



AGENDA

Special Council Meeting Wednesday, 11 June 2025

I hereby give notice that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 11 June 2025

Time: 6.00pm

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

**Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer**

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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**4 APOLOGIES****5 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Conflict of interest laws are prescribed under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations). Managing conflicts of interest is about ensuring the integrity and transparency of decision-making.

The conflict of interest provisions under the Act have been simplified so that they are more easily understood and more easily applied. The new conflict of interest provisions are designed to ensure relevant persons proactively consider a broader range of interests and consider those interests from the viewpoint of an impartial, fair-minded person.

Section 126 of the Act states that a Councillor has a conflict of interest if they have a general conflict of interest or a material conflict of interest. These are explained below:

- A Councillor has a general conflict of interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the member's private interests could result in them acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty as a Councillor.
- A Councillor has a material conflict of interest in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

A relevant person with a conflict of interest must disclose the interest in accordance with Council's Governance Rules and not participate in the decision-making process on the matter. This means the relevant person must exclude themselves from any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting, delegated committee meeting, community asset committee meeting or, if a councillor, any other meeting conducted under the auspices of the council. The relevant person must also exclude themselves from any action in relation to the matter, including an action taken to implement a council decision, for example, issuing a planning permit.

6 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

The Council has made provision in the business of the Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the making of presentations or deputations to Council in relation to matters presented on the agenda for Council consideration.

Persons wishing to make a presentation or deputation to Council on a matter included in the agenda shall inform Council prior to the meeting by contacting the Chief Executive Officer's office and registering their name and agenda item being spoken to.

At the meeting the Mayor will invite the persons wishing to make a presentation or delegation to address the Council on the agenda item.

The person making the presentation or deputation is to stand and address Council on the item.

No debate on the item is permitted between the person making the presentation or delegation and the Council.

A maximum of three minutes per presentation or delegation will be allocated. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the Mayor.

Councillors, through the Mayor, may ask the person making the presentation or delegation for clarification of matters presented.

The Mayor may direct that a member of the gallery ceases speaking if the above procedure is not followed.

7 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

7.1 DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Author: James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt the Long Term Financial Plan in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The process includes giving public notice to allow 14 days for submissions to be made by members of the public and such submissions to be heard prior to Council adopting the Long Term Financial Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft Long Term Financial Plan was placed on public exhibition from 22 May 2025 to 5 June 2025, allowing submissions to be made by members of the public (in the prescribed manner).

During the exhibition period one submission was received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the following submission:

No.	Submission From	Main Points
1.	Oliver	Concrete Berms for BMX Track Concrete Berms for BMX Track

2. Takes into consideration the matters raised within the submission in its consideration of the Long Term Financial Plan at the Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

3. Provides a response to the Submitter following the adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND

Council commenced statutory procedures dealing with the Long Term Financial Plan at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 May 2025. At this meeting, Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed Long Term Financial Plan.

The proposed Long Term Financial Plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

As a result of this advertising process, one written submission was received by the closing date of 5 June 2025.

PROPOSAL

That Council notes that one submission was received before the Long Term Financial Plan is presented for adoption at the Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, 25 June 2025.

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

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no risk or occupational health and safety issues identified in relation to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Long Term Financial Plan was available for submissions and public comment from Thursday 22 May 2025 to 5.00pm on Thursday 5 June 2025.

Following adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan, a public notice will be published in the local newspapers and the Long Term Financial Plan will be published on Council's website.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

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

Following the conclusion of the community consultation period in relation to the proposed Long Term Financial Plan and having completed all statutory requirements, it is recommended that Council consider the submission received.

7.2 DRAFT 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS**Author:** James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer**Authoriser:** David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services**Attachments:** Nil**PURPOSE**

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt the 2025/26 Annual Budget in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The process includes giving public notice to allow 14 days for submissions to be made by members of the public and such submissions to be heard prior to Council adopting the 2025/26 Annual Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Nine written submissions have been received.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council:****1. Receives the following submissions:**

No.	Submission From	Main Points
1.	Tanner Hill	<p>Establishment of an in-house Bush crew</p> <p>I have been involved with many different aspects and issues relating to the environment in Moorabool over a considerable number of years and participate actively with Landcare, Moorabool Gardens for Wildlife, CFA and until recently was on the Moorabool Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee. I acknowledge and appreciate the increased focus that Council has placed on advocating for improved funding towards the local environment and sustainability in recent years.</p> <p>To build on past efforts of Council and community groups I request that in the development of the 2025/26 Council budget that strong consideration and support is given to the development of an in-house 'Bush Crew'. I have highlighted this need for a Bush Crew with the Moorabool Landcare Network, who discussed a request making a request to Council last year. I am not sure how far that progressed but I include some of their points with mine.</p> <p>The aim of this Bush Crew would be to assist with the continuous improvement of assets managed by Council and increase community engagement (through activities such as community planting days and other related activities). It would also be cost effective and reduce the need to tender out some</p>

		<p>of the maintenance and feral species control measures, whilst fostering improved in-house skills and building better community relationships.</p> <p>As each new subdivision/development seems to leave Council with more land to manage, a Bush Crew would assist with better overall consistent management of biodiversity assets and timely management of threatening processes. A lot of these sites require a dedicated team to keep up with basic management and prevent degradation, reduce the fuel hazard and reduce weed spread.</p> <p>The Bush Crew must have appropriate qualifications in Natural Resource Management and be given additional training in indigenous plants, chemical application and chainsaw operations. I have a list of what the Bush Crew could do in parks and reserves. There are many areas that the Garden Crew do not have/take responsibility for, that fall into disrepair and become weedy and overgrown without attention. Seeing a crew out and about in local reserves encourages everyone to take responsibility for their area knowing issues raised have a higher chance of being addressed.</p> <p>I have compiled a list of possible tasks from many walks along the Werribee River in Ballan and Bacchus Marsh, Paddock Creek, Spargo and Ballan Mineral Springs Reserves and the Lal Lal Falls Reserve and in discussions with others who care about Moorabool's environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more regular grass cutting beside walking tracks along river walks to allow people to see snakes • provide reports on track/path condition to the engineers, undertake basic path repairs and drainage maintenance, top up surface material • targeted proactive weed control of small areas and weeds not listed under the weed strategy • brush-cutting around and ongoing maintenance around plantings • plant replacement when plants die or are damaged • reporting rubbish dumping and some removal • reporting sediment entry into the waterways near reserves • mulching and removal of fallen branches, keeping paths clear, pruning to allow people to ride bikes under trees • liaising with community groups on planting days, site preparation, grant development, watering, signage needed, ordering of materials for planting days, guarding plants, mulch delivery and spreading of mulch, picking up
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		<p>litter on Clean Up Australia Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fencing repair and maintenance • maintenance of signs and replacement when required • follow up feral animal control • revegetation management, weed control, guard removal and recycling • organising firebreaks in reserves • park seat maintenance • nest box installation, maintenance and monitoring • graffiti removal from reserve signs, seats and infrastructure • pine wilding removal on roadsides • weed mapping on roadsides • promotion of appropriate cat containment to protect cat health and safety of wildlife <p>I strongly encourage Council to consider this request for the introduction of a Bush Crew in the budget process for 2025/26 and look forward to your response.</p>
2.	Daniel Emmerson	<p>Electric Vehicle Charging Stations</p> <p>I wish to provide feedback that council should install electric car charging stations in Bacchus Marsh and surrounding areas. There is a number of benefits to councils once installed including financial, environmental and social.</p>
3.	Darley Neighbourhood House & Learning	<p>Funding for Darley Neighbourhood House</p> <p>I am writing to formally request a review of the current annual funding allocation provided to Darley Neighbourhood House as part of the Moorabool Shire Council's budget.</p> <p>Darley Neighbourhood House plays a vital role in supporting our local community by delivering inclusive programs, providing access to essential services, and fostering social connection for people of all ages and backgrounds. With a steadily growing population in the Darley area, the demand for these services continues to rise. However, the funding provided has not increased to keep pace with the increased operational needs and expanding scope of community engagement.</p> <p>Since 2018 the funding from Moorabool Shire Council to Darley Neighbourhood House has remained at \$10557.06. This is despite our rates, costs and support of the community increasing during this time.</p> <p>For context, in the first 5 months of 2025 we have had over</p>

		<p>1500 community attend our facilities and over 500 people access our community pantry. For a snapshot of our impact, please see the attached 2024 Community Value Report published by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.</p> <p>Additional financial support would allow the House to expand its programs, enhance its facilities, and better meet the diverse needs of residents - particularly vulnerable groups such as low-income families, isolated seniors, and individuals experiencing mental health challenges.</p> <p>We respectfully request that the Council conduct a comprehensive review of the current funding model for Darley Neighbourhood House and consider an increase in its annual allocation as part of the upcoming budget process.</p> <p>We would welcome the opportunity to meet with relevant Council officers to discuss this request further and provide additional information on the impact and future needs of the House.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
4.	Craig Woods	<p>Various Expenses</p> <p>Reduced costs and revenue required to keep the Council wheels turning.</p> <p>Don't pay such high wages.</p> <p>Evaluate the true value of a physical library.</p> <p>How does an art collection benefit ratepayers.</p> <p>Has the backlog of staff superannuation been paid.</p> <p>Thankyou for the ongoing Aged care support which has diminished.</p> <p>I could go about reduced services and increased costs over the years but it would fall on deaf ears.</p>
5.	Bacchus Marsh BMX Club Inc	<p>Concreting the Berms -Bacchus Marsh BMX Club</p> <p>The Bacchus Marsh BMX Club is pleased to see that one of our potential projects (Concreting the Berms) is listed as a proposed 25/26 capital project in MSC's budget. We would look forward to working with council on progressing this initiative as this is a key project for the club as we strongly believe better track facilities will promote club growth, increase further public use of the facility and importantly reduce the volunteer time, effort and costs that currently go into maintaining a full dirt track with the largest berms in Victoria. In 2025 we have already spent in excess of \$5,000 on fresh granitic sand to resurface / re-lay the berms and spent over 500 plus man hours in volunteer labour maintaining the</p>

		<p>track so that it is safe for both club events and public use.</p> <p>We strongly believe that investing in this facility will secure its ongoing use and viability in the long run. Thank you.</p>
6.	Chris Sharkey	<p>Rate increase</p> <p>Through this budget has Council recognised and responded to the economic impact faced by primary production businesses under the current prolonged drought, ESVF and cost of living crisis? If so, why then has Council agreed upon a 3% rate increase?</p> <p>How does Council reconcile the budget revenue and the cumulative effect on primary production businesses with constant rate increases now and in its long-term financial plan and still expect these businesses to remain economically and environmentally sustainable?</p>
7.	Oliver	<p>Asphalt berms for BMX Track</p> <p>Asphalt berms for BMX Track.</p>
8.	Jacob White Wallace Recreation Reserve CoM	<p>Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval Redevelopment</p> <p>The Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval Redevelopment is the highest priority project identified in the recently completed Wallace Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2024-2033.</p> <p>The oval deteriorates rapidly in wet weather, resulting in the Springbank Football Netball Club having to cancel on-ground training sessions and to sometimes relocate home matches to other reserves. The poor condition of the oval is well-known amongst the players and supporters of all clubs within the Central Highlands Football League, and as a consequence it is now impacting the club's ability to both recruit and retain players, and to establish a Senior Women's team.</p> <p>Moorabool Shire Council has requested the Wallace Recreation Reserve Committee of Management prepare this Business Case in support of a Council funding contribution of \$709,060 ex-GST towards the project. The Business Case will enable officers and Councillors to fully consider the project, and determine whether funding will be allocated in Council's 2024-2025 Capital Works Budget.</p> <p>The completion of this project in readiness for the 2025 season will be a highlight in the planned 100th Year Anniversary Celebrations for the football club.</p> <p>This report includes the following important project information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project scope 2. Strategic need for project

		3. Community need for project 4. Project budget 5. Project management and project plan The Business case (attached) has been prepared by Jacob White (member of the Reserve Committee), on behalf of the Wallace Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and the Springbank Football Netball Club.
9.	Gordon Emmerson	EV Charges We need ev chargers.

2. Takes into consideration the matters raised within the submissions in its consideration of the 2025/26 Annual Budget at the Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.
3. Provides a response to each Submitter following the adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Budget.

BACKGROUND

Council commenced statutory procedures dealing with the 2025/26 Annual Budget at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 May 2025. At this meeting, Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed 2025/26 Annual Budget.

The proposed 2025/26 budget has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

As a result of this advertising process, a total of nine written submissions were received by the closing date of 5 June 2025.

Three of the submitters have indicated their intention to be heard in support of their written submissions.

PROPOSAL

That Council considers the nine submissions received before the budget is considered for adoption at the Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, 25 June 2025.

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

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no risk or occupational health and safety issues identified in relation to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Proposed Budget was available for submissions and public comment from Thursday 22 May 2025 to 5.00pm on Thursday 5 June 2025.

Following adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Budget, a public notice will be published in the local newspapers and the 2025/26 Annual Budget will be published on Council's website.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

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

Following the conclusion of the community consultation period in relation to the proposed 2025/26 Annual Budget and having completed all statutory requirements, it is recommended that Council consider the submissions received.

7.3 DRAFT REVENUE & RATING PLAN - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Author: James Hogan, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt the Rating and Revenue Plan in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The process includes giving public notice to allow 14 days for submissions to be made by members of the public and such submissions to be heard prior to Council adopting the Rating and Revenue Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft Revenue and Rating Plan was placed on public exhibition from 22 May 2025 to 5 June 2025, allowing submissions to be made by members of the public (in the prescribed manner).

During the exhibition period one submission was received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the following submission:

No.	Submission From	Main Points
1.	Craig Woods	Repetition with Budget Document Please have a good look at the repetition contained in the Draft Budget paper. It is imperative that red tape and wasting of resources be reduced.

2. Takes into consideration the matters raised within the submission in its consideration of the Revenue and Rating Plan at the Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

3. Provides a response to the Submitter following the adoption of the Revenue and Rating Plan.

BACKGROUND

Council commenced statutory procedures dealing with the Rating and Revenue Plan at the Special Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 14 May 2025. At this meeting Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed Rating and Revenue Plan.

The proposed Rating and Revenue Plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

As a result of this advertising process, one written submission was received by the closing date of 5 June 2025.

PROPOSAL

That Council notes that one submission was received before the Rating and Revenue Plan is presented for adoption at the Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

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

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no risk or occupational health and safety issues identified in relation to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Proposed Rating and Revenue Plan was available for submissions and public comment from Thursday 22 May 2025 to 5.00pm on Thursday 5 June 2025.

Following adoption of the Rating and Revenue Plan, a public notice will be published in the local newspapers and the Rating and Revenue Plan will be published on Council's website.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

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

Following the conclusion of the community consultation period in relation to the proposed Rating and Revenue Plan and having completed all statutory requirements, it is recommended that Council consider the submission received.

7.4 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029 - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS**Author:** Leanne Manton, Manager Customer and Communications**Authoriser:** David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services**Attachments:** Nil**PURPOSE**

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt a new four-year Council Plan following an election period in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The process includes giving public notice to allow for submissions to be made by members of the public and such submissions to be heard prior to Council adopting the new Council Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Four submissions have been received.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council:****1. Receives the following submissions:**

No.	Submission From	Main Points
1.	Terry Delahunty	Mining industry recognition I think that it looks admirable. However I would have liked to have seen mining listed among the potentially emerging industries. (Granted that it is a subset of primary production). Mining has already achieved and has the potential to dramatically improve areas where historical tailings, contaminated with Arsenic and Mercury remain present in certain areas. It also has the potential to inject large amounts of money into the shire and create substantial employment opportunities. Hoping for your support for future environmentally beneficial and community beneficial future proposals.
2.	Anonymous	Road safety concerns Re Road development strategy 2027 - I think this needs urgent review sooner especially in Bacchus Marsh for example you need to get trucks away from main roads on heart of BM. If you want to attract tourists, you need to have a better road setup. Review Ballan footpath e.g. on Simpson Street there is a section with no footpath and is becoming dangerous given increased cars. Need to provide safety for users on the area (incl young families with children).
3.	Geraldine Bagwell	Wildlife concerns I attended the community sessions in Bacchus Marsh,

		Protection of wildlife and the state and national parks etc was a significant discussion point for many of us present at the sessions, and subsequent contact with some participants afterwards. The large number of cats both owned and stray which roam the shire 24/7 is certainly having a disastrous impact on wildlife! Disappointingly there is no mention of the new Statewide Cat Containment Strategy to be implemented by all councils starting now! Overall I feel the Plan appears very vague and indefinite - I wonder just how much will actually take place, and how much will fall by the wayside.
4.	Ruth Baas	Transport concerns Mentions transport - where is there talk about getting trucks out of town. Gisborne Rd is so dangerous and the trucks do not slow down. Where is info on a truck bypass? It's been talked about for years with no action. Get it done!! Darley needs upgrading and a shopping precinct provided. We have become the poor cousin to other areas.

2. Takes into consideration the matters raised within the submission in its finalisation of the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 at a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.
3. Provides a response to each submitter following the adoption of the Council Plan 2025-2029.

BACKGROUND

Council has developed a draft four-year Council Plan and reviewed the Community Vision and 10-year asset and financial plans in accordance with deliberative engagement principles as required by the Local Government Act 2020.

Following this process, no changes were recommended to the Community Vision, Long Term Financial Plan 2021-2031 and the Asset Management Plan 2022-2032.

A draft Council Plan 2025-2029 was placed on public exhibition from 8 May 2025 to 5 June 2025, allowing submissions to be made by members of the public (in the prescribed manner). Four submissions were received.

PROPOSAL

That Council considers the four submissions received before the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 is finalised and considered for adoption by Council at the Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

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 to create the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 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

Details regarding the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 consultation period were published on our have your say page on 8 May 2025 and advertisements were placed in the Moorabool News. Community members were invited to make submissions in writing up until 5pm on Thursday 5 June 2025 via the have your say page, email or post. The consultation was also promoted on Council's social media.

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

Following the conclusion of the community consultation period in relation to the development of the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 and having completed all statutory requirements, it is recommended that Council consider the submissions received.

8 COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

8.1 DRAFT ASSET PLAN 2025-2035 - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Author: Jacquie Younger, Coordinator Asset Management

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

Following the initial presentation at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in May 2025 and the subsequent public exhibition process, this report now seeks Council's endorsement for the Draft Asset Plan 2025 – 2035 to proceed to formal adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council is responsible for the management of over \$1.03B of physical infrastructure assets that support the delivery of services to the community.
- Asset Management is a core service and is at the centre of Council's financial and strategic decision making.
- The Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 was placed on public exhibition from 9 May 2025 to 6 June 2025, allowing submissions to be made by members of the public (in the prescribed manner).
- During the exhibition period one submission was received but not related to the Draft Asset Plan 2025 – 2035, and that submission has been referred to the proposed 2025/26 Annual Budget consultation for response.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Notes that no submissions in relation to the Draft Asset Plan 2025 – 2035 were received during the consultation period.**
2. **Recommends that the final report for consideration of the Draft Asset Plan 2025 – 2035 be presented for adoption at a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 25 June 2025.**

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Councils have adequate control over their assets and mandates the development and adoption of a ten-year Asset Plan to guide the management of Council infrastructure assets throughout the asset lifecycle (acquisition, maintenance, renewal, upgrade/expansion, decommissioning and disposal).

Council's infrastructure assets include, but are not limited to, the road and street network, underground drainage, buildings and facilities, and parks and recreational facilities, among others.

Council seeks to ensure that these infrastructure assets are effectively managed to meet current and future service delivery goals.

The Asset Plan referred to in the Act is a community facing document that shows how the Council's infrastructure assets will be managed and maintained, while meeting the community's needs and interests. It also addresses all major asset groups and sets out the general principles of life cycle asset management and summarises the asset management practices being implemented by Council.

The Asset Plan includes the following asset categories:

- **Transport**

Council's current register contains \$489 million of roads, bridges, kerb and channels, path, car parks and traffic management devices owned and managed by Council.

- **Buildings**

Council's current register contains \$132.8 million worth of buildings and structures, including halls, depots, libraries, offices, amenity blocks and shelters.

- **Stormwater Drainage**

Council's current register contains \$171.9 million worth of water and drainage assets, including stormwater pits and pipes, bores and standpipes, tanks and dams and flood mitigation devices.

- **Parks and Open Spaces**

Council's current register contains \$23.8 million worth of recreation and open space assets, including parks and reserves, play equipment, sports fields and courts.

The Draft Plan was presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 7 May 2025, at which time Council resolved to proceed to public exhibition, providing the community with an opportunity to make submissions for consideration prior to formal adoption.

The public exhibition period was conducted from 9 May to 6 June 2025 however, no submissions in relation to the Draft Asset Plan 2025 – 2035 were received during this time.

PROPOSAL

Following the initial presentation of the Draft Asset Plan 2025 – 2035 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in May 2025, a public exhibition period was undertaken. During the exhibition period no submissions in relation to the Asset Plan were received.

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 3.2: Align services to meet the needs of the community

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no risk or occupational health and safety issues associated with the recommendation within this report.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Date	Outcome
Consult	Council officers	Internal working group and Service Manager meetings to review and update documentation.	October 2024 - March 2025	Draft Asset Plan.
Consult	Community	Deliberative Engagement in line with Council Plan.	January 2025	Community feedback.
Consult	Councillors	Briefing of Councillors to provide an overview of the documentation. Report to Council seeking endorsement for public exhibition.	April 2025 & May 2025	Endorsement of the draft documents.
Consult	Community	Public exhibition (28 days) of the updated draft documents to allow for review and feedback from the community (to be considered in finalising the plans).	May-June 2025	Community feedback on the draft documents.
Consult	Councillors	Report to Council outlining the submissions received, providing an official response and overview of any recommended amendments.	June 2025	Final draft document adopted by Council.
Inform	Community	Adopted document made publicly available on Council's website.	June 2025	Adopted document made 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 – Jacquie Younger

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

CONCLUSION

As no submissions were received for consideration, it is proposed that the Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 be referred to a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 25 June 2025 for adoption.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10 MEETING CLOSURE