial Plan in accordance with Section 91 by 31 October 2025.

To update Councillors on the Long-Term Financial Plan for the Shire and to present the details for the 10-Year Financial Plan 2025-2035 and ensure compliance with requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in respect to adopting the Long-Term Financial Plan.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Update Councillors on the Long-Term Financial Plan for the Shire and to present the details for the 10-Year Financial Plan 2025-2035.
- Ensure compliance with the requirements to the *Local Government Act 2020* for adopting the Long-Term Financial Plan.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Rod Ward

**Seconded:** Cr Moira Berry

**That Council endorses the Long-Term Financial Plan provided as attachment 1 to this report, for the purpose of public consultation until 5pm 5 June 2025.**

**CARRIED**

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### BACKGROUND

Section 91 of the new *Local Government Act 2020* requires that by 31 October 2025, Council must develop, adopt and keep in force a 10-Year Financial Plan.

The Financial Plan provides a long-term view of the resources Council will raise and the proposed/predicted use of those resources to meet its social objectives. The Plan is informed by the Revenue & Rating Plan and defines the broad fiscal boundaries for the Council Plan, Asset Plan, other subordinate policies and strategies and budget processes.

Council will leverage off its existing 10-Year Financial Plan and it is anticipated that the Plan will be updated on a rolling basis to maintain financial sustainability.

### PROPOSAL

The new *Local Government Act 2020* Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a key component for the integrated planning and reporting framework that requires the engagement of Council in adopting the Plan.

## 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 3.3: Focus resources to deliver on our service promise in a sustainable way**

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications envisaged and when preparing the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), the expectation is that annual adopted budgets will align with underlying principles and statements of the LTFP.

## RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

The Long-Term Financial Plan is a new requirement as part of the *Local Government Act 2020* and is required to be adopted by 31 October 2025. The draft Long Term Financial Plan seeks to ensure legislative compliance and reduce the risk of non-compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

A Council must develop, adopt and keep in force a Financial Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices; Deliberative engagements take place at the highest three levels of influence on the IAP2 spectrum, 'Involve', 'Collaborate' or 'Empower'. It often involves a smaller, descriptively representative group of people considering an issue in depth.

Given the level of consultation that Council entered into as part of the preparation of the Community Vision and Council Plan, in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2020, a *collaborate* model with the broader community eliciting opinions via Have Your Say, newsletter, social media and leaflet drops to local points of community contact appears unwarranted.

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Community	Document will be made available on the 'have your Say' page and publicly advertised on website and social media posts and available in libraries and customer offices (if open) or leaflet drops to local points of community contact	Council Offices and Library	15th May – 5th June	Community supported to submit applications and feedback.

This will detail the extent of communication that has been carried out leading to the writing of the report and the communication that will occur following Council's adoption or otherwise of any recommendation arising from the report.

It would be advantageous if any press release issued is prepared at the same time the report is written and included as one of the attachments to the report.

In terms of consultation, any planned consultation should be in line with Council's Community Engagement Framework. If consultation has occurred as part of the written report then details of it should be included.

### **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 – Robyn Head*

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

### **CONCLUSION**

The Long Term Financial Plan will allow Council to set priorities within its resourcing capabilities to sustainably deliver the assets and services required by the community, in a fiscally responsible manner.

### 7.3 CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET

**Author:** James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer

**Authoriser:** David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. 2025-26 Draft Annual Budget (under separate cover)

#### PURPOSE

This report relates to the commencement of the process for Council to adopt the 2025/26 Annual Budget, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The proposed budget recognises the importance of setting a clear direction for the future, achieving measurable objectives, encouraging community input and consultation and being financially responsible. It is part of a four-year Strategic Financial Plan that aims to secure a viable and sustainable path to achieve the Shire's objectives.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the important points for consideration in the 2025/26 budget. These include:

- Proposed Rate Increase and Annual Waste Service Charges.
- Proposed Capital Improvement Program.
- Public Consultation Period.

#### MOTION

**Moved:** Cr Rod Ward

**Seconded:** Cr Moira Berry

**That Council in accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020, place the Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget on public exhibition.**

- 1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice and make available for public inspection the Draft 2025/26 Budget.**
- 2. Invite submissions and feedback on the 2025/26 Proposed Budget until 5pm on Thursday 5 June.**
- 3. Invite submissions and feedback on the composition of proposed rates and charges included in the Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget until 5pm on Thursday 5 June**
- 4. Considers any submissions at a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 11 June 2025 to be held in the Council Chambers, 15 Stead Street, Ballan commencing at 6pm; and**
- 5. Endorses, subject to changes to the proposed Annual Budget 2025/26 after consideration of all submissions, to notify and place on public notice its intention to adopt the 2025/26 Annual Budget on Wednesday 25 June 2025 at a Special Meeting of Council, at a venue to be determined.**

**Cr Ward called for a division:**

In Favour: Crs Moira Berry, Rod Ward, Sheila Freeman and Steven Venditti-Taylor

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

**THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MOTION LOST 4/5**

**BACKGROUND**

This report relates to the commencement of the process for Council to adopt the 2025/26 Annual Budget, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The proposed budget recognises the importance of setting a clear direction for the future, achieving measurable objectives, encouraging community input and consultation and being financially responsible. It is part of a four-year Strategic Financial Plan that aims to secure a viable and sustainable path to achieve the Shire's objectives.

The proposed rate increase is 3.00 per cent, in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government under the Fair Go Rates System. Council has not applied for a rate cap variation for the 2025/26 year and is very aware of cost pressures on individuals and businesses.

The rate increase is to fund the Capital Improvement Program, New Initiatives, service growth and Council operations. The budget document appended to this report (Appendix A) provides detailed information regarding the major impacts for 2025/26. It also provides details regarding Council's financial management principles to ensure a financially sustainable future.

**PROPOSAL**

- Total recurrent income of \$67.013 million
- Total recurrent expenses of \$68.511 million.

Capital Projects

In addition to the planned delivery of recurrent services, the 2025/26 Annual Budget is proposing a significant capital improvement program.

Council's Capital Works program maintains a mix between the need to maintain existing infrastructure and build new assets to meet community expectations. Included in the 2025/26 budget is \$26.989 million for new capital works. Some of the projects proposed as part of the 2025/26 Capital Program include:

- Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Rec Reserve - New Community & Multi Sports Hub (\$3.500 million)
- Local Area Traffic Management Implementation (\$2.000 million)
- Griffith Street, Maddingley - Shared path on South Side (\$1.815 million)
- Reseal Program (\$1.789 million)
- Young Street Kindergarten Upgrades (\$1.500 million)
- Masons Lane Recreation Reserve - Installation of New Athletics Track (\$1.200 million)
- Ballan-Meredith Road, Morrisons - Reseal and Widen (\$1.176 million)
- Gordon Township - Installation of Active Recreation Loop and Associated Works (\$1.101 million)

- Glenmore Road, Mount Wallace - Reseal and Widen (\$0.939 million)
- Windle Street, Ballan - Reconstruction and Widen (\$0.769 million)
- Steiglitz Street, Ballan - Reconstruction (\$0.696 million)
- Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Recreation Reserve - New Community Dog Park (\$0.600 million)
- Main Street, Bacchus Marsh - Path Renewal (\$0.550 million)
- Gordon Recreation Reserve - Masterplan Priorities Implementation (\$0.440 million)

#### Waste Service Charges

The Waste Management Service Charge will decrease from \$118.00 to \$113.00, and the overall Waste Collection Charge will decrease from \$256.00 to \$253.00. The State Landfill Levy will increase from \$65.00 to \$79.00, and the optional Kerbside Green Waste service will increase from \$95.00 to \$99.00 for 2025/26.

#### Cash Management

Overall, total cash and investments of \$18.896 million are forecast as at 30 June 2026.

### **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 3.3: Focus resources to deliver on our service promise in a sustainable way**

The proposal Consideration of the Proposed 2025/26 Annual Budget is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The 2025/26 Budget contains details of the financial resources required to deliver the Council Plan.

### **RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES**

There are no known risk and occupational health and safety issues associated with this report.

### **COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY**

Subject to Council endorsing the Proposed 2025/26 Budget, a public notice will be placed. The process includes giving public notice to allow submissions to be made by members of the public and such submissions will be heard prior to Council adopting the 2025/26 Annual Budget.

Copies of the Proposed 2025/26 Annual Budget can also be viewed on Council's website: [www.moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au) with physical copies mailed out on request.

Residents are invited to make submissions in relation to the Proposed 2025/26 Annual Budget until 5.00pm on Thursday 5 May 2025.

Feedback should be made in writing and be addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer  
Budget Submission  
Moorabool Shire Council  
PO Box 18  
Ballan VIC 3342

Alternatively, submissions can be emailed to [info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au) or submitted online at <https://moorabool.engagementhub.com.au/>

Any person requesting that he or she be heard in support of a submission is entitled to appear before the Special Meeting of Council either personally or by a person acting on his or her behalf. Any person who wishes to be heard in support of a submission should indicate this request in their written submission. A meeting to hear submissions is scheduled to occur on Wednesday 11 June 2025, to be held in the Council Chambers, 15 Stead Street, Ballan commencing at 6pm.

#### **VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006**

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#### **OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

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*General Manager – David Jackson*

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

*Author – James Hogan*

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

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Proposed Budget presents Council's immediate and longer-term financial strategy and links the actions set out in the Council Plan. It also identifies the capital works and services the community can expect from Council during the 2025/26 financial year and beyond.

**8 NOTICES OF MOTION****8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 330 - DROUGHT FUNDING RELIEF OPPORTUNITIES****Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Tom Sullivan, give notice that at the Special Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 May 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

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

**That a report be prepared and brought back to Council outlining the eligibility criteria and opportunities that may exist for Moorabool Shire farmers for the Australian Government On Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants program and the Victorian Government Dry Seasons and Drought Support program and what role Council would be required to play.**

**CARRIED**

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**RATIONALE**

There are a number of municipalities in the south-west of Victoria affected by drought. Extended dry conditions have also affected many farming properties in Moorabool Shire.

Without substantial rainfall before the winter, many farms in Moorabool will face the same conditions as exists in south-west Victoria. It would be beneficial to determine what is required before the ongoing winter so that Council would be in a better position to assist drought affected farmers in Moorabool.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

**10 MEETING CLOSURE**

The Meeting closed at 6.29pm.

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**