



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 4 June 2025

Date: Wednesday, 4 June 2025

Time: 6.00pm

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

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1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.00pm.

Cr Moira Berry read the prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Jarrod Bingham read the Acknowledgement of Country.

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

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

4 PRESENT

Cr 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

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

Ms Leanne Manton

Manager Customer & Communications

5 APOLOGIES

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr John Keogh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 2025, the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 May 2025 and the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

7 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

11 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING REPORTS

11.1 COMMUNITY GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS - MARCH ROUND 2025

Author: Travis Kirwood, Manager Community Development and Activation

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. **Community Grants March 2025 Round Recommendations (under separate cover)**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Council regarding funding applications for the March 2025 round of the Community Grants Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Community Grants Program provides funding to community organisations to deliver projects that build on local strengths to develop healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods.
- Council received 17 applications for the March Round across the five program categories: Community Arts and Culture (4), Community Strengthening (8), Community Events (2), Community Development (0) and Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants (3).
- A combined value of \$58,036 was requested with \$115,954 available this round.
- Eligible applications were assessed by a community grants assessment panel consisting of Council officers from a diverse range of departments.
- This report presents Council with a list of recommended grants for the March 2025 funding round prepared by the Community Grants Assessment Panel (Attachment 1 - Community Grants March 2025 Round Recommendations).
- In total, 13 applications are recommended to receive a combined \$44,036 in funding.
- The proposed allocation of this sum is detailed in the funding recommendations within this report and in Attachment 1 - Community Grants March 2025 Round Recommendations.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ally Munari

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That Council approves the allocation of community grants to the value of \$44,036 as outlined below:

1. Community Strengthening Grants:

- (a) Ballan Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Committee. Inc., Completion of All Abilities Toilet.**
- (b) Wombat Regional Arts Network, Celebrating Wombat Arts 25th Year.**
- (c) Moonlite Theatre, Stage Backdrop Curtain System for Enhanced Performances.**

- (d) **Ballan and District Probus Club, Multimedia Projector for Club Meetings.**
 - (e) **Springbank Football Netball Club Inc., New Furniture and Trolley.**
 - (f) **Great Dividing Trail Association Inc., Lerderderg Track Walk or Ride Guide.**
 - (g) **Lions Club of Ballan, Ballan Lions BBQ Trailer.**
2. **Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants:**
- (a) **Pentland Hills Landcare Group Inc., Pentland Hills Landcare Group Control Serrated Tussock Fund Raising Show.**
 - (b) **Ballan Arboretum Group, Ballan Historic Tree Walk – Voiceover.**
 - (c) **Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance Inc., Connecting Diverse Communities with Local Platypus and River Health.**
3. **Community Arts and Culture Grants:**
- (a) **Mr Jason (Broni) Lisle, Introduction to Improv Acting and Comedy.**
 - (b) **Ms Cat Moser, Your Stage Open Mic.**
4. **Community Events Grants:**
- (a) **Unite Foundation, Diwali 2025.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

This report provides an assessment of applications received for the Community Grants Program March 2025 Round. The grant round was opened 1 March and closed 31 March 2025, with 17 different community groups submitting applications. A combined value of \$58,036 was requested, with \$115,954 available this round. Eligible applications were assessed by an assessment panel.

Council's Community Grants Program enables not for profit community groups to apply for funding to support projects that result in broad community benefit for the Moorabool community. An annual allocation of \$270,400.00 is available in 2024/25 with \$115,954 available this round. The community grants program has the following five program categories:

- **Community Arts and Culture Grants:** Supporting local artists and organisations to use a creative approach to the development of community projects and initiatives (\$10,000 available this round).
- **Community Strengthening Grants:** Community projects, programs and initiatives with a specific focus on connecting communities and building community capacity (\$60,000 available this round).
- **Community Events Grants:** Non-recurrent, seed funding designed to encourage and promote the development of sustainable local events (\$10,000 available this round).
- **Community Development Fund Grants:** Supporting community infrastructure projects which significantly impact on community development (\$26,654 available this round).
- **Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants:** Supporting the community in reducing expenditure of gas and electricity, investing in sustainability measures and providing opportunities to raise awareness of environmental issues to the broader community (\$9,300 available this round).

Community groups and organisations can apply for up to \$5,000 for Community Strengthening Grants and up to \$3,000 for Arts, Events and Sustainability Grants. Applicants need to demonstrate a cash or in-kind contribution toward the cost of their project on a ratio of \$1 for \$1 (Council \$1: Group \$1). Small Community Strengthening projects under \$1,000 are not required to demonstrate an applicant contribution.

A Grant Assessment Panel of Council officers assessed the applications against a set of criteria. Applications need to achieve a score of 70 or above to be recommended by the assessment panel to receive funding, subject to Council's endorsement.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

- Project description and why the applicant wants to complete the project – 10%
- Why is the project needed in your community? – 20%
- What will this project achieve? – 20%
- Who will be involved in the project? – 15%
- How will you carry out your project (including risk management)? – 15%
- Project budget and explanation of how the group arrived at the costs – 20%

Each criterion is assessed out of 10 and weighted according to the criteria percentage. The maximum possible score of any application is 100. The scoring guide is as follows:

- 0 Did not address criteria
- 1-2 Minimal
- 3-5 Satisfactory
- 6-8 Good
- 9-10 Excellent

PROPOSAL

March 2025 Community Grant Recommendations

In total, 17 applications were received across the five program categories as follows:

- Community Arts and Culture Grants (4)
- Community Strengthening Grants (8)
- Community Events Grants (2)
- Community Development Grants (0)
- Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grant (3)

All 17 submitted applications were individually assessed by a panel of Council officers prior to a Grant Assessment Panel meeting. A total of \$58,036 was requested with \$115,954 available this round. The assessment panel recommends a total value of \$44,036 to be awarded to 13 applications. This community grant funding will contribute to local projects worth \$185,287 in total.

Category	Applications Received	Amount Available	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Applications Recommended
Community Arts and Culture Grants	4	\$10,000.00	\$12,000	\$6,000	2
Community Strengthening Grants	8	\$60,000.00	\$32,200	\$27,200	7
Community Events Grants	2	\$10,000.00	\$6,000	\$3,000	1
Community Development Fund Grants	0	\$26,654.00	\$0	\$0	0
Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants	3	\$9,300	\$7,836	\$7,836	3
Total	17	\$115,954	\$58,036	\$44,036	13

The recommendations provided in Attachment 1 - Community Grants March 2025 Round Recommendations, represents all the community grant applications from the March 2025 grant round.

Applicant Support

The Community Grant Guidelines specify that applicants are required to liaise with a Community Development Officer prior to lodging an application to ensure applicants receive clear guidance on eligibility and how to best present their applications. All applicants received support and advice from Council officers before lodging their application. Additional support was provided after the funding round closed to clarify any ambiguity in applications.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods

Priority 1.1: Improve the health and wellbeing of our community

The proposed allocation of grants under the March 2025 round of the Community Grants Program is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Consistent with the Community Grants Policy and 2023/24 budget allocation, a total of \$115,954 is available for allocation in the March 2025 Community Grants Program.

The following amounts are recommended:

- \$6,000 for Community Arts and Culture Grants
- \$27,200 for Community Strengthening Grants
- \$3,000 for Community Events Grants

- \$0 for Community Development Fund Grants
- \$7,836 for Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Grants

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Project timelines	Grant recipients exceeding prescribed timelines.	Medium	Terms and conditions agreements required to be signed by grant recipients. Scheduled monitoring of projects.
Financial – Inadequate funds to finish project	Grant recipients misappropriate expenditure of Council funds.	Medium	Terms and conditions agreements required to be signed by grant recipients. Grant acquittal required upon completion of projects.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Inform	Community Groups	Advised of Community Grants opening and encouraged to apply.	Via direct email	February-March 2025	Community Groups are aware of the grant opportunities and can submit applications.
Inform	Moorabool residents	Promotional flyers at libraries, community centres, and noticeboards. Council website. Social media channels. Moorabool News advertisement. Email banners/signatures. Electronic roadside sign. Council visual	Across the shire	February-March 2025	Council's Community Grants Program is well promoted to the Moorabool community.

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
		display boards. Arts network meeting.			
Consult	Moorabool residents	Grant Writing Workshop. Drop-in support sessions.	Online and in person	February-March 2025	The community can learn about the Community Grants Program and develop their applications.
Inform	Successful applicants	Letter of formal notification.	Via email	June 2025	Following a decision of Council, successful grant applicants are notified.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

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

Authors – Travis Kirwood and Kristian Brudenell

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

CONCLUSION

Seventeen (17) applications were received for the March 2025 Community Grants Round. Eligible applications were assessed by an assessment panel. Based on the application assessment process and funding criteria, it is proposed that Council allocates funding to the value of \$44,036 to be distributed to 13 applicants, per the recommendations provided in Attachment 1 - Community Grants March 2025 Round Recommendations.

11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS

Author: Travis Kirwood, Manager Community Development and Activation

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

Attachments: 1. Community Asset Committee Nominations (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide committee membership recommendations for the following Council delegated Community Asset Committees.

- Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge
- Dunnstown Recreation Reserve
- Elaine Recreation Reserve
- Gordon Public Hall
- Greendale Reserves
- Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall
- Millbrook Community Centre
- Navigators Community Centre
- Wallace Public Hall
- Wallace Recreation Reserve

This report also seeks approval for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to issue an Instrument of Delegation to each Community Asset Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Community Asset Committees (CACs) have been operating since the implementation of the Local Government Act 2020, formerly known as Section 86 Committees of Management.
- As per the Community Asset Committee Guidelines (Guidelines), Community Asset Committees will be appointed to align with each Council Term (being four years), as a mechanism to support the Council in executing its duties.
- Officers undertook an Expression of Interest process calling for Community Asset Committee volunteers.
- Community meetings for each Community Asset Committee were held to establish community support for nominees.
- This report provides Council with the committee membership recommendations.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Moira Berry

That Council:

- 1. Pursuant to section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, approves the nominees listed in Attachment 1 to create the new term membership for each respective Community Asset Committee listed in this report.**
- 2. Approves the cessation of the current Community Asset Committees appointed in 2020 and to commence the transition to newly formed Community Asset Committees.**
- 3. Requests the CEO writes to each of the serving Community Asset Committee Members to thank them for their services over the previous term.**
- 4. Approves the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to issue an Instrument of Delegation to each Community Asset Committee.**
- 5. Approves Council Officers to notify each newly confirmed Community Asset Committee member of their respective appointments**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The appointment of Community Asset Committees (CACs) aligns with each Council Term, with existing Community Asset Committees required to be reviewed for reappointment within six (6) months of the commencement of each new Council term.

Officers have conducted an Expression of Interest process, as per 4 December 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting, item 11.4 Council Appointments to Community Asset Committees:

1. That Council, pursuant to section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020, retains the following Community Asset Committees to assist the Council in performing its functions and duties in the manner as currently prescribed in the Instruments of Delegation approved by the Chief Executive Officer, and appoints the following Councillor representatives and community members to the Community Asset Committees as set out below, for a period sufficient to undertake an Expression of Interest process to appoint new Community Asset Committees for the new Council term:

Community Expressions of Interest were sought via nomination forms from prospective and returning Committee members between 7 March to 7 April 2025.

Officers held phone discussions with new member nominees to provide an understanding of the role of Community Asset Committees and to get to know each new nominee.

Community meetings were then held for each Community Asset Committee to determine community support for each nominee. These sessions were held in person and facilitated by Council Officers.

PROPOSAL

Having conducted a public Expression of Interest Process, Council approves the recommendations contained within this report.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods

Priority 1.3: Facilitate opportunities for the community to gather and celebrate

The proposal to confirm Community Asset Committee Members is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with this Report.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

The Community Asset Committee Guidelines have been implemented to support delegated CACs manage Council facilities in a safe manner and mitigate risk for community volunteers and participants.

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
CACs do not adhere to Guidelines	CACs are not meeting Council and State legislated requirements	Medium	Induction support. Support resources. Annual reporting requirements. Close Officer liaison.
Adequate Committee nominations are not received	Unable to establish a delegated committee	Medium	Strong promotion of Expressions of Interest. Council Officer support.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Existing CAC members	Targeted and follow up emails. Phone conversations. In person meetings with committees.	Various	March & April 2025	CAC members aware of membership nomination process and empowered to promote process to their wider community
Involve	Existing CAC members Community	Recruitment process	Each local CAC community	March & April 2025	Member nominations received for each Community Asset Committee

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Involve	New CAC member nominees	Getting to Know You Phone Calls	Each local CAC community	April 2025	Council Officers were able to screen new nominees and ensure nominees understanding of role and function of Community Asset Committees
Involve	Community Existing CAC members	Community Vote	Each local CAC Community		Community votes held to confirm community support for nominees
Inform	Nominated members	Notification of successful nominations pending OMC outcome	Various	June	New CAC memberships finalised.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

General Manager – Leigh McCallum

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

Author – Travis Kirwood

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

CONCLUSION

Council officers have conducted an Expression of Interest process, as requested at 4 December 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council, seeking nominees for Community Asset Committees for the new Council term.

This report seeks Council's support to approve the recommendations contained in this report.

12 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 MARCH 2025 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Author: Aaron Light, Senior Accountant

Authoriser: David Jackson, General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. March 2025 Quarterly Report (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This Quarterly Report provided in Attachment 1 outlines the year-to-date financial position of Council for the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025. It also contains a comparison between the adopted budget and the year-end forecast.
- The Income Statement reports the year to date adjusted underlying result is a surplus of \$14.112 million that is \$0.554 million unfavourable when compared to budget. The adjusted underlying result extracts the impact of the non-recurrent capital income items, including one-off capital grants, donated assets from subdivisions and developer contributions.
- The Statement of Capital Works reports year to date expenditure of \$24.066 million that is \$4.143 million less than budget. The variance primarily relates to the timing of contract payments and the deferral of some projects to next financial year.
- Council's cash balance as at 31 March 2025 is \$19.877 million.
- Council's overall financial position at the end of March 2025 is considered sound and continues to be closely monitored to ensure the achievement of budgeted outcomes.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

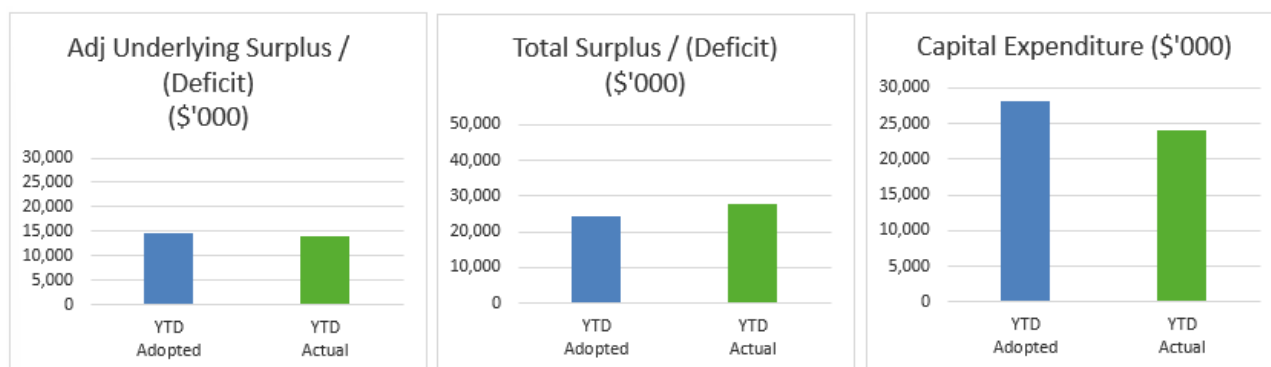
Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Financial Report – March 2025, provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

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



	Year to Date				Annual			
	YTD Adopted \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	Variance		Adopted Budget \$'000	Forecast \$'000	Variance	
			\$'000	%			\$'000	%
Operating Income	63,816	63,365	(451)	-1%	66,125	68,672	2,547	4%
Operating Expenses	49,150	49,253	(103)	0%	67,668	70,672	(3,004)	-4%
Adj Underlying Surplus / (Deficit)	14,666	14,112	(554)	-4%	(1,543)	(2,000)	(457)	30%
Capital/Non-Recurrent income	9,763	13,618	(3,855)	-39%	11,595	27,209	(15,614)	-135%
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	24,429	27,730	3,301	14%	10,051	25,209	15,158	151%
Capital Expenditure	28,209	24,066	(4,143)	-15%	46,485	37,831	(8,654)	-19%

Income Statement

The main changes within the Income Statement are as follows:

- Year to Date Operating Income - \$0.451 million unfavourable
 - Unfavourable in "Rates and charges" (\$0.533m). This is mainly due to an expected reduction in Supplementary Rates.
- Year to Date Operating Expenses - \$0.103 million unfavourable
 - Unfavourable in "Materials and services" (\$0.153m). This is mainly due to unbudgeted expenditure for an insurance claim at Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (all costs to be fully reimbursed).

The main forecast adjustments relate to the impact of grant funded projects being carried over from previous financial years, a decrease in supplementary rates income, and an insurance claim.

Balance Sheet and Cashflow Statement

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

Council is showing a cash position of \$19.877 million, which is \$1.214 million less than the same time last year.

At the end of March, Council's Balance Sheet continues to show a strong net position. This is represented by \$917.332 million of assets which is largely made up of Council Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment. Council's total liabilities are \$56.608 million, which results in net assets of \$860.724 million.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Total capital expenditure at the end of March 2025 is \$24.066 million, which is \$4.143 million less than the year-to-date budget. This is mainly due to timing variances with contract payments.

There are also a number of projects that will be incomplete at year end and will be carried over to next financial year. These include Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Pavilion, Ballan Library, and Woolpack Road Bridge.

PROPOSAL

That Council receives the Quarterly Report – March 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 3.4: Measure performance, communicate our results and continue to improve our services every day

The proposal to adopt the Quarterly Report – March 2025 is consistent with the Council Plan 2021 - 2025.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There are no identified risks associated with this process.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

To Council, through the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 4 June 2025 and to the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee meeting on 21 May 2025.

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.

Management and Capital Accountant – Aaron Light

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

CONCLUSION

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

12.2 AUDIT AND RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL - REPORTS**Author:** Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** David Jackson, Acting Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Summary of Minutes - 19 February 2025 (under separate cover)**BACKGROUND**

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Committee	Meeting Date	Council Representatives
Audit and Risk Advisory Committee	Wednesday 19 February 2025	Cr Moira Berry Cr Paul Tatchell Cr Rod Ward (Sub)

RESOLUTION**Moved:** Cr Moira Berry**Seconded:** Cr Ally Munari

That Council receive and note the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee Summary of Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2025.

CARRIED

13 COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS**13.1 MOORABOOL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Author: Mitchell Cunningham, Manager Environment & Waste

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Terms of Reference - MESAC (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to approve the appointment of members to the Moorabool Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (MESAC).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Moorabool Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee was established in 1998 and was formerly titled the Moorabool Landcare Advisory Committee and has been a long-term beneficial committee of Moorabool Shire Council.
- The Committee was renamed Moorabool Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (MESAC) in 2019 following the adoption of the Sustainable Environment Strategy.
- The MESAC committee provides guidance on matters relating to conservation, biodiversity, environment, pest and weed programs, waste and circular economy, water quality and sustainability as per the adopted Terms of Reference (ToR) attached.
- Through an open Expression of Interest process Council received applications from Moorabool residents to join MESAC.
- Nine (9) nominations were received for MESAC. Following a phone screen eight (8) nominations are being recommended for appointment to the committee. One nominee withdrew their application through the phone screening process due to not being able to uphold the commitment as set out in the ToR.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Moira Berry

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council approves the appointment of the following nominees as members of the Moorabool Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee, as per the Terms of Reference:

1. David Marnie
2. Dominique Wisniewski
3. Jodie Valpied
4. Julie Keating
5. Judith Bailey
6. Louise Salt

7. Rose De la Cruz

8. Rhonda Priest

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The MESAC is a committee which has been established since the late 1990's and has been a valuable committee from inception for numerous projects. The MESAC committee provides guidance on matters relating to conservation, biodiversity, environment, pest and weed programs, waste and circular economy, water quality and sustainability as per the adopted Terms of Reference (ToR) attached. The MESAC committee includes:

- Two Councillors of Moorabool, One (1) Chair and One (1) Deputy
- Manager Environment & Waste or Coordinator Sustainable Environment
- Up to ten (10) community members
- Appropriate Council officers

An Expression of Interest (EOI) process was undertaken with broad promotion across the Shire, including advertisements in the Moorabool News and on Council's social media channels. Interested applicants were invited to submit their expression of interest via letter or email. Following the closing of the expression of interest a review was completed against all of the applicants and a phone screen arranged by officers to discuss the following items:

- Projects/Policies/Strategies that are discussed with MESAC;
- Commitment for MESAC and attendance requirements;
- Location of MESAC meetings;
- General procedures of a MESAC meeting; that being the agenda is set by Council and committee members will have opportunities during General Business to discuss other items.

Below is a list of applications including role, geographic location and expertise:

Name	Previous Member	Suitability
David Marnie	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Grow West Committee, 35-year member of CFA, Member and past president of Moorabool Environment Group, Founding Member of Parwan Landcare Group and Member of Moorabool Landcare Network • Great understanding of native grasslands and environment through working career and passion for sustainability
Dominique Wisniewski	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active volunteer of the Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee where she works with other volunteers to improve the health and biodiversity of the parks

Name	Previous Member	Suitability
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial obligations as Treasurer of the group, while working closely with other committee members to plan and coordinate planting and maintenance activities
Jodie Valpied	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive experience in environment and sustainability related areas and numerous attributes in environment and sustainability Current president of Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance and active member of Moorabool Environment Group
Julie Keating	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasurer of Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group (MCLG) (membership of 120 plus Moorabool Residents), Treasurer of the Moorabool Landcare Network & Chair of the Moorabool Landcare Nursery Former Regional Business Manager with the Department of Water, Land and Planning
Judith Bailey	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Past Committee Member Leigh Catchment Group Immediate Past President Dark Sky Victoria, Current Committee Member
Louise Salt	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 years' experience working on engagement in Waste, first with the Grampians Waste and Resource Recovery Group and now with the Department Passionate about contributing to discussions on recycling, waste and circular economy improvements to Moorabool Shire
Rose De la Cruz	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked in the area of environmental education for much of her professional life as a teacher in the tertiary sector (over 30 years) Taught Environment & Sustainable Development for 15 years at Melbourne University An active volunteer with various groups in the shire over the last 14 years; resident of Ballan and continues to work with these groups
Rhonda Priest	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration, logistics and organisational behaviour Work career as a Military Officer in the field of logistics spanned 45 years of active and part-time service Member of the Renew Organisation and aims to improve the sustainability of their Ballan residence utilising their broad expertise

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to appoint the above eight (8) members to the Moorabool Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods

Priority 1.3: Facilitate opportunities for the community to gather and celebrate

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Existing and future impacts on the environment with the growth of the shire	Lost opportunity to use the knowledge and experience available within the community.	Medium	Establish Committee and appointment of members.
Implementation of environment and sustainability actions from the Environment and Sustainable Strategy that do not align with the community	Lost opportunity to use the knowledge and experience available within the community.	Medium	Establish Committee and appointment of members.
Breach of confidentiality	Breach of confidentiality by Committee members.	Medium	Each Committee member to undertake an induction program that includes signing a confidentiality agreement.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Inform	Moorabool Shire Residents Arts Industry Artists	Expression of Interest process distributed through social media, MSC Website,	Various	February – March 2025	Nominations were received

		posters and flyers through the Shire and through local community groups.			
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VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

General Manager – Assets and Infrastructure, Phil Jeffrey

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

Author – Mitchell Cunningham

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

CONCLUSION

The MESAC is one of Council's longest serving committees and is a valuable avenue from insight into the community for environment and sustainability projects. The MESAC committee provides guidance on matters relating to conservation, biodiversity, environment, pest and weed programs, waste and circular economy, water quality and sustainability as per the adopted Terms of Reference (ToR) attached. Through an open Expression of Interest process, Council received nine (9) applications from external experts to join the MESAC. After an assessment and evaluation process there are eight (8) applicants who are recommended for appointment to the Committee.

13.2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - QUARTERLY REPORT TO MARCH 2025

Author: Ewen Nevett, Manager Engineering Services

Authoriser: Phil Jeffrey, General Manager Community Assets & Infrastructure

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

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an overview of the progress of Council's 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program to 31 March 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) now consists of 63 projects reported to Council with the delivery principally managed by two Services Units, Engineering Services (35 projects) and Major Projects (22 projects). Six projects are managed by other Service Units. Delivery of the 2024-2025 CIP is on schedule with 52.4% of projects already completed and a further 37.1% of the projects either underway, soon to commence, or soon to be awarded.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Ward

Seconded: Cr Tom Sullivan

That Council receive and note the Capital Improvement Program Quarterly Report to 31 March 2025.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

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

PROPOSAL

This quarterly report provides Council with an overview of the progress of Council's 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program to 31 March 2025.

Implementation of the 2024/2025 Capital Improvement Program

The 2024-2025 CIP currently consists of 63 projects reported to Council. This number may be adjusted throughout the year as other projects become active. Three projects have been added and while an additional \$303,000 in Grant funding has been received for Projects already included in the adopted 2024-2025 Budget. The additional projects are:

- Carberry Drive Reserve Hopetoun Park, \$50,000 grant to upgrade the reserve.
- Ingliston Road (1140-3650), following Council approval to bring forward Road to Recovery funding and complete the widening of this road as a variation to an existing contract.
- Bacchus Marsh Aerodrome, runway sealing, line marking and lighting.

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

- Projects carried forward from 2023-2024 program.
- 2024-2025 Council funded projects.
- Grant funded projects.

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

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

CIP Program Delivery Stage	Actual as of 31 March 2025				
	No. of Projects				Per cent %
	Capital Works	Major Projects	Other	Total	
Not Commenced - inactive/“On Hold”	2	1	1	4	6.3
Not Commenced			1	1	1.6
Documentation/Design Preparation		4		4	6.3
Tender/Quote Stage	1		1	2	3.2
Project Awarded – Waiting Commencement	4	2		6	9.5
In Progress/Under Construction	8	5		13	20.6
Complete	20	10	3	33	52.4
TOTAL	35	22	6	63	100

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

As at 31 March 2025, expenditure was \$21.51M from a current budget of \$42.54M with an anticipated carry forward from multi-year projects and projects “On Hold” of \$9.54M. The final outcome will be dependent on the physical progress of projects and any impacts from unforeseen events.

The current inactive/ “On-Hold” projects are:

Project Name	Project Description	Comment
Werribee Vale Road Pump Station	Upgrade irrigation supply servicing Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve	On hold – subject to advice from Southern Rural Water

Connor Court Drainage	Drainage Renewal associated with Melbourne Water drainage improvement	Activation is subject to further action and direction from Melbourne Water
Woolpack Road Bridge (Parwan Ck)	Replacement of existing Parwan Creek Bridge	Activation is subject to successful grant funding application
Lyndhurst Street Footpath	Construction of the new footpath	Procurement suspended subject to the outcome of a grant application to construct a shared path in Gordon which would incorporate this section of proposed footpath.

Program Status

Capital Works Projects

At this stage of the financial year the program is on schedule for completion by 30 June 2025.

At the end of March projects are either complete (57%) or underway (37%) with only two (6%) on hold (Lyndhurst Street and Woolpack Road Bridge).

One Capital Works project is behind the original scheduled delivery timeframes. Bald Hill / 1000+ Steps – Stage 3 (Summit) has been delayed from original timeframes due to Cultural Heritage Management Plan finalisation of which triggered design amendments. Civil works are completed with landscaping scheduled for April / May 2025 when the weather is more suitable.

All projects currently behind are still programmed to be completed this financial year.

Major Projects

Major Projects is responsible for the delivery of buildings and open space projects. Given the timeframe to deliver major projects, the projects currently under delivery are a mixture of projects finishing this year and over the next two financial years.

This quarter has seen the completion a number of projects including Dunnstown Pavilion, Navigators Community Hub and Darley Park Playground.

At the end of March 46% of projects are completed, 23% in progress, 9% awarded but yet to commence and 18% in design preparation or tender/quotation phase.

Design for pavilion at Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve has recommenced following finalisation of scope and an Expression of Interest for construction is scheduled to be advertised in late April.

Projects which are identified to be carried forward into the next year include:

- Ballan Senior Citizens (quotation scheduled for late April 2025)
- Ballan Library/Plaza (scheduled for completion in August 2025)
- Darley Office Refurbishment Stage 2 (currently in design development)
- BMRRR Pavilion (currently in design development)
- Federation Park (awarded – scheduled for commencement in May 2025 following Cultural Heritage inductions)

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 is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Reporting of the Capital Improvement Program has been resourced as part of Council's budget. At 31 March 2025, the program is forecast to be within 1% of budget, with just 8.0% of projects still to be fully procured (excluding "On Hold" projects). The program is continuously monitored to identify areas for savings to maintain the expenditure within the budget parameters.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

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

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

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

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

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

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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

General Manager – Phil Jeffrey

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

Author – Ewen Nevett

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

CONCLUSION

This report provides a summary of the progress of the Capital Improvement Program for the third quarter of the 2024-2025 period for the information of Councillors.

14 OTHER REPORTS

Nil

15 NOTICES OF MOTION**15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 331 - LEVEL CROSSING SAFETY AND CONGESTION AT BACCHUS MARSH TRAIN STATION****Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Steve Venditti-Taylor, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor****Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham**

That Council write to the following Ministers asking what their plans are for level crossing removal at the Bacchus Marsh Train Station at Parwan Road and Grant Street in Bacchus Marsh:

- 5. The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP, Victorian Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Public & Active Transport; and**
- 6. The Hon Catherine King MP, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.**

CARRIED

RATIONALE

With two large high schools, a train station and the two largest sporting clubs in Moorabool all on the same corner, and over 20,000 cars and 1,000 trucks a day passing through that area, what is the long-term plan to reduce the impact to the community and long term plan to ease congestion from increased housing and increase in traffic from right across Victoria.

With 110 level crossing removals by 2030 how does this not find itself on that list as one of the most dangerous, with the increase in trains and congestion with the desire to get them from Ballarat to Melbourne in 60 minutes, and one of the most vital for the growth and traffic flow for Bacchus Marsh.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

15.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 332 - REQUEST FOR URGENT CLEAN UP OF WASTE AND LITTER ON THE WESTERN FREEWAY**Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Rod Ward, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Rod Ward****Seconded: Cr Steven Venditti-Taylor****That Council:**

- 1. Write to the Hon Melissa Horne MP, Minister for Roads & Road Safety expressing Council's growing concern over the increasing prevalence of litter, illegally dumped rubbish and damaged road barriers on the Western Freeway between Ballarat and Melton.**
- 2. Requests that the Victorian Government conduct an urgent clean up and repair road barriers along the Western Freeway and implement more regular clean ups moving forward.**

CARRIED

RATIONALE

The litter and illegally dumped rubbish is creating a very poor image for the beautiful Moorabool Shire, that is very proud of our stunning wilderness, native flora and fauna, gorges, rivers, picnic grounds, mineral springs and trails.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

15.3 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 333 - INCREASED SUPPORT FOR MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL AND FAST GROWING PERI URBAN COUNCILS**Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Rod Ward, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

RESOLUTION**Moved: Cr Rod Ward****Seconded: Cr Moira Berry**

That Council, in line with the recommendations from the Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee that examined the sustainability and efficiency of local government funding and service delivery, write to the Hon Jacinta Allen MP, Premier of the State of Victoria requesting that:

1. The Victorian Government should create growth funds specifically for Councils experiencing rapid growth such as Moorabool Shire, and including peri-urban Councils; these funds should support timely delivery of infrastructure through works in-kind agreements and additional financial contributions.
2. Reinstate the Council Planning Flying Squad to provide short term expertise and alleviate planning backlogs for peri-urban Councils.
3. Partner with universities and TAFEs to establish traineeships and apprenticeships in high demand professions such as urban planning and civil engineering.
4. Update disaster recovery funding arrangements to include "betterment" funding, allowing Councils to rebuild infrastructure with improved resilience to future climate events.
5. Simplify the grant application process to ensure peri-urban Councils can compete fairly for funding.
6. Provide additional grant writing support for smaller and less-resourced Councils, including those in peri-urban areas.

CARRIED**RATIONALE**

The Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee examined the sustainability and efficiency of local government funding and service delivery in Victoria.

In addition to this, recently the State Government announced a 30 year vision for Victoria through to 2055, and a central focus of the "Plan for Victoria" is addressing housing affordability by increasing the supply of diverse housing options. The State Government has advised that they aim to build 2.24 million homes across Melbourne and our regional cities and towns over this period, with 20,000 of these homes designated for Moorabool Shire Council (MSC).

In 2021 MSC had a population of 36,000. Whilst COVID-19 slowed growth, by 2024 the population of MSC had reached 40,339. The population of Moorabool is expected to reach 48,000 by 2031, 65,000 by 2041 and 73,000 by 2046 – which is growth of over 80% over the next 20 years. On top of that the population of greater Bacchus Marsh is currently 26,790 and is expected to exceed 55,000 by 2046.

Growth across the peri urban Councils (Moorabool, Golden Plains, Bass Coast, Surf Coast and Baw Baw) that adjoin the larger interface Councils such as Melton, Hume etc. is expected to be 45%. However, the better funded Regional Councils (e.g. Ballarat, Bendigo etc.) have larger revenue streams and expected population growth of 26%.

Moorabool Shire Council's unprecedented and sustained growth presents significant infrastructure challenges for both existing gap funding and new infrastructure to cater to the growing populations needs.

The Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee Final Report on the sustainability and efficiency of local government funding found that:

Challenges Facing Peri-Urban Councils

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

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

Infrastructure Funding for Growth Areas:

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

Support for Long-Term Planning:

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

Climate Change and Disaster Resilience:

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

Simplifying Grant Processes:

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

We have just released our Council Plan (2025-2029) for public feedback. In this we have committed to being a financially responsible Council and it is evident that to achieve the priorities

of this Plan that the State Government must significantly improve its funding and support for Moorabool Shire Council and all fast growing Peri Urban Councils.

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 Jarrod Bingham

That Council receive and note the Mayor's Report.

CARRIED**Cr Paul Tatchell – Mayor's Report****Date:** 4 June 2025

14 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Briefings: CIP Quarterly Report (to 31 March 2025); Community Grant Recommendations March Round; Community Asset Committee Member Nominations; Review of the draft DAC Agenda Special Meeting of Council
17 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) Flag Raising Ceremony
18 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFA Pentland School Bus/Truck Accident Unit Citation for Service Presentation (invited guest)
21 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Briefings: Municipal Revaluation Presentation; Review of the OMC Agenda Development Assessment Committee
22 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Opening Masons Lane Reserve Dog Park, Bacchus Marsh

23 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Volunteer Week BBQ hosted by Moorabool Shire Council, Bacchus Marsh
27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconciliation Week Event – Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung Welcome to Country and Flag Raising Ceremony Morning Tea, Bacchus Marsh
28 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest Speaker – Young Leaders Forum 2025• Councillor Briefings: Outdoor Pool Season Review 2024/2025; Local Business Advisory Committee (LBAC) Member Nominations; Moorabool Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee (MESAC) Nominations; Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy
30 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconciliation Week Event – Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung Welcome to Country and Flag Raising Ceremony, Ballan
4 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moorabool Growth Management Committee• Ordinary Meeting of Council

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

That Council receive and note the Councillors Reports.

CARRIED**Cr Tom Sullivan**

16 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAV State Council Meeting, Melbourne
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Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor

21 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biggest Morning Tea, Darley Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre, Darley
23 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Volunteer Week BBQ hosted by Moorabool Shire Council, Bacchus Marsh
26 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Highway Action Committee Meeting, Bacchus Marsh
31 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Freeze in the Marsh, Maddingley Park

Cr Ally Munari

14 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pentland Calisthenics College speaking event, Maddingley
17 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) Flag Raising Ceremony, Ballan

20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Myrniong
24 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee with a Councillor, Bungaree
27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon Public Park Annual General Meeting

Cr Jarrod Bingham

17 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balliang Fire Station meeting, Balliang
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Cr Moira Berry

17 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) Flag Raising Ceremony, Ballan
20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbours Place AGM, Bacchus Marsh
21 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit & Risk Advisory Committee meeting, Darley
22 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Opening Masons Lane Reserve Dog Park, Bacchus Marsh
27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Week Event – Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung Welcome to Country and Flag Raising Ceremony Morning Tea, Bacchus Marsh • Blacksmiths Cottage and Forge Community Asset Committee meeting, Bacchus Marsh
30 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Week Event – Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung Welcome to Country and Flag Raising Ceremony, Ballan
3 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moorabool Landcare Network Meeting, Ballan

Cr Sheila Freeman

13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacchus Marsh U3A Annual General Meeting, Bacchus Marsh
20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbours Place Annual General Meeting, Bacchus Marsh
22 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Opening Masons Lane Reserve Dog Park, Bacchus Marsh
23 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Volunteer Week BBQ hosted by Moorabool Shire Council, Bacchus Marsh

Cr Sheila Freeman welcomed the introduction of a trial transport service between Bacchus Marsh and Melton and thanked the Community Assets & Infrastructure team for the repair and painting of a picnic table on the Holts Lane Walking Track.

Cr Rod Ward

Cr Ward congratulated Council staff on their involvement with various projects and programs which have recently received award nominations and awards.

18 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Bingham raised an item of urgent business in relation to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Ally Munari

That Council admit the item of urgent business in relation to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

CARRIED

18.1 EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS FUND**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Jarrod Bingham

Seconded: Cr Ally Munari

That Council:

- 1. Expresses its deep concern regarding the replacement of the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) with the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), and the significant financial burden this will place on our community, particularly our farmers, volunteers and vulnerable residents.**
- 2. Acknowledges the alarming increase in total revenue collected under the current scheme, over 92% since inception, while local CFA brigades receive only minimal funding that does not meet their operational needs.**
- 3. Demands the State Government provide full transparency by supplying the specific legislation that:**
 - (a) Mandates local Councils to collect this tax.**
 - (b) Requires Councils to transfer collected funds to the State Government without oversight or community consultation.**
- 4. Calls on the State Government to urgently review and reform the funding model to ensure:**
 - (a) Adequate, direct funding to CFA brigades and emergency services in Moorabool Shire and across regional Victoria.**
 - (b) Clear accountability and transparency in how funds collected are allocated and spent.**
 - (c) Local Government is relieved from the confusing and unpopular role of tax collection that it is ill-equipped to manage and explain to residents.**

5. **Stands in solidarity with all emergency service volunteers, local brigades, farmers and residents who are struggling under this unfair tax burden and whose vital services and wellbeing are at risk due to systemic underfunding and neglect by the State Government.**
6. **Recognises the courage of those local Councils and representatives who have spoken out against this unfair taxation and encourages all Councils in Victoria to unite in demanding fair treatment and transparency for their communities.**
7. **Resolves to formally write to the Premier, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Local Government to communicate Council's concerns, demands and the urgent need for meaningful action before this tax system causes further harm to our local communities and emergency services.**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Jarrod Bingham

That Council adjourn for a two minute break.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6.42pm.

The meeting resumed at 6.44pm.

19 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tom Sullivan

Seconded: Cr Rod Ward

That Council consider 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 Illegal Dumping in Moorabool Shire

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - e 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 legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.

CARRIED

20 MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 6.45pm.

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CHAIRPERSON