



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

Agenda

Council Meeting

Tuesday 28 April 2026

To be held in the Killara Centre
At the Camperdown Community
Centre
Commencing at 3:00 pm



Vision

We strive for a connected and thriving community.

Mission

We will foster opportunities, celebrate our identity and lifestyle, and provide high quality and responsive services.

Values

Teamwork

Integrity

Respect

Disclaimer

The advice and information contained herein is given by the Council without liability or responsibility for its accuracy. Before placing any reliance on this advice or information, a written enquiry should be made to the Council giving the entire reason or reasons for seeking the advice or information and how it is proposed to be used.

Council meetings are livestreamed on the Internet to provide members of the community greater access to Council decisions and debate. A recording of the meeting will be available on Council's website after the meeting (usually within 48 hours). Visitors in the public gallery may be filmed and/or recorded during the meeting. By attending the meeting, it is assumed consent is given in the event that this occurs.

Councillors



Cr Jo Beard
Tanderook Ward



Cr Geraldine Conheady
Lake Keilambete Ward



Cr Nick Cole
Mount Elephant Ward



Cr Ruth Gstrein
Gnotuk Ward



Cr Laurie Hickey (Deputy Mayor)
Leura Ward



Cr Kate Makin (Mayor)
Lake Elongamite Ward



Cr Jamie Vogels
Cooriemungle Ward



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Order of Business

1 Prayer

We ask for guidance and blessing on this Council. May the true needs and wellbeing of our communities be our concern. Help us, who serve as leaders, to remember that all our decisions are made in the best interests of the people, culture and the environment of the Corangamite Shire.

Amen.

2 Acknowledgment of Country

Corangamite Shire Council acknowledges and pays our respects to the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung peoples, as the Traditional Owners of the Lands that we work, live and play. We also acknowledge their Elders, past and present and recognise their ongoing cultural, spiritual and educational practices.

3 Apologies

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 130 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 Councillors are required to disclose any “conflict of interest” in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting. Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Corangamite Shire Council meeting held on 24 March 2026 be confirmed as correct.

6 Deputations and Presentations

Members of the public may address Council under this section of the agenda during a meeting of Council if:

- 1) The person is addressing the Council in respect to a submission on an issue under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989; or
- 2) The person has requested that they address Council on an issue and the Mayor has agreed that they be heard.

Requests to address Council must be received by 5.00 pm on the day prior to the scheduled meeting of Council.

Presentations made to Council in this section of the agenda may not exceed five minutes in length, although Councillors may ask questions following each presentation. If a presentation exceeds five minutes in length, the Mayor may request that the presenter ceases to address Council immediately.

7 Committee Reports

Nil

8 Planning Reports

Nil

9 Officer's Reports

9.1 Quarterly Council Plan Initiatives Progress 1 January - 31 March

Directorate: Governance and Civic Support

Author: Imogen Black, Governance Officer

Executive Summary

Council is required to report regularly on its performance against the Council Plan, including results in relation to the strategic indicators. This requirement is included in the Governance and Management Checklist, which forms part of Council's Annual Report of Operations.

The implementation of the Council Plan 2025-2029 initiatives has been phased over the four years, with regular milestones to track progress. Initiatives included are primarily for the first year of this four-year plan, with Annual Action Plans to be developed that identify future initiatives for years two, three and four of the Council plan implementation.

Recommendation

That Council receives the third Quarterly Council Plan Initiatives Progress Report for 2025-2026.

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Council has five strategic objectives that we work towards. These objectives, and the strategies and initiatives to achieve them, guide council's work programs and services. The strategic objectives have been developed in response to community feedback.

The Initiatives within these objectives are broken down to four areas:

- Project,
- Policy, Plan or Strategy
- Service, and
- Advocacy.

The attached report outlines each action item in detail. Third quarter results for the 2025-2026 year are:

	Number of Initiatives	Current Status
Project	19	2 - Completed 16 - In Progress 1 - Not Started
Policy, Plan or Strategy	15	4 – Completed 10 – In Progress 1 – Not Started
Service	21	9 – Completed 10 – In Progress 2 – Not Started
Advocacy	13	1 – Completed 12 – In Progress
TOTALS	68	16 – Completed 48 – In Progress 4 – Not Started

This breakdown provides a clear overview of the status of the initiatives. In the third quarter it is favourable that 71% of initiatives are already in progress, this percentage is lower than at the end of the first and second quarters, but only due to seven projects moving on to being completed. During the third quarter, 24% of initiatives were reported as being complete, this is an improvement on the 13% that was reported at the end of the second quarter. While 5% of initiatives have not yet started at the end of this quarter, this is an improvement on the 7% that were not started in the last reporting period.

The Council Plan initiatives scheduled for completion in Year 1 are progressing as planned. Most Year 1 initiatives are either completed or well advanced, indicating that implementation is broadly on track. Of the 36 initiatives identified to be completed in year 1, 33 are on track to be completed by June 30. A breakdown for each area can be seen below with further information outlined in the attachment.

	Number of year 1 Initiatives	Current Status
Project	10	9 – On track for completion by June 30 1 – Deferred as currently not funded
Policy, Plan or Strategy	11	9 – On track for completion by June 30 1 – Awaiting funding outcome 1 – Awaiting model rules
Service	15	15 – On track for completion by June 30

Options for Council Consideration

Council can receive the Quarterly Council Plan Initiatives Report with or without amendment.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029 and reporting on those initiatives.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Nil

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The Leadership Team was consulted in the preparation of the report.

Financial Considerations

Preparation of the performance report is part of Council's annual reporting cycle and was completed within existing resources.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

N/A

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil

Risk Consideration

Nil

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Third Quarter Council Plan Initiatives Delivery Report 2025-2026 [9.1.1 - 11 pages]

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

As at 31 March 2026

KEY



Completed



In Progress



Not Started











Cancelled

PROJECT	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Develop an online flood portal in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities to make flood mapping available to the community	Jun*		Contract has been awarded. Development of flood portal underway in partnership with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA.
Expand the community emergency planning program to one additional town	Jun*		Currently on hold due to team working on fire recovery. Emergency planning will be facilitated in Skipton as part of the recovery plan implementation.
Implement the 72-hr resilience program to improve community emergency preparedness	Jun*		'Grab and Go' Kit currently under development and tested with Port Campbell community.
Deliver a regional music, arts and cultural event/s	Dec		Graze the Day event held in Timboon on 22 November 2025.
Develop an investment attraction prospectus for new and existing businesses	May		Framework for Activate Corangamite – Investment Plan underway.
Implement the Timboon Precinct Plan	Jun*		Expression of Interest Completed for former Snr Citizens Building with discussions with preferred submitter underway. Grant application lodged for precinct plan implementation Phase 1 to Tiny Towns Round 3.
Implement the Skipton Structure Plan into the Planning Scheme	Jun		Project Brief completed and submitted to Regional Planning Hub for assessment.





* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

PROJECT	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Implement the Camperdown Structure Plan into the Planning Scheme	Jun		Draft Planning Scheme Ordinance is currently being drafted to give effect to the structure plan.
Implement the Terang Structure Plan into the Planning Scheme	Jun		Draft Planning Scheme Ordinance is currently being drafted to give effect to the structure plan.
Investigate Circular Economy opportunities for businesses	Jun		Corangamite Vintage Trail launched October 2025 with Community bus trips provided by Camperdown Community House in December.
Deliver key worker housing initiatives	Jun*		Unlocking Housing Simpson land-use planning completed. Unlocking Housing Timboon land-use planning and stage 1 civil works completed.
Deliver the Timboon Trestle Estate to enable housing development	Jun*		Development Valuation Report received and under review. Sale price to be determined.
Undertake design development for Camperdown Theatre Complex Transformation project	Mar		Project initiation meeting conducted with project manager. Consultant brief writing commenced.
Develop marketing collateral and promote Corangamite's cycling and walking trails	Jun*		Website, branding and collateral has been developed. Promotion of Poorpa Yanyeen Meereng Trail underway.
Deliver energy and water upgrades on Council Buildings including swimming pools and Cobden Hall	Jun		Variable Flow Devices on pool pumps have been installed and solar system installed at select pools.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

PROJECT	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Initiate a pilot program for a repair cafe	Jun		Deferred as currently not funded.
Develop a greenhouse gas emissions monitoring system for Council emissions	Jun*		Contractor has been engaged and system currently under development.
Audit and assess Council's township trees	Jun		Contract awarded and works started.
Continue to adopt and implement digital workplace solutions	Jun*		Council is currently in the process of implementing SmartForms and workflows.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

As at 31 March 2026

KEY



Completed



In Progress



Not Started










Cancelled

POLICY, PLAN OR STRATEGY	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Develop a Positive Ageing Access and Inclusion Plan	Aug		Completed.
Complete Local Laws Review and Implement new General Local Law	Dec		New policies currently being developed in line with the new Local Laws. Briefing held in March. Final policies will be presented to Council in May.
Develop a new Recreation and Open Space Strategy	N/A		Application submitted to Sport and Recreation Victoria funding program in December, with outcomes known in April 2026.
Implement actions from the Unlocking Housing Program	N/A*		Discussions underway for opportunities to extend the Unlocking Housing program to other towns within the Shire.
Develop new Destination Action Plans for 12 Apostles Coast and Hinterland and Volcanic Lakes and Plains	Nov		Completed. Corangamite Destination Action Plan developed in partnership with GORRT. Reference Group established to assist in implementation of the plan.
Support delivery of Cobden Recreation Reserve Design through a Council contribution	Apr		An agreement for funding provision between Council and the Cobden Recreation Reserve has been completed. Schedule of payments confirmed. Recreation Reserve to complete project.



* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

POLICY, PLAN OR STRATEGY	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comment
Develop electric vehicle fleet transition plan for Council's light fleet	Dec		Draft plan and model are currently being reviewed.
Review all open-access datasets and assess for accessibility	Jun*		This work is still ongoing. Data is made available to the community where practical.
Investigate proactive release of data initiatives in conjunction with the Transparency Policy Review	Oct		Completed.
Implement short and medium-term actions from Council's Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Action Plan	N/A*		Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Action Group meeting regularly with actions undertaken including regeneration of Wombeetch Puyuun Garden in Camperdown.
Implement Year 3 actions of Gender Equality Action Plan	Jun		Year 3 actions are complete. Remaining ongoing actions will be incorporated into the new GEAP.
Develop and adopt revised Council Governance Rules	Jun		Awaiting the Model Governance Rules being released in response to Operation Sandown. Updated advice suggests that consultation will continue throughout 2026.
Implement Year 1 actions of Early Years Plan 2025–2035	Jun		Pre Prep reform in progress. The Kinder Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) will be completed by June 30 and grants applied for in line with the Early Years Plan.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

POLICY, PLAN OR STRATEGY	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comment
Implement actions from Organisational Plan 2025–2029	Jun		Actions are currently being implemented. A leadership program has been established and is underway, through partnerships being established with universities for promoting vacancies and supporting student placements. Organisational culture is also being measured and benchmarked in staff surveys. Along with Council enhancing ergonomic and access standards with sit-stand desks and ergonomic chairs and IT equipment.
Review Council advocacy priorities having regard to the challenges and opportunities identified in this plan	Jun*		Advocacy priorities are currently being reviewed. Council was briefed March on the review including State election priorities. A further briefing before the end of June 30 before finalising the priorities.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

As at 31 March 2026

KEY



Completed



In Progress



Not Started










Cancelled

SERVICE	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Explore ways to increase childcare provision across the Shire	Jun*		In progress –EOI underway to procure purchase of land in Cobden to establish childcare.
Undertake playground improvements in accordance with Council's replacement schedule	Dec*		Completed.
Increase hours of operation at Camperdown Library and look at opportunities for further service enhancement	Jul		Completed.
Explore opportunities for improved walking and cycling trails/connections from Camperdown Railway Station to link to existing off-road trail	Oct		Completed.
Identify an alignment of proposed Skipton to Camperdown Walking Trail	May		Deakin University considering project as part of DeakinTALENT to identify alignment of proposed walking trail.
Expand network of footpaths in townships prioritising gaps in strategic routes and linking community infrastructure, including new footpath in Lambert Street, Timboon as part of Timboon Precinct Plan	Mar		Footpath extension works have been completed in Lambert St Timboon, Walker St Cobden, Jones St Camperdown and Shadforth St, Terang.
Complete Lismore footbridge replacement	Jun		Footbridge replacement works have commenced. It is anticipated the works will be completed in May.
Contribute to Timboon Recreation Reserve netball court improvements	Dec		Completed.
Contribute to Hampden Tennis Association Clubrooms Renewal	Sept		Completed.






* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

SERVICE	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Undertake improvements at the Timboon Stadium to extend gym hours of service	Oct		Completed.
Identify state road improvements required and develop advocacy plan	Jun*		Meeting scheduled with DTP for April 2026.
Deliver annual road resealing and resheeting program	Jun		Annual road resealing program has been completed. Resheeting program to be completed in April to June now that the capital road project program has been completed.
Complete local road upgrades including widening of Noogee Road, Terang and rehabilitation of Gnarpurt Road, Lismore	June		All programmed road rehab works have been completed including Darlington Terang Road, Noogee Road, Linton Road, Gnarpurt Road and Timboon Curdievale Road.
Work with the Department of Transport to evaluate and potentially reduce traffic speeds in town centres	Jun*		Advocacy has been made with Dept of Transport & Planning for reduction in traffic speeds in various town centres.
Commence Shire-wide signage replacement program	Jun		DTP permit approved and PO for signs raised. Installation expected in coming month.
Design accessibility improvement opportunities for Camperdown Civic Centre	Jun		Consultant engaged to develop masterplan for Civic Centre including required accessibility improvements.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

SERVICE	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Deliver improved pram crossings and all-access parking ramps including for street parking at Timboon Library	Jun		Installation of an all access parking bay in Wark St for the Timboon library has been completed. Footpath connections including pram crossings are proposed for Brooke St at Campbell St intersection near the Camperdown Kindergarten.
Investigate opportunities for-hard-to recycle items	Jun*		To be delivered in fourth quarter.
Deliver Council's roadside weed control program	Mar*		Roadside weed control underway.
Undertake a review of Council's visitor servicing	Apr		Review underway with completion by June 2026.
Complete implementation of Shared ICT Project, Coastal Connect	Jun		The Coastal Connect project is in progress with stage 1 set to 'go live' on 1 July 2026.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

As at 31 March 2026

KEY



Completed



In Progress



Not Started











Cancelled

ADVOCACY	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Advocate for funding to implement the Camperdown Production Precinct masterplan	Jun*		Camperdown Production Precinct is part of Council's advocacy program.
Advocate for funding to deliver the Camperdown Theatre Complex Transformation project	Jun*		Camperdown Theatre Precinct redevelopment included as part of Council's Advocacy program.
Advocate for Port Campbell to Princetown trail feasibility study	Jun*		Actively working with GORCAPA. Communications to develop material. ELT and Councillors to advocate to Government.
Advocate for renewal and upgrade of State roads in the shire	Jun*		Council regularly meeting with the Department of Transport and planning officers to advocate for the renewal and upgrade of state roads.
Advocate for energy-efficient lighting on state-owned Main Roads	Jun*		Regular meetings with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) are ongoing, with continued discussions around advocacy efforts. Council has allocated funding in its forward planning to support anticipated commitments, pending confirmation from DTP.
Advocate for responsible new energy initiatives that respect existing land use and our natural landscapes	Jun*		Submissions made on Mumblin and Swanston Lane Wind Farm projects and the State Government Renewable Energy Zone Orders.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

Project and Annual Actions Delivery Report 2025–2026

ADVOCACY	Planned Completion Date	Current Status	Comments
Advocate for responsible new energy initiatives that respect existing land use and our natural landscapes	Jun*		Submissions made on Mumblin and Swanston Lane Wind Farm projects and the State Government Renewable Energy Zone Orders.
Advocate for funding for Cobden Recreation Reserve redevelopment	Jun*		An agreement for funding provision between Council and the Cobden Recreation Reserve has been completed. Schedule of payments confirmed. Recreation Reserve to complete project.
Advocate for funding for Skipton Recreation Reserve redevelopment	Jun*		Actively working with Reserve committee. Communications to develop material. ELT and Councillors to advocate to Government.
Seek community benefits from renewable energy projects.	Jun*		Submissions continue to be made through community consultation requests from State Government and VicGrid.
Advocate for truck wash facilities in the shire	Jun*		CEO continues to participate on the statewide Truck Wash Steering Committee.
Advocate for Government and private sector investment in childcare and early learning facilities.	Jun*		Continue to advocate through South West Alliance for Early Learning.
Advocate for greater Police presence across the municipality	Jun*		Officers continue to advocate for greater police presence. Further advocacy to continue including a briefing with regional leadership in April 2026.
Support and advocate for provision of appropriate aged-care living in Terang	Jun*		Funding provided for feasibility study which is complete.

* ongoing initiative as outlined in Council Plan 2025–2029

9.2 Skipton Children's Service - Future Directions 2026

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Author: Eliza Ogden, Coordinator Education and Care

Executive Summary

This report presents a proposed approach to the planning and delivery of Skipton Early Years Services in response to the Victorian Government's Pre-Prep reform. It addresses infrastructure needs for Kindergarten and Long Day Care and is informed by community feedback.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the staged expansion of the Skipton Early Years Facility to support implementation of the Victorian Government's Pre-Prep (Best Start, Best Life) reforms.
2. Endorses the Chief Executive Officer proceeding with an application to the Victorian School Building Authority for funding to deliver a modular kindergarten facility at the Skipton Early Years site to increase licensed kindergarten capacity and protect the continuity of long day care services.
3. Supports further planning and community engagement to inform families and stakeholders of the proposed expansion of early years service delivery at the Skipton Early Years Facility.
4. Notes that, subject to the successful acquisition of Victorian School Building Authority funding and required regulatory approvals, Council would be required to provide an ongoing operational subsidy of approximately \$18,000 per annum to support the delivery of an expanded Skipton Child Care program.

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

1. This report presents a proposed approach to inform Council in its planning and delivery of Skipton Early Years Services in response to the Victorian Government's Pre-Prep reform. It addresses infrastructure and service modelling for Kindergarten and Long Day Care. Skipton is located within a childcare desert, with 0.537 places per child.

1. (Victoria University, Mapping the childcare deserts: Childcare accessibility in Australia 2024)

The Early Years Plan 2025-2035 sets a strategy for Council's work in early years' education and care services for the next decade and guides Council in its response to the State Government's Best Start Best Life reforms as well as working towards meeting the needs of local families. The Skipton Early Years facility is identified within this report as a site which needs to redevelop to be able to accommodate the expanding needs of community and the increase of funded kindergarten hours.

Council launched its 10-year Early Years Plan in 2025. As a part of this process, staff, users of the facility and wider community were consulted on their needs in the Skipton area.

The current Skipton early years facility, located on Montgomery Street, hosts both childcare and kindergarten over the course of the week. Expansion will be required by 2029, when Corangamite will offer 25 hours of 4-year-old funded kindergarten to ensure that childcare is not disrupted.

An unintended consequence of the Best Start Best Life reform has resulted in reduced child care demand for children of eligible kindergarten age. The demand for childcare access for children under three years of age continues to be high in Corangamite. It is anticipated that this trend will continue for infants seeking childcare, with preschool aged children accessing the free funded kindergarten program.

Council has been managing the Skipton Early Years facility for many years, having transitioned responsibility from a Parent run Committee of Management to an Early Years Manager (EYM). The Montgomery Street site is owned by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Renovations to the current facility were completed in 2021 in readiness for the rollout of 15 hours of three-year-old kindergarten. Best Start Best Life reform milestone deliverables will see Corangamite be required to offer 25 hours of funded kindergarten by 2029 and 30 hours from 2031.

The Early Years building is located adjacent to the Skipton Primary School and there are no planning overlays. The Skipton Progress Association and Foodbank neighbour the Early Years Facility in the Jubilee Centre.

Both childcare and kindergarten programs are highly regarded and there is strong community demand for increased access to childcare places with longer hours.

Council is eligible to apply to the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) to increase the amount of available licensed space for the funded kindergarten program to ensure that childcare is not disrupted. A connected modular building would create increased capacity for kindergarten and leave the existing play space for childcare. This is sufficient outdoor space to allow both programs to operate concurrently.

Physical expansion of the current facility presents an opportunity to increase the childcare program to better meet community need.

Any service changes would be contingent on approval from the Commonwealth Government (Child Care Community Fund). Business case modelling has considered multiple models of operation and combinations of childcare places. There is an emerging need for childcare for children under the eligible kindergarten age. Typically, this is children under three, which legislation requires a higher staff to child ratio, driving a higher program cost.

It is proposed that a 9 hour per day childcare program be introduced over 5 days, for 50 weeks of the year – this will create an additional 24 available sessions to families per week for an additional 4 weeks of the year. The expanded facility will offer an additional 33 licenced spaces. There is potential for these childcare places to be expanded if there is sufficient demand and staffing availability.

In addition to the matters discussed above the State Government in 2025 released housing targets for every Council across Victoria to support access to affordable housing. The current number of homes Corangamite has is 8,000. Current targets for Corangamite to achieve by 2051 are an additional 1400 homes. Access to Early Childhood Education & Care services becomes a vital enabler to growing our population and will be necessary to ensure Corangamite has the services and resources families most require.

Options for Council Consideration

The Early Years Plan 2025-2035 is a complex body of work that incorporates investment in upgrade and refurbishment of facilities, including Skipton. Expansion of the facility will involve working closely with State and Commonwealth agencies to ensure best outcomes for the Skipton community. The Skipton early years facility has co-located programs which are reliant on collaboration to ensure sustainable program delivery.

The implementation of suggested recommendations will require both capital and operational investment.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

A Community that enables healthy, active, and resilient living

- Deliver, support and enable services and programs for all life stages particularly youth and aged

- Deliver and advocate for childcare services and facilities

- Support population attraction and retention initiatives and ageing in place

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

The Victorian Government Best Start Best Life reforms include delivery of 15 hours of 3YO Kindergarten paired with 30 hours for 4YO Kindergarten. The Commonwealth is also investing heavily in childcare infrastructure and recognises equity of access as a key enabler. Advocacy for Corangamite Local Government Area is ongoing through the South West Alliance.

Early Years is a highly regulated environment with increasing workforce obligations necessary for a safe environment that requires fit for purpose infrastructure and an agile staff pool. It is critical that Council take a planned approach to early years' service provision and infrastructure planning to enable an organised approach.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Engagement has commenced and is ongoing with Council's Facilities and Community Services Teams, pending Council agreement to proceed with the proposed plan.

Feedback from families within the Skipton community using the service, which was gathered through the Early Years Plan, is in favour of access to additional childcare hours and days of operation. Pending Council's approval, consultation with staff and community about expansion of childcare hours will be undertaken.

Users of the Montgomery site have been informed that future directions for the site are being explored.

Council has committed to advocating for childcare both independently and through the South West Victoria Alliance. These issues are clear economic drivers and a major contributor to achieving gender equity. Advocacy for a state run child care centre has occurred on numerous occasions which to date has been unsuccessful.

If Council is successful in securing a grant from the Victorian School Building Authority further community engagement will be undertaken.

Financial Considerations

If this proposal proceeds, the ongoing cost to Council to subsidise the Child Care program would be \$18,000 annually. This outcome is dependent upon sufficient enrolments.

Item	Funding Body	Cost (\$)
Modular build to increase education and care places, including outdoor learning area.	Victorian School Board Authority	2,500,000
Site preparation	Victorian School Board Authority	18,000
Fit out equipment	Council	30,000
Project contingency	Council	20,000
Estimated cost to Council run child care per annum	Council	18,000

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Increased access to childcare and early years programs has a direct impact on female participation and productivity in the workforce, contributing to reducing the gender gap.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil.

Risk Consideration

With the expansion of the program there may be initial set up costs to increase the amount of infant appropriate equipment with a likely expenditure of approximately \$30,000.

The creation of 12 additional educator shifts a week will bring additional costs and risks associated with ensuring staff coverage, staff support and supervision over the week. There is a considerable amount of anecdotal evidence supporting the demand for increase in child care access in Skipton. Previous Council experience with developing early years programs would suggest that there is a risk that the program may take some time to reach its full capacity. Based on the breakeven modelling, an attendance of 12 children daily is required. Ultimately if attendance is lower than this there is a danger of an annual deficit.

Council has invested heavily in early years workforce development. Whilst significant investment in our people has strengthened the team and its ability to be agile, recruitment to the Skipton area has historically been challenging. By providing a traineeship this ensures ongoing upskilling of local candidates.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments Nil

9.3 Corporate Purchase Card Policy

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Author: Xavier Flanagan, Director Corporate and Community Services

Executive Summary

The Corporate Purchase Card Policy has been reviewed to strengthen governance, improve clarity and ensure alignment with Council's Procurement and Contract Management Policy.

The revised policy introduces clearer guidance on the appropriate use of purchase cards, reinforces the Purchase Order (PO) system as Council's primary purchasing method and clarifies responsibilities for cardholders and approving officers.

The updated policy was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 March 2026 where it was reviewed and endorsed for submission to Council for adoption.

Council is requested to adopt the revised Corporate Purchase Card Policy.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Revokes the Corporate Purchase Card Policy dated April 2022, and**
2. **Adopts the Corporate Purchase Card Policy dated April 2026.**

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The Corporate Purchase Card Policy provides the governance framework for the use of Council's corporate credit cards. The Policy is reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current, supports sound financial management and aligns with Council's Procurement Policy.

A comprehensive review has been undertaken, resulting in a revised Policy which further strengthens controls, provides clearer guidance and introduces enhanced monitoring and accountability.

Key changes include:

- Introducing a \$500 transaction threshold to help guide staff on the appropriate use of purchase cards.
- Reinforcing that the Purchase Order system remains Council's primary purchasing method.
- Providing clearer guidance on approved exemptions, including circumstances where credit card payments are the only practical option (e.g. accommodation, online subscriptions, travel and accommodation).

- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for cardholders, managers and directors.
- Improving the structure and readability of the policy, including reducing excessive bullet points and simplifying wording where appropriate.

These changes aim to strike an appropriate balance between operational efficiency and sound financial governance.

Options for Council Consideration

1. Maintain the existing policy – This would retain current practices but would not address clarity and governance improvements identified during the review.
2. Adopt the revised policy (Recommended) – This option provides clearer guidance on card usage, strengthens governance controls and improves alignment with Council's procurement framework.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

Strong Civic Leadership

Be financially responsible and sustainable

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

The Corporate Purchase Card Policy supports Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* relating to responsible financial management and internal controls.

The Policy aligns with Council's:

- Procurement and Contract Management Policy – Reinforces the PO system as the primary method of procurement.
- Employee Code of Conduct
- Fraud and Risk Management frameworks

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Internal consultation was undertaken with cardholders, managers and Finance staff during the review process to ensure the policy remains practical and operationally workable.

The draft policy was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 March 2026 where the Committee reviewed the revised policy and endorsed it for Council adoption.

External consultation was not required as the policy relates to internal financial controls and administrative processes.

Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial implications associated with adoption of the revised Policy.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Training and communication will be delivered in inclusive formats to support staff with varying levels of financial and policy knowledge.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil identified.

Risk Consideration

The Corporate Purchase Card Policy is an important internal control that supports Council's financial governance framework.

The revised policy strengthens risk mitigation by:

- Reinforcing the Purchase Order system as Council's primary purchasing method
- Clarifying approval requirements and responsibilities
- Providing clearer guidance on appropriate card use
- Strengthening oversight and accountability

These measures help reduce the risk of non-compliant expenditure, procurement control weaknesses and potential audit findings.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Corporate Purchase Card Policy - April 2026 [9.3.1 - 8 pages]

Corporate Purchase Card Policy

Corangamite Shire

April 2026



Council Policy



Corporate Purchase Card Policy

Introduction

This policy sets out the guidelines and principles that need to be followed by the Mayor and Council officers who utilise a corporate purchase card.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish controls to facilitate the responsible issue, use and administration of Corporate Purchase Cards and mitigate the risk of fraud or misuse. This policy documents key principles in relation to the conduct of persons involved in the use and administration of credit cards. The overriding principles being:

- Cardholders must always act in the interests of the Council, as opposed to their own personal interests or convenience: and
- Cardholders must perform their duties honestly, with skill and care.

Scope

This policy applies to any Councillor or Council officer who holds a corporate purchase card. It should be considered part of and should be read in conjunction with the Council Procurement Policy. It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006).

Definitions

Council Business Expenditure – are bona fide business transactions that are required by a cardholder undertaking normal duties in the course of their employment with Council and would otherwise be undertaken by purchase order or petty cash.

Corporate Purchase cards – will be a credit card identified by the words Corangamite Shire. The card will be personalised and issued to the user to provide a clear audit trail. The name of the card holder is on the card.

Cardholder (Authorised Officers) – is any officer of the Corangamite Shire receiving authorisation to have a corporate purchase card issued in his or her name. This includes the CEO and Mayor.

Personal Use/Personal transaction – any purchases intended for personal benefit. Purchase of any items not normally provided to a staff member in the course of their employment with Council.

Adopted at Council on: 28 April 2026
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Commbiz – Commonwealth Bank of Australia online banking system. This system is used to manage Council's purchase cards.

References

- Procurement Policy
- Staff Meals and Accommodation Policy

Policy Detail

APPLICATION

- The authorising Manager completes the online application form for an employee whose position and duties require the issue of a purchase card. The staff member must have a financial delegation under the relevant Council financial Delegation Instrument.
- All purchase card transactions must be approved by an officer with the appropriate financial delegation under Council financial delegations.
- The application is to be authorised by the appropriate director and manager finance.
- The employee must complete the "Council Corporate Credit Cardholder agreement" before the use of the Card.
- All cards will be issued to cardholders by the Finance Manager, or delegated officer and the details of that card must be immediately entered in the register of Credit Cards.
- Card limits are at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, taking into account the staff member's business need and role. Where a business need requires a limit in excess of the financial delegation, a transaction limit in line with financial delegation will be applied.
- Card limits are to be reviewed at least annually by Manager Finance. Amendments to limits are to be recommended to the Chief Executive Officer for approval.

CARD USE

- The card must be used for **Council business expenditure** only and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, the Council's Purchasing Card Policy, and the Procurement Policy.
- The PO system is Council's primary purchasing method. While credit cards are permitted under the Procurement Policy, they are intended for specific, low value and ad hoc purchases where PO use is not practical.
- If a supplier has an existing account with Council and supports invoice-based transactions, staff must use the PO system rather than the purchase card regardless of the transaction amount.
- The Card must not be used for any transaction exceeding \$500 unless no alternative method is practically available. Purchases above this limit must be processed via the Purchase Order system where possible. In exceptional circumstances where a PO is not practical (e.g. emergencies or outside normal business hours requirements), relevant business unit

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manager may approve the transaction in advance. Where the cardholder is a business unit manager, such transactions will need to be approved by the relevant director. All such approvals will be captured in monthly reporting to the Executive Leadership Team for oversight.

- The \$500 threshold is a mandatory decision point. Before using a credit card for a purchase over \$500, staff are required to actively assess whether the PO system should be used. This includes asking: Do we have an account with the supplier? Can the purchase be invoiced? If the answer is yes, a PO must be used. Where a supplier only accepts card payments (e.g. online-only vendors), a credit card may still be used.
- Exemptions from the \$500 limit are disclosed under exemption section.
- All meals and accommodation expenditure must be in line with the Meals and Accommodation Policy.
- The card must not be used for personal expenses or personal transactions, for gratuities or tips or for the withdrawal of cash through any facility, including a bank, ATM or EFTPOS.
- The card is for the sole use of the cardholder, however if the cardholder is a Manager or Senior Officer, they may approve infrequent use by another officer. In such instances, the cardholder remains fully accountable for the transaction, including ensuring appropriate prior approval in accordance with financial delegations, maintaining complete and accurate supporting documentation, safeguarding the card and its details and ensuring the purchase complies with this policy.
- The cardholder shall not provide the card number or card pin to another officer for the purposes of undertaking transactions.
- The card can be used for fuel purchases when the fuel card is unable to be used.
- The cardholder must retain all tax invoices and/or receipts and maintain any other records of their transactions to facilitate reconciliation and costing of transactions for that card.
- The cardholder must take strict care to maintain the security of their card, ensuring that it is kept in their possession at all times and not left in any place from which it may be taken.

The cardholder must return their card to the Finance Manager, or delegated officer, prior to periods of extended leave (any period in excess of four weeks), where the use is no longer required or where their employment is terminated with the Corangamite Shire.

EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions from the \$500 limit are as follows:

1. IT related purchases by IT department where purchasing efficiency and asset tracking protocols justify a higher limit.
2. Travel booking and accommodation
3. Registration for conferences
4. Membership and licence renewals
5. Training and development courses

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6. Online only vendors
7. Emergencies
8. Online software/Service subscriptions and any other instances where purchase card is the only accepted payment method

For clarity, “emergencies” under this Policy include both emergencies defined under the Emergency Management Act 2013 and other urgent operational matters where use of the PO system is not practical

Approved Purchase Types

Corporate Purchase cards may be used for the following transaction types but not limited to:

- Travel Bookings and Accommodation (in line with Council policy)
- Registering for Conferences, Training and Development courses
- Online software or service subscriptions
- Membership and licence renewals
- While travelling on Council business
- Purchases from Online only vendors
- Permit/Licence Application fees where purchase card is the only accepted payment method. For example, EPA licence application fees
- Emergency purchases where there is no other payment option is available
- IT hardware items exceeding \$500 are permitted under IT Department cards only.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Cardholders

The individual cardholder is responsible for:

- The safe keeping of the card and the prompt reporting to the bank, their respective manager and the finance department if the card is mislaid or stolen.
- Ensuring that the card is only used within the approved limits attributed to that particular purchase card and within the approved budget.
- Purchasing is required be in line with the existing Procurement Policy and quotes are required in line with spend limits in the policy.
- Meals and accommodation expenditure are in line with the Staff Meals and Accommodation Policy.
- Purchasing does not need to be from existing approved Council providers.
- Returning the card to the Finance Manager or other person designated by the Corangamite Shire during periods of extended leave, where the use is no longer required or upon the termination of their employment with the Shire.
- Registering all tax invoices and other support documentation in ECM under the respective folder and maintain these documents in accordance with Council Procedures. EFTPOS receipts do not represent tax invoices and will not be accepted as supporting documentation.

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- The cardholder must provide the relevant information for each transaction during the monthly reconciliation process including valid tax invoices and other important information such as the purpose of the expenditure and names of staff or external
- people involved. In the event that a tax invoice is lost or unavailable a statutory declaration is required.
- Completing the credit card allocation process within TechOne to facilitate prompt costing and authorisation of credit card transactions, with an accurate description of goods or services purchased.
- Reporting any disputed transactions immediately to their manager and the finance department to allow for the prompt resolution of any errors or misuse.
- Completion of annual acknowledgement and undertaking declaration.

Managers, Directors and CEO

Managers, Directors and CEO are responsible for:

- The initial approval of applications for purchase cards by employees within their area of responsibility.
- Ensuring that each employee is made aware of and understands their individual responsibility associated with holding a purchase card.
- The prompt receipt, costing and authorisation of transactions for each cardholder within their area of responsibility.
- Each authorizing officer is responsible for reviewing cardholder's transactions. By approving the cardholder's transactions they are declaring that, to the best of their knowledge and with reasonable care and diligence, the transactions are relating to Council business purposes, complying with council policies, containing appropriate supporting documents and adequately describing the nature of the business transaction.
- When reviewing the cardholder's transactions, the manager must ensure that each transaction includes the purpose of the expenditure, the names of any staff or external parties involved and a valid tax invoice attached.
- Ensuring all issues pertaining to disputed transactions are brought to the attention of the Finance Department.

Finance Department

The Finance Manager (or their delegate) is responsible for:

- Ensuring the credit card register within Commbiz is maintained and accurate at all times.
- Safe custody of cards surrendered by employees during extended periods of leave.
- Annual review of all purchase cards and limits to ensure appropriate business need.

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- Annual review of all cardholders to validate continued business need, with written justification required from cardholders and endorsement from managers if the need is not evident based on usage in the previous 12 months.
- Coordination of annual acknowledgement and undertaking declarations.
- Providing monthly reports to the Executive Leadership Team on overall credit card usage including transactions over \$500 (excluding those explicitly exempt under this policy).
- Checking a random sample of 5 to 10 cards each month to monitor compliance with this policy.
- Maintaining a register of purchase cards that includes the cardholder's name, card number, date of issue, expiry date, delegation limit, card limit, transaction limit and confirmation that the cardholder agreement has been signed.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the Corporate Purchase Card Policy as required and overseeing the purchase card usage of the CEO and Mayor

AUTHORISATION OF TRANSACTIONS

Employees transactions

Transactions on employee credit cards will be authorised via a supervisor in line with their existing delegated authority.

CEO Transactions

Transactions on the CEO credit card will be signed by the mayor, approved by the Director of Corporate and Community Services and reported to the audit committee on a quarterly basis.

Mayor

Transactions on the Mayors credit card will be approved by the CEO and reported to the audit committee on a quarterly basis.

TERMINATION OF USE

Once it has been established that a cardholder no longer requires a card, the card, together with all supporting documentation for any outstanding transactions and other relevant documentation must be forwarded to the finance department who will cancel the card in Commbiz.

Payroll shall not release any termination payments until appropriate clearances in respect of a cardholder's card have been obtained from the Finance Manager.

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UNAUTHORISED USE

Unauthorised use means any instance of non-compliance with this policy, whether by the cardholder or another person and can involve:

- Unauthorised or inappropriate transactions made on a card; or
- Any other non-compliance with any direction or rules for card use, including use that, from the public perspective, has the potential to cause reputational risk to Council.

Unauthorised use will be subject to disciplinary action including the requirement for reimbursement by the employee of the expense.

Review Date

The next review of this document is scheduled for completion by the Manager Finance on or before April 2029.

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

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9.4 Quarterly Finance Report March 2026

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Author: Albert Giorgini, Acting Manager, Finance

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to note Council's current financial result and financial position as at 31 March 2026 (Attachment 1) and seek approval for changes to the 2025-2026 Reviewed Budget identified during the mid year budget review process.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receive the finance report for the period ending 31 March 2026.**
- 2. Approve Changes to the 2025-2026 budget of \$90,937 favourable.**

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Council's year to date financial performance for 2025-2026 is currently \$4.75 million favourable to budget on an accounting basis, and \$5.58 million favourable to budget from a cash perspective.

Total income is \$2.97 million higher on a cash basis than budget driven by:

- Operating Grants are \$2.92 million higher than budget, mainly due to phasing, with more grant income received earlier than originally expected, \$2.16 million of which relating to Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Funding, and \$750k relating to unbudgeted grants, such as the January 2026 Skipton Fire event funding.
- Capital Grants being \$383k higher than budget, mainly due to phasing, with more grant income received earlier than originally expected, such as \$174k relating to Park Lane - Bowen Street to Caravan Park.
- Statutory Fees & Fines are \$553k lower than budget due to the timing of the March quarter EPA Levy payment for the Landfill Operations at Naroghid.
- User Fees are \$205k higher than budget, driven in the most part by higher income than budgeted at Naroghid Landfill Operations of \$239k.
- Other revenue being \$204k higher than budget, driven by favourable movements in interest rates.

- Off set by 'Proceeds from sale of assets', which is currently \$196,000 unfavourable to budget. This is mainly due to delays in selling both light and heavy fleet vehicles. These disposals are now expected to occur later in the financial year. The forecast still includes the planned \$1.5 million land sale proceeding this year however, if circumstances or timing shifts this item will carry forward into the 2026-2027 year. This is monitored by officers on a monthly basis.
- Contributions - monetary being \$93k lower than budget as Contributions expected in March (Unlocking Housing - Thomson Road, Terang \$121K) have not yet been received.

Total expenditure, including Capital spend, is \$2.61 million lower than budget mainly due to:

- Materials and Services expenditure being \$1.7m favourable year to date, is driven in part by phasing of operational project delivery. The variance is also driven by Landfill and Waste Projects of \$611k, and outdoor maintenance works of \$358k, such as Sealed roads, Footpaths, Roadside Vegetation and Urban Street Tree Management, which have all experienced delays due to adverse weather conditions. The remaining \$14.4 million is expected to be spent in part over the remaining months in the year, as projects progress to completion, however where necessary projects yet to be completed will carry forward. Current estimates of carry forwards on operational projects are estimated at \$3.50 million, however this will continue to be reviewed and updated on a monthly basis. It is important to note that an additional \$180k of fuel costs has been added to the Materials and Services forecast for the current year.
- Other Expenses being \$148K (2%) lower than budget driven mainly by budgeted Contribution by Council yet to be paid (\$113K).
- Capital Expenditure is \$837K (7%) higher than budget. There has been considerable spend on Landfill Cell 16A of \$611K and various Roads projects approx. \$244K in the quarter including Sisters Noorat Road, Burkes Road, Noogee Road widening, Curdies River Road, and Gnarpurt Road.

Council adopted the 2025-2026 Budget at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2025. Between January and March 2026, Managers reviewed their budgets and funding requirements to deliver approved programs, and identified some adjustments.

Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	(Favourable)/ Unfavourable Movement
Capital Project Budget Variations	3,035,000	3,207,878	3,110,179	(97,699)
Operating project Budget Variations	8,919,542	9,265,311	9,272,073	6,762
Total	11,954,542	12,473,190	12,382,253	(90,937)

A full list of all adjustments is attached to the report.

While this report seeks approval for the budget adjustments which will reduce Council's projected year end cash position by \$90,937, Officers will investigate opportunities to offset this variance during the fourth quarter.

Options for Council Consideration

Council can choose to note the interim finance report for the period ending 31 March 2026 and either:

- 1) approve changes of \$90,937 favourable to the Reviewed budget
- 2) not approve change of \$90,937 favourable to the Reviewed budget

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

Strong Civic Leadership

Be financially responsible and sustainable

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

The report meets Council's requirements for reporting under the *Local Government Act 2020* and is in accordance with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

Strong Civic Leadership

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The report has been prepared in consultation with relevant department managers and has been reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team.

Financial Considerations

March 2026 Quarterly finance report forecasts a 2025-2026 year-end cash deficit of (\$11.78 million). When accounting for the accumulated cash surplus brought forward of \$33.26 million, the March 2026 Quarterly finance report forecasts an accumulated cash surplus as at June 30 2026 of \$21.47 million.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

While the finance report focuses on financial performance and financial position as at 31 March 2026, diversity and inclusion principles have been considered during this process and are applied equitably across all departments. There are no direct diversity or inclusion impacts arising from this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil

Risk Consideration

Nil

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Finance Report March 2026 [**9.4.1** - 12 pages]

Monthly Finance Report

March 2026



Finance Report

Attestation

In my opinion the information set out in this report presents fairly the financial transactions for the period ended 28 February 2026. All statutory obligations which relate to the period of this report have been made.

Xavier Flanagan

Xavier Flanagan
Director Corporate and Community Services

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Capital Detail & Project Delivery	6
Income Statement for the period ended 31 March 2026	9
Balance Sheet for the period ended 31 March 2026	10

Synopsis

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update and commentary on the financial performance of Council's operations on a quarterly basis.

Definitions

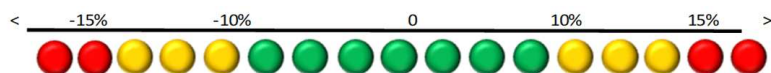
Adopted Budget represents the Budgeted adopted by the Council in June.

Reviewed Budget represents the adopted budget adjusted for approved budget amendments (such as carry forward or mid-year reviews)

Forecast Budget represents the most recent estimated financial position which has not been approved by Council

Variance indicator thresholds

The following tolerances are used on all reports represented by traffic light indicator



Performance Summary

The performance summary provides a high level overview of the year to date (YTD) cash result against budget. The report also projects the overall cash balance available to Council at the end of the financial year, this cash balance provides a starting point for future budgets.

	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance fav/(unfav)	
						\$	%
Recurrent Operations	(11,987,806)	(19,518,324)	(19,772,216)	(13,688,338)	(11,934,057)	1,754,280	(23%) ●
Rate Income	26,927,227	26,981,746	26,981,746	26,893,959	26,907,669	13,710	0% ●
Net Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0% ●
Projects	(3,291,543)	(7,103,041)	(6,929,387)	(1,545,656)	792,672	2,338,327	151% ●
Capital	(12,893,636)	(14,916,847)	(14,807,649)	(8,936,790)	(7,888,240)	1,048,550	12% ●
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant & equi	575,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	456,005	259,738	(196,267)	(43%) ●
External Loan Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0% ●
Reserve Transfers	502,093	312,093	312,093	0	0	0	0% ●
Extraordinary Events	0	331,400	331,400	331,400	951,362	619,962	187% ●
Surplus/(Deficit)	(168,665)	(11,812,974)	(11,784,014)	3,510,580	9,089,143	5,578,563	159% ●
Surplus/(Deficit) B/forward	33,258,000	33,258,000	33,258,000				
Surplus/(Deficit) at end of year	33,089,335	21,445,026	21,473,986				

Note: Figures in brackets indicate cost to Council

Unfavourable variances shown in brackets

Cash Budget

The cash budget compares Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. This report notes the cash movement of all Council activities (ignoring any accounting adjustments). Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent and at least \$100,000 where further explanation is provided. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance fav/(unfav)		Ref
						\$	%	
REVENUE								
Rates and charges	26,927,227	26,981,746	26,981,746	26,893,959	26,907,669	13,710	0%	
Statutory fees and fines	903,769	844,769	844,769	1,093,894	541,281	(552,614)	(51%)	1
User fees	8,533,689	8,151,900	8,126,600	5,689,210	5,893,801	204,591	4%	2
Contributions - monetary	530,552	1,399,052	1,399,052	934,052	841,058	(92,994)	(10%)	3
Grants - Operating	14,307,310	15,720,616	17,245,616	12,704,675	15,622,097	2,917,422	23%	4
Grants - Capital	3,747,000	4,983,045	4,983,045	2,335,495	2,718,645	383,150	16%	5
Other Revenue	2,008,380	2,156,505	2,156,505	1,479,571	1,770,128	290,557	14%	6
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant & equi	575,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	456,005	259,738	(196,267)	(43%)	7
Transfer From Reserves	780,093	780,093	780,093	0	0	0	0%	
Total Revenue	58,313,020	63,117,726	64,617,426	51,586,862	54,554,417	2,967,555	6%	
EXPENDITURE								
Employee benefits	21,712,860	22,072,526	22,077,026	16,542,504	16,639,734	(97,230)	1%	
Materials and services	16,232,608	21,925,456	23,500,894	10,805,824	9,078,329	1,727,494	(16%)	8
Bad and doubtful debts	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	4,721	(4,221)	844%	
Other expenses	3,516,582	9,852,326	9,852,326	9,043,669	8,895,308	148,361	(2%)	9
Capital Expenditure	16,740,636	20,611,392	20,502,194	11,683,785	10,847,181	836,604	(7%)	10
Transfer to Reserves	278,000	468,000	468,000	0	0	0	0%	
Total Expenditure	58,481,685	74,930,700	76,401,440	48,076,281	45,465,273	2,611,008	5%	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(168,665)	(11,812,974)	(11,784,014)	3,510,580	9,089,143	5,578,563	159%	

Comments

1. Statutory Fees & Fines are \$553k (51%) lower than budget due to the timing of the March quarter EPA Levy payment for the Landfill Operations – Naroghid.
2. User Fees are \$205k higher than budget, driven in the most part by higher income than budgeted at Naroghid Landfill Operations of \$239k
3. Contributions - monetary are \$93k lower than budget as Contributions expected in March (Unlocking Housing - Thomson Road, Terang \$121K) have not yet been received.
4. Operating Grants are \$2.92 million (23%) higher than budget, mainly due to phasing, with more grant income received earlier than originally expected, \$2.16 million of which relating to LRCI Funding, and \$750,000 relating to unbudgeted grants, such as the January 2026 Skipton Fire event funding
5. Capital Grants being \$383k higher than budget, mainly due to phasing, with more grant income received earlier than originally expected, such as \$174k relating to Park Lane - Bowen Street to Caravan Park.
6. Other revenue being \$204k (4%) higher than budget, driven by favourable movements in interest rates
7. Off set by 'Proceeds from sale of assets', which is currently \$196,000 unfavourable to budget. This is mainly due to delays in selling both light and heavy fleet vehicles. These disposals are now expected to occur later in the financial year. The forecast still includes the planned \$1.5 million land sale proceeding this year however, if circumstances or timing shifts this item will carry forward into the 2026-2027 year. This is monitored by officers on a monthly basis.
8. Materials and Services expenditure being \$1.7m favourable year to date, is driven in part by phasing of operational project delivery. The variance is also driven by Landfill and Waste Projects of \$611k, and outdoor maintenance works of \$358k, such as Sealed roads, Footpaths, Roadside Vegetation and Urban Street Tree Management, which have all experienced delays due to adverse weather conditions. The remaining \$14.4 million is expected to be spent in part over the remaining months in the year, as projects progress to completion, however where necessary projects yet to be completed will carry forward. Current estimates of carry forwards on operational projects are estimated at \$3.50 million, however this will continue to be reviewed and updated on a monthly basis. It is important to note that an additional \$180k of fuel costs has been added to the Materials and Services forecast for the current year.
9. Other Expenses being \$148K (2%) lower than budget driven mainly by budgeted Contribution by council yet to be paid (\$113K).
10. Capital Expenditure is (\$837K) (7%) higher than budget. There has been considerable spend on Landfill Cell 16A (\$611K) and various Roads projects (approx. \$244K) in the quarter including Sisters Noorat Rd., Burkes Road, Noogee Road widening, Curdies River Road, and Gnarpurt Road.

Summary of Capital Works

The summarised statement of capital works presents Council's performance against the forecast capital budget by category.

Capital Type	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
Property						
Buildings	595,000	1,520,408	1,519,747	526,453	541,406	(14,953)
Land	535,000	1,136,734	1,136,734	20,000	69,608	(49,608)
Total Property	1,130,000	2,657,142	2,656,481	546,453	611,014	(64,561)
Plant and Equipment						
Information Technology	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	0	130,000
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	3,412,000	3,506,605	3,497,666	2,298,097	1,678,903	619,194
Total Plant and Equipment	3,542,000	3,636,605	3,627,666	2,428,097	1,678,903	749,194
Infrastructure						
Bridges	396,000	408,409	408,409	113,256	152,731	(39,475)
Drainage	270,000	270,000	270,000	164,537	164,537	0
Footpaths & Cycleways	223,500	409,629	409,629	211,031	211,032	(1)
Kerb & Channel	259,000	259,050	259,050	165,459	171,403	(5,944)
Waste Management	1,410,636	2,023,453	2,023,453	742,111	876,372	(134,261)
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes	60,000	295,000	295,000	223,139	216,271	6,868
Roads	7,422,500	8,893,457	8,793,859	6,964,702	6,609,161	355,542
Artworks	0	50,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	0
Other Infrastructure	1,607,000	1,638,648	1,638,648	45,000	73,698	(28,698)
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities	350,000	0	0	0	988	(988)
Library Collection Materials	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0
Not Applicable	0	0	0	0	1,072	(1,072)
Total Infrastructure	12,068,636	14,317,645	14,218,047	8,709,235	8,557,265	151,971
Total capital works expenditure	16,740,636	20,611,392	20,502,194	11,683,785	10,847,181	836,604
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure	3,603,636	5,178,449	5,178,449	1,146,213	1,404,421	(258,208)
Asset renewal expenditure	12,375,000	14,066,773	13,957,575	10,124,921	9,151,738	1,103,183
Asset expansion expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asset upgrade expenditure	762,000	1,366,171	1,366,171	412,651	421,022	(8,371)
Total capital works expenditure	16,740,636	20,611,392	20,502,194	11,683,785	10,977,181	836,604

Capital Project Detail Report

Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
PROPERTY						
Buildings						
Camperdown Civic Centre - Design Accessibility improvements	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0	0
Camperdown Civic Centre - Heritage Works	0	12,715	12,715	12,715	12,715	(0)
Camperdown Depot - Internal paint	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	0	0
Corangamite Libraries - façade refresh and furniture replace	0	4,700	4,700	4,700	5,765	(1,065)
Early Years Plan 2025-2035 Implementation	250,000	250,000	250,000	0	10,981	(10,981)
Energy and Water Savings	100,000	199,272	199,272	100,000	136,354	(36,354)
Lismore Kindergarten Laundry	0	12,961	12,961	12,961	11,263	1,698
McNicol Street Camperdown Long Day Care Upgrades (LRCI3) 15	0	57,346	57,346	57,346	5,816	51,530
Old Chambers IT Upgrade	0	10,993	10,993	10,993	7,958	3,035
Roof renewals - Stage 1	0	75,000	75,000	0	61,551	(61,551)
Swimming Pool Upgrades	0	396,301	396,301	70,000	115,683	(45,683)
Timboon Childrens Centre - Installation new shade sail	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	14,856	144
Timboon Depot Toilet Upgrade	0	72,065	71,404	20,000	71,180	(51,180)
Timboon Precinct Plan - Repurpose Senior Citizens Building	25,000	25,000	25,000	22,000	28,331	(6,331)
Timboon Public Toilets - Replace roof and facade	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
Timboon Stadium - Extend Gym Hours - Capital Cost	20,000	27,945	27,945	27,945	27,945	0
Timboon Stadium Floor Renewal	0	145,212	145,212	91,895	2,384	89,511
Universal Access to Public Buildings	50,000	80,898	80,898	80,898	28,623	52,275
Total Buildings	595,000	1,520,408	1,519,747	526,453	541,406	(14,953)
Land						
Childcare Establishment	360,000	360,000	360,000	0	6,465	(6,465)
Key Worker Housing Delivery	175,000	175,000	175,000	0	0	0
Unlocking Housing Supply - Timboon	0	601,734	601,734	20,000	63,143	(43,143)
Total Land	535,000	1,136,734	1,136,734	20,000	69,608	(49,608)
TOTAL PROPERTY	1,130,000	2,657,142	2,656,481	546,453	611,014	(64,561)
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT						
Information Technology						
IT Network hardware renewal	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	60,000
Multifunction device renewal	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0	70,000
Total Information Technology	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	0	130,000
Plant, Machinery & Equipment						
Depot Fuel Bowser Upgrades Bulk Replacement - staged approach	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	0
Heavy Plant Replacement Program	2,441,000	2,526,666	2,526,666	1,784,440	1,097,484	686,956
Light Fleet Replacement Program	796,000	800,359	796,000	513,657	561,607	(47,950)
Minor Plant Purchases	45,000	49,580	45,000	0	7,583	(7,583)
Plant Storage Shed Camperdown Depot	105,000	105,000	105,000	0	12,229	(12,229)
Total Plant, Machinery & Equipment	3,412,000	3,506,605	3,497,666	2,298,097	1,678,903	619,194
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	3,542,000	3,636,605	3,627,666	2,428,097	1,678,903	749,194
INFRASTRUCTURE						
Bridges						
Lanes Access Bridge Replacement of Timber Deck Panels (LRCI)	0	12,409	12,409	12,409	12,409	0
Lismore Footbridge Replacement	196,000	196,000	196,000	0	39,475	(39,475)
Nareen Road Culverts Replacement (BR00139)	200,000	200,000	200,000	100,847	100,847	(0)
Total Bridges	396,000	408,409	408,409	113,256	152,731	(39,475)
Drainage						
Drainage Pit Replacement	70,000	70,000	70,000	0	0	0
Drainage Renewal Program	200,000	200,000	200,000	164,537	164,537	0
Total Drainage	270,000	270,000	270,000	164,537	164,537	0

Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
Footpaths & Cycleways						
(SCS) Park Lane - Bowen Street to Caravan Park	0	101,833	101,833	21,939	21,939	0
Bailey Street Footpath Replacement above retaining wall, Tim	47,500	48,802	48,802	48,802	48,802	0
Camperdown Botanic Gardens - Upgrade to path network	0	100,000	100,000	0	0	0
Jones Street, Church St to Cole St Camperdown New footpath s	28,000	20,637	20,637	19,517	19,517	(0)
Lambert Street Pool to Town Centre, Timboon New Footpath	37,000	38,676	38,676	38,676	38,676	0
Pram Crossings & All Access Parking Ramp Improvements	25,000	25,000	25,000	15,053	15,053	(0)
Queens Park Footpath Replacement, Camperdown	25,000	17,206	17,206	17,206	17,206	(0)
Shadforth St, Grey St to Swanston St Terang New footpath wes	32,000	32,000	32,000	24,363	24,363	(0)
Walker Street, Parrott St to Curdie St Cobden New footpath w	29,000	25,475	25,475	25,475	25,475	0
Total Footpaths & Cycleways	223,500	409,629	409,629	211,031	211,032	(1)
Kerb & Channel						
Bowen St from Manifold St to Gunner St, Camperdown Kerb repl	88,000	88,000	88,000	336	336	0
Brooke St from McKinnon St to Dodds St, Camperdown Kerb repl	77,000	77,050	77,050	77,050	77,050	(0)
Curdies River Road, Timboon Kerb & Channel Renewals	0	0	0	0	5,944	(5,944)
Victoria St from Neylon St to Scott St, Cobden Kerb replacem	94,000	94,000	94,000	88,073	88,073	(0)
Total Kerb & Channel	259,000	259,050	259,050	165,459	171,403	(5,944)
Waste Management						
Cell 14 Capping - Materials Purchase and testing	87,000	87,000	87,000	0	0	0
Landfill - Cell 14 Capping Design	0	165,241	165,241	90,000	38,986	51,014
Landfill - Cell 14a and b Capping Installation	1,073,636	1,073,636	1,073,636	328,233	2,552	325,681
Landfill - Cell 15B	0	0	0	0	(2)	2
Landfill - Cell 16 Design	0	61,695	61,695	61,695	0	61,695
Landfill - Cell 16a Excavation & Geosynthetics	0	27,311	27,311	6,311	136,763	(130,452)
Landfill - Cell 16A lining	250,000	339,494	339,494	126,796	607,304	(480,508)
Port Campbell and Skipton Transfer Station Site Huts	0	60,000	60,000	60,000	20,045	39,955
Stage 1 Small Scale BHTM Solar Project Landfill to offset Co	0	140,000	140,000	0	17,711	(17,711)
Upfront cost of new glass bins	0	69,076	69,076	69,076	53,013	16,063
Total Waste Management	1,410,636	2,023,453	2,023,453	742,111	876,372	(134,261)
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes						
Cobden Tandarook Park Upgrade	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	743	(743)
Port Campbell streetscape - Construction	0	235,000	235,000	223,139	215,529	7,611
Total Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes	60,000	295,000	295,000	223,139	216,271	6,868
Roads						
Batemans Road Ch. 3.35km to 4.01km Final Seal	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	0
Burkes Road Ch. 0km to 0.45km Rehab	305,000	305,000	305,000	0	68,595	(68,595)
Cooriemungle Road Ch. 14.78km to 15.66km Final Seal	29,000	29,440	29,000	29,000	29,000	(0)
Crawfords Road Ch. 4.43km to 5.44km Final Seal	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0
Danedite Road (Ch. 2.41km to 3.49km) final seal	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	0
Darlington Terang Road Ch. 0.18km to 1.86km Widening & Rehab	0	1,085,000	1,085,000	775,311	775,311	(0)
Dow Street South, Terang Final Seal	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,859	(359)
Gnarput Road Ch. 10.91km to 11.53km Rehab	306,000	306,000	306,000	306,000	311,862	(5,862)
Hinkleys Road Ch. 0km to 1.68km Final Seal	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	33,999	1
Hospital Road, Wark Street to Leahys Lane, Final Seal	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	0
Koallah Road Ch. 1.5km to 2.27km Rehab	239,000	239,000	239,000	239,000	219,893	19,107
Leahys Lane Ch. 0.51km to 0.63km Rehab	183,000	183,000	183,000	183,000	172,905	10,095
Linton Road Ch 14.59km to 15.48km Rehab	382,000	382,000	382,000	382,000	350,587	31,413
Naroghid Road Widening on Batemans Road Bend, Naroghid	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	0
Noogee Road Widening West of Terang Rehab	971,000	971,000	971,000	587,683	622,913	(35,230)
Preparation Prior to Reseal	260,000	310,602	310,276	310,276	328,010	(17,734)
Resealing Program	1,905,000	2,235,832	2,137,000	2,137,000	2,106,062	30,938
Resheeting Program	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	924,156	534,396	389,760
Sisters Noorat Road Ch. 2.0km to 2.73km Rehab	342,000	342,000	342,000	342,000	469,993	(127,993)
Slurry Seal Program	200,000	200,000	200,000	0	0	0
Street light improvements	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,754	5,754	(0)
Timboon Curdievale Rd Lambert to Haywards Rehab	565,000	565,000	565,000	513,939	513,940	(1)
Timboon Raised Priority Crossing	0	0	0	0	(130,000)	130,000
Timboon Terang Road (10.67km to 11.40km) Final Seal	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	0
Unlocking Housing - New Road - Thomson Road, Terang (RDV)	0	4,083	4,083	4,083	4,083	(0)
Vite Vite Road Ch.2.01km to 2.71km Final Seal	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	0
Wiridgil Road (Ch. 3.17km to 5.0km) Final Seal	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	0
Total Roads	7,422,500	8,893,457	8,793,859	6,964,702	6,609,161	355,542

Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
Artworks						
Camperdown Public Art Project	0	50,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	0
Total Artworks	0	50,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	0
Other Infrastructure						
Hard Stand Cell 16	177,000	177,000	177,000	0	44,041	(44,041)
Landfill - Cell 15a and b capping design	70,000	70,000	70,000	0	0	0
Landfill - Cell 16b Excavation and lining	1,215,000	1,215,000	1,215,000	0	0	0
Replacement triple interceptor at Cobden Wash bay	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	28,197	16,803
Skipton Streetscape - Design	0	31,648	31,648	0	0	0
Town and Locality Sign Replacement Project Stage 1	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	1,461	(1,461)
Total Other Infrastructure	1,607,000	1,638,648	1,638,648	45,000	73,698	(28,698)
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities						
Renewal of Swimming Pools	350,000	0	0	0	0	0
Twelve Apostles Trail - Stage 1 Timboon to Port Campbell Year 1 - Con	0	0	0	0	988	(988)
Total Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities	350,000	0	0	0	988	(988)
Library Collection Materials						
Collection Materials - Libraries	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0
Total Library Collection Materials	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	0
Not Applicable						
Camperdown Killara Centre/Senior Citizens/ McCabe - Replace floorcov	0	0	0	0	1,072	(1,072)
Total Not Applicable	0	0	0	0	1,072	(1,072)
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	12,068,636	14,317,645	14,218,047	8,709,235	8,557,265	151,971
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS	16,740,636	20,611,392	20,502,194	11,683,785	10,847,181	836,604

Income Statement for the period ended 31 March 2026

	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Variance
REVENUE						
Rates and charges	26,927,227	26,981,746	26,981,746	26,893,959	26,907,669	13,710
Statutory fees and fines	903,769	844,769	844,769	1,093,894	541,281	(552,614)
User fees	8,533,689	8,151,900	8,126,600	5,689,210	5,893,801	204,591
Contributions - monetary	530,552	1,399,052	1,399,052	934,052	841,058	(92,994)
Grants - Operating	14,307,310	15,720,616	17,245,616	12,704,675	15,622,097	2,917,422
Grants - Capital	3,747,000	4,983,045	4,983,045	2,335,495	2,718,645	383,150
Other Revenue	2,008,380	2,156,505	2,156,505	1,479,571	1,770,128	204,530
Total Revenue	56,957,927	60,237,633	61,737,333	51,130,857	54,294,679	3,163,821
EXPENDITURE						
Employee benefits	21,712,860	22,072,526	22,077,026	16,542,504	16,639,734	(97,230)
Materials and services	16,232,608	21,925,456	23,500,894	10,805,824	9,078,329	1,727,494
Bad and doubtful debts	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	4,721	(4,221)
Depreciation	13,054,000	13,053,602	13,053,602	(398)	(4,530)	4,132
Ammortisation	750,000	750,000	750,000	0	0	0
Other expenses	3,516,582	9,852,326	9,852,326	9,043,669	8,895,308	148,361
Total Expenditure	(55,267,050)	(67,654,910)	(69,234,848)	(36,392,099)	(34,613,562)	1,778,536
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	1,690,877	(7,417,277)	(7,497,515)	14,738,759	19,681,117	4,942,358
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant & equi	575,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	456,005	259,738	(196,267)
Written down value property, infrastructure, plant and equip	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	0	0	0
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(1,525,000)	0	0	456,005	259,738	(196,267)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period	165,877	(7,417,277)	(7,497,515)	15,194,763	19,940,855	4,746,091

Balance Sheet for the period ended 31 March 2026

	Prior Year Balance	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Actuals
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	29,254,239	8,042,543	1,381,148	1,007,148	34,039,511
Financial Assets	12,894,358	19,000,000	19,000,000	19,000,000	13,156,889
Rate Receivables	1,578,751	0	0	0	4,433,187
Other Trade Receivables	1,520,330	2,497,976	2,497,976	2,497,976	1,829,753
Inventories	86,442	87,202	87,202	87,202	229,863
Other assets	3,433,331	2,552,250	2,552,250	2,552,250	2,732,755
Total Current Assets	48,767,451	32,179,971	25,518,576	25,144,576	56,421,958
NON CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade and other receivables	37,460	88,330	88,330	88,330	23,531
WIP - Capital	10,274,148	0	0	0	21,121,329
Fixed assets	596,475,772	629,380,126	629,380,126	629,380,126	596,475,772
Right-of-use assets	5,786,469	4,417,627	4,417,627	4,417,627	5,786,469
Total Non Current Assets	612,573,849	635,149,083	635,149,083	635,149,083	623,407,102
Total Assets	661,341,300	667,329,054	660,667,659	660,293,659	679,829,060
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	2,885,131	2,736,238	2,736,238	2,736,238	1,014,704
Trust funds and deposits	1,119,127	762,754	762,754	762,754	969,698
Provisions - current	4,825,141	4,201,752	4,201,752	4,201,752	4,203,457
Unearned Revenue	1,722,255	3,410,000	3,410,000	3,410,000	1,722,255
Lease liabilities	246,083	154,000	154,000	154,000	246,083
Total Current Liabilities	10,797,736	11,264,744	11,264,744	11,264,744	8,156,197
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Provisions - non-current	10,394,110	8,358,218	8,358,218	8,358,218	11,027,886
Lease liabilities	6,127,905	5,462,000	5,462,000	5,462,000	6,127,905
Total Non Current Liabilities	16,522,015	13,820,218	13,820,218	13,820,218	17,155,791
Total Liabilities	27,319,751	25,084,962	25,084,962	25,084,962	25,311,988
Net Assets	634,021,549	642,244,092	635,582,697	635,208,697	654,517,072
EQUITY					
Operating Surplus/Deficit	1,906,902	(195,123)	(6,827,272)	(7,071,272)	19,940,855
Accumulated surplus	202,522,034	212,419,808	212,390,562	212,390,562	204,983,590
Asset revaluation reserve	424,092,101	425,011,000	425,011,000	425,011,000	424,092,101
Reserves	5,500,512	5,008,407	5,008,407	4,878,407	5,500,512
Total Equity	634,021,549	642,244,092	635,582,697	635,208,697	654,517,072

Budget Variance report by Project and Account Group

Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	(Favourable)/ Unfavourable Movement	Comment
Capital Projects - Expense variations					
Light Fleet Replacement Program	796,000	800,359	796,000	(4,359)	Budget process review
Minor Plant Purchases	45,000	49,580	45,000	(4,580)	Budget process review
Preparation Prior to Reseal	260,000	310,602	328,010	17,408	\$17.4k forecast adjustment - increase in spend
Resealing Program	1,905,000	1,945,832	1,840,765	(105,067)	\$105k forecast adjustment - reduction in spend
Timboon Depot Toilet Upgrade	-	72,065	71,404	(661)	Budget process review
Coorimungle Road Ch. 14.78km to 15.66km Fina	29,000	29,440	29,000	(440)	Budget process review
Total	3,035,000	3,207,878	3,110,179	(97,699)	
Operating Projects - Income variations					
Mount Noorat	(55,000)	(55,000)	(29,700)	25,300	Q4: income revised down.
Total	(55,000)	(55,000)	(29,700)	25,300	
Operating Projects - Expense variations					
Civic Hall - Cobden	41,781	43,267	42,647	(620)	Reactive Maintenance
Civic Hall - Terang	41,743	42,640	41,743	(897)	Reactive Maintenance
Sports Centre New - Camperdown	106,651	130,181	106,651	(23,530)	Reactive maintenance - including floor reseal
Clock tower	5,984	6,514	5,984	(530)	Reactive Maintenance
David Newman Centre	5,740	6,546	5,747	(799)	Reactive Maintenance
Other Miscellaneous Properties	41,370	47,007	40,972	(6,035)	Reactive Maintenance
Open Space Furniture & Equipment	73,354	77,164	73,354	(3,810)	Reactive maintenance, including play audit
Admin - Libraries	282,897	287,971	282,897	(5,074)	Website costs increased at CPI 3%
Library - Camperdown	88,027	93,376	93,527	151	Reactive Maintenance
Library - Terang	90,550	91,650	90,550	(1,100)	Reactive Maintenance
Waste Collection Contract	826,671	826,671	840,297	13,626	Q4: Additional fuel costs
Green Waste Collection	410,801	410,801	420,021	9,220	Q4: Additional fuel costs
Recycling Contract	381,778	381,778	396,006	14,228	Q4: Additional fuel costs
Timboon Child Care Centre	8,762	19,762	18,762	(1,000)	Reactive maintenance. 11K to undertake works on doors as per compliance.
P&G Storm Damage	83,072	83,772	83,072	(700)	Reactive Maintenance
Rural Drainage Maintenance Program	395,573	299,163	295,573	(3,590)	Budget process review
Kindergarten Central Enrolment Project	57,000	161,979	131,979	(30,000)	Budget process review
Pre-Prep Roll- Out	-	44,100	24,100	(20,000)	One off grant
Expand the community emergency planning prog	20,000	30,000	20,000	(10,000)	Q4 reduced from \$30K due to staffing capacity
Glass Collection Contract	93,803	93,803	97,403	3,600	Budget process review
Pound Investigation and Design of New Facility	-	7,560	12,188	4,628	Budget process review
Stage 2 Flood Study Commence Data Purchase	-	164,224	101,748	(62,476)	Q4 reduced, project came in under budget. Return of grant funds
Climate Risk Assessment and Plan 2024	-	11,806	6,000	(5,806)	Budget process review
Aboriginal Participation and Engagement Plan Im	45,000	45,000	25,000	(20,000)	Budget process review
Livestreaming equipment and operation - Council	26,000	26,000	16,000	(10,000)	Decreased to \$16,000 on 25/02/2026
Positive Ageing and Inclusion Program	30,000	30,000	-	(30,000)	Budget process review
Light Fleet	616,873	616,873	676,873	60,000	Average fuel usage past 12 months plus 0.2c ltr Increase by \$60k due to fuel price spike
Derrinallum Transfer Station	87,278	87,278	95,126	7,848	Q4 additional fuel costs +incorrect CPI adjustment
Port Campbell Transfer Station	122,658	122,658	133,839	11,181	Q4 additional fuel costs +incorrect CPI adjustment
Simpson Transfer Station	110,166	110,166	120,541	10,375	Q4 additional fuel costs +incorrect CPI adjustment
Skipton Transfer Station	46,173	46,173	55,686	9,513	Q4 additional fuel costs +incorrect CPI adjustment
Timboon Transfer Station	141,326	141,326	153,039	11,713	Q4 additional fuel costs +incorrect CPI adjustment
School Crossings	81,376	81,376	92,776	11,400	Q4 Injured staff member means we need to reimburse travel to shifts
Works Administration	628,325	632,571	628,325	(4,246)	Budget process review
Works Admin Recovery	1,903,108	1,904,972	1,903,108	(1,864)	Budget process review
Heavy Plant	1,897,317	1,907,330	1,953,854	46,524	To account for increase in fuel costs.
Council Offices	183,383	206,851	216,383	9,532	Reactive maintenance. Includes \$2,200 for service of e-car charge points-jetcharge and repair of AC units in Mcnicol building
Total	8,974,542	9,320,311	9,301,773	(18,538)	
TOTAL VARIATIONS	11,954,542	12,473,190	12,382,253	(90,937)	

Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	(Favourable)/ Unfavourable Movement	Comment
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Project Name	Adopted Budget	Reviewed Budget	Forecast Budget	(Favourable)/ Unfavourable Movement
Capital Project Budget Variations	3,035,000	3,207,878	3,110,179	(97,699)
Operating project Budget Variations	8,919,542	9,265,311	9,272,073	6,762
Total	11,954,542	12,473,190	12,382,253	(90,937)

9.5 Activate Corangamite - Investment Attraction Strategy

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Katy McMahon, Manager Economy & Prosperity

Executive Summary

Activate Corangamite is an investment attraction program incorporating an investment attraction package, readiness support and marketing prospectus. The program is intended to:

- Define and promote investment ready opportunities and sites
- Source private and public sector investment for private sector projects/businesses
- Support and develop entrepreneurs
- Source business angels/angel investors
- Facilitate connections with government departments and agencies to support private sector investment in Corangamite.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorise the CEO to progress the development of the Activate Corangamite Investment Attraction Program; and
2. Seek expressions of interest from private sector land-holders and businesses to be part of the marketing prospectus and program.

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Council continues to progress the implementation of the Grow and Prosper Corangamite Economic Framework, with a strong focus on positioning the municipality for sustained economic resilience, population stability and new private sector investment. Work undertaken to date has centred on establishing priority industry sectors, identifying development-ready and strategic opportunity sites, and strengthening partnerships with regional and State Government agencies to support future investment attraction efforts.

In recent years the focus has been on business support and project delivery. This has been necessary given the impacts of Covid and the requirement to deliver funded projects such as the Port Campbell Town Centre Revitalisation project. Now is the opportunity to readjust focus and concentrate on activating Corangamite through investment attraction.

As part of the next phase, Council is developing a dedicated Investment Attraction Program - Activate Corangamite. This program will formalise Council's approach to identifying, packaging and promoting key investment opportunities across the Shire, while ensuring alignment with the economic framework's goals of supporting local employment, enhancing township vitality and enabling industry diversification.

Activate Corangamite is intended to bring together innovative approaches to attract investors and entrepreneurs by leveraging technology, community and business engagement, highlighting unique regional attributes to create appealing investment Opportunities.

An initial first step is development of a prospectus for Corangamite that will include industry and town profiles. Activate Corangamite will build on this with development of targeted industry prospectuses; site specific opportunities; digital portal; and an active marketing program. It will include attendance at trade and investment shows, and investment deputations both domestically and internationally where appropriate.

As an investment attraction program it is intentionally externally focussed. While opportunities to support existing businesses in internal business expansion and/or diversification will not be ignored it is recognised that these opportunities are in part supported as part of Grow and Prosper Corangamite and the work of the Economic Development and Planning and Building Teams.

Activate Corangamite will enable the team to build stronger relationships with State and Commonwealth departments and agencies involved in investment attraction and facilitation including Invest Victoria, the Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) Commissioners, Austrade and the Industry Capability Network (ICN).

Options for Council Consideration

Council may wish to consider prioritising the sites or industries it wishes to include as part of the Investment Attraction Prospectus and the target areas for the marketing program.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

A growing and prosperous economy

- Support and promote local businesses

- Encourage sustainable agriculture

- Enhance and promote tourism opportunities

- Support and enable job creation

- Seek to diversify our economy including retail and hospitality and support creative industries

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Grow and Prosper Corangamite 2023

- Grow Corangamite: Securing our Agricultural Future 2024
- Great South Coast Economic Futures
- Corangamite Destination Action Plan:
 - Priority 1, Action 1 Support private sector investment in produce and experience development, support new and improved accommodation.
- Regional Economic Development Strategy – Great South Coast (RDV)
- VicGrid Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Councillors and Council Officers have undertaken Economic Opportunities tours of potential investment locations and industries. Discussions have been held with individual businesses and landowners and with Regional Development Victoria and AgVic. Further consultation is planned with Invest Victoria, Austrade, ICN and VGTI Commissioners.

Financial Considerations

Council's current financial year budget includes an allocation of \$30,000 for prospectus development. In addition, a budget proposal has been developed to support the implementation of the Strategy for consideration as part of the 2026-2027 Budget.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

N/A

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

N/A

Risk Consideration

This report addresses Enterprise Risk 77 – Insufficient investment by Council in Economic Development. The development of an investment attraction program and support provided to facilitate private sector investment and development in strategic projects in the Shire is a mitigation measure to address this risk. The current risk rating is low and the residual risk rating is low.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

Nil

9.6 Grow Corangamite Planning Scheme Amendment Update

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Andrew Nield, Manager Regulatory Services

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with an update on the progress of the Grow Corangamite Planning Scheme Amendment (C67cora) and outlines key activities undertaken to date.

Amendment C67cora seeks to implement the *Grow Corangamite: Sustaining our Agricultural Future Strategy*, adopted by Council in August 2024. On 26 February 2026, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) advised that Amendment C67cora would not be authorised under section 16G of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The refusal was primarily due to concerns that elements of the Amendment were not aligned with State planning policy, Planning Practice Notes, and established drafting conventions, particularly in relation to agricultural land classification terminology, the role of local policy relative to State policy, the regulation of timber production through the Farming Zone, and aspects of renewable energy policy.

In response, Council commissioned an independent review of Amendment C67cora by Plan2Place. The review confirmed that the Grow Corangamite Strategy is well considered and based on a strong body of evidence, but also identified that aspects of the Amendment C67cora should be reframed to address the matters raised by the DTP. Should Council resolve to pursue this approach, there will be a need to proactively advocate to DTP, and other relevant stakeholders, that the reframed Amendment C67cora is strategically sound, supported by a robust evidence base, and appropriately aligned with State planning objectives, in order to improve the likelihood of authorisation.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the findings of the independent review of Amendment C67cora.
2. Endorse a revised approach to implementing the *Grow Corangamite Strategy* that:
 - Replaces references to “state and regionally significant agricultural land” with “high and very high-quality productive agricultural land”;
 - Revises local planning policy to clearly complement, rather than replicate or extend, State planning policy;
 - Rewords renewable energy policy provisions to align with Clauses 19.01-2S and 19.01-2R of the Planning Policy Framework; and
 - Retains the proposed 40-hectare timber production permit trigger with strengthened strategic justification.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Sustainable Development to engage with officers from the Department of Transport and Planning and the Department of Agriculture to progress the revised approach.
4. Undertake advocacy with State and Federal Government representatives, departments, and agencies to communicate the strategic importance of the Grow Corangamite Planning Scheme Amendment, including its role in protecting high-quality agricultural land, supporting food security, and managing competing rural land uses.

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Amendment C67cora - Authorisation Refusal

Amendment C67cora seeks to implement the *Grow Corangamite: Sustaining our Agricultural Future Strategy*, adopted by Council in August 2024. On 26 February 2026, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) advised that Amendment C67cora would not be authorised under section 16G of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The refusal letter issued by DTP identifies three primary reasons for not authorising Amendment C67cora. These relate to inconsistencies with the Planning Policy Framework, particularly Clause 14.01-1S (Protection of agricultural land), and with Planning Practice Note 42 and the *Practitioner's Guide to Victoria's Planning Schemes*, including concerns about the definition of productive agricultural land and local policy assuming the role of State policy. The letter also notes that the Amendment lacked adequate strategic justification to regulate timber production in a manner that could prejudice that use over other agricultural activities.

Despite strong representations from Council officers to resolve some of the technical concerns with the Amendment, it became clear that issues associated with the proposed regulation of timber production could not be addressed to the satisfaction of DTP. In particular, the Department was not prepared to support an approach that could be interpreted as prioritising dairy farming over timber production, or otherwise differentiating between agricultural industries within the Farming Zone. Timber production is recognised as a legitimate agricultural use, and the DTP considered that the proposed permit trigger risked effectively 'picking winners and losers' between agricultural land uses without sufficient strategic justification. These concerns ultimately remained unresolved and were a key factor in the decision not to authorise the Amendment.

Independent Review

Given the matters raised through the authorisation process, Council commissioned an independent review by Plan2Place to test the strategic soundness of the *Grow Corangamite Strategy* and to explore alternative approaches to implementing its objectives through the Planning Scheme. The review confirms that the Strategy is well considered and supported by a strong and credible evidence base. The Strategy was informed by detailed technical work and extensive consultation with industry stakeholders and the broader community, and it aligns with Council's wider economic development objectives. Earlier peer reviews also supported the Strategy's findings, particularly the identified need to strengthen planning policy settings for rural workers' accommodation, timber production, and renewable energy development in rural areas. Overall, the review is clear that the Strategy itself remains valid and sound.

The review finds that the primary issue for Council is not the intent of the Strategy, but the way that intent has been translated into planning scheme controls through Amendment C67cora. One of the key reasons the Amendment was not authorised relates to the description and mapping of agricultural land. The Amendment relies on the terminology “state and regionally significant agricultural land”, which is not clearly defined or supported within the Victorian Planning Provisions. DTP considers this approach problematic, as it risks local planning policy encroaching into the role of State policy. This concern is reinforced by recent State Government advice, including the Victorian Government response to Inquiry into securing the Victorian Food Supply, indicating a shift away from ranking agricultural land according to levels of “significance”, and towards recognising the importance of all productive agricultural land.

In this context, the review strongly recommends refocusing both the Strategy and the Amendment on the established concept of “high quality productive agricultural land”. This term is already defined within the Planning Scheme framework and is therefore less likely to attract State objection, while still allowing Council to give policy weight to the protection of its most productive agricultural areas.

The most contested element of the Amendment is the proposed requirement for a planning permit for timber production on land exceeding 40 hectares in the Farming Zone. DTP has expressed concern that this control could unduly restrict timber production, which is recognised as an agricultural use and is becoming increasingly important at the State level following the cessation of native forest harvesting in Victoria. As a result, the review identifies a key decision point for Council: either strengthen the strategic and technical justification for the permit trigger, or defer or remove it to allow the remainder of the Amendment to proceed. Given the high level of community and industry input to the development of the Strategy, it is recommended that Council retain the permit trigger for timber production on land exceeding 40 hectares in the Farming Zone and undertake further advocacy to outline the rationale behind the inclusion of this element in the Amendment.

Renewable energy policy is another area where the review recommends changes. Corangamite Shire contains two major Renewable Energy Zones, and State and regional policies strongly support the development of renewable energy infrastructure. The proposed local policy currently places a strong emphasis on avoiding renewable energy development on agricultural land, which conflicts with higher-level policy directions. The review recommends reframing this policy to support renewable energy projects where they are appropriately located and capable of co-existing with ongoing agricultural activities. This approach would better align with State policy while still enabling Council to manage potential land-use and amenity impacts.

Finally, the review highlights the importance of local planning policy clearly supporting, rather than repeating or exceeding, the role of State policy. It notes that some elements of the Amendment risk creating uncertainty by restating State policy or using language that extends beyond an appropriate local planning role. Clarifying the intent and scope of local policy by clearly linking it to locally mapped high-quality agricultural land would improve the overall clarity of the planning scheme and reduce the risk of further objections during the authorisation process.

Options for Council Consideration

Option 1 – Revise and Resubmit the Amendment (Recommended Option)

Council could proceed to revise the Grow Corangamite Strategy and Amendment C67cora in accordance with the recommendations of the independent review and submit a new request for authorisation to the Minister for Planning.

This option would involve updating terminology, mapping, and policy to reference high and very high-quality productive agricultural land; refining local policy wording to better complement State planning policy; revising the renewable energy policy approach; and clarifying Council's position on timber production controls, as follows:

- Replace references to “state and regionally significant agricultural land” with “high and very high-quality productive agricultural land”;
- Revise local planning policy to clearly complement, rather than replicate or extend, State planning policy;
- Reword renewable energy policy provisions to align with Clauses 19.01-2S and 19.01-2R of the Planning Policy Framework; and
- Retain the proposed 40-hectare timber production permit trigger with strengthened strategic justification.

Progressing this option would require strong and coordinated advocacy approach with the DTP and other relevant agencies. In particular, further engagement would be required to clearly articulate Council's strategic intent in relation to timber production, demonstrate that any revised controls do not seek to privilege one agricultural industry over another, and explain how the reframed Amendment supports the long-term coexistence of timber production and other agricultural uses. This advocacy would be critical to addressing the Department's concerns and to building confidence that the revised Amendment is strategically justified, evidence-based, and appropriately aligned with State policy settings.

Advantages

- Retains momentum in implementing the Grow Corangamite Strategy.
- Responds directly to issues raised by the Department of Transport and Planning.
- Improves the likelihood of authorisation and progression to exhibition
- Enables Council to continue shaping planning outcomes for rural land use.

Disadvantages

- Requires additional officer time and potentially further consultant support.
- Some elements of the original policy intent may need to be moderated to achieve authorisation.

Option 2 – Proceed Without Timber Production Controls At This Time

Council could revise the Amendment to prioritise implementation of the broader strategic and policy components of the Grow Corangamite Strategy, while removing the proposed Farming Zone schedule relating to timber production. Timber production controls could be reconsidered through a future amendment following additional strategic work.

While this option may improve short-term prospects of authorisation, it is not recommended as it would result in partial implementation of the Grow Corangamite Strategy and defer consideration of timber production controls at a time when the scale and location of timber production are creating land-use, infrastructure, economic and amenity impacts that require more immediate policy management.

Advantages

- Addresses the most contentious issue identified by the Department.
- Improves prospects of authorisation in the short term.
- Allows the majority of the Strategy to be implemented sooner.

Disadvantages

- Delays Council's ability to manage the location and scale of timber production through planning controls.
- Requires a future amendment to reintroduce timber production provisions.

Option 3 – Defer the Amendment and Undertake Further Strategic Work

Council could pause the Amendment process and undertake further strategic analysis, particularly in relation to timber production, dairy land viability, and broader land-use impacts. A revised amendment could then be prepared once this work and further State policy reforms are completed.

While this option would allow for further strategic work, it is not recommended at this time. The independent review confirms that the Grow Corangamite Strategy is strategically sound, supported by a strong evidence base, and aligned in principle with State planning objectives. Deferring the Amendment to undertake further strategic analysis would therefore address issues that relate primarily to the statutory expression of the Strategy, rather than to the Strategy itself, and would unnecessarily delay implementation of an agreed policy direction. In this context, a revised and reframed Amendment is considered a more proportionate and effective response to the matters raised through the authorisation process.

Advantages

- Strengthens the strategic justification for future controls
- Allows alignment with emerging changes to State agricultural land policy
- Reduces the risk of further refusal at authorisation

Disadvantages

- Delays implementation of the Grow Corangamite Strategy
- Risk of losing momentum with stakeholders and the community
- Ongoing policy uncertainty for rural land uses

Option 4 – Discontinue Amendment C67cora

Council could resolve not to proceed further with Amendment C67cora.

This option is not recommended, as it would effectively abandon an adopted and strategically sound policy framework, limiting Council's capacity to proactively manage agricultural land use, timber production, and rural development pressures through statutory planning controls.

Advantages

- No further resourcing required.
- Avoids further engagement with the authorisation process.

Disadvantages

- The Grow Corangamite Strategy would remain largely unimplemented.
- Missed opportunity to strengthen local planning policy for agriculture.
- Limited ability to manage competing rural land uses through the planning scheme.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

A growing and prosperous economy

Support and promote local businesses

Encourage sustainable agriculture

Protection and enhancement of our Environment

Support and promote renewable energy

Protect biodiversity and our natural assets

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council cannot progress Amendment C67cora without authorisation from the Minister for Planning. Authorisation has been refused for the current version of the Amendment, and it cannot lawfully proceed unless it is revised and resubmitted in a form that is consistent with the Victorian Planning Provisions and the Planning Policy Framework. Local planning policy must complement State policy and remain within Council's statutory role.

If Council elects to progress a revised amendment without adequately addressing the issues raised by the Department of Transport and Planning, there is a risk of further refusal, delay, or amendment of provisions through a Planning Panel process, as well as potential challenge at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Revising the Amendment to align with accepted planning terminology, mapping conventions, and State policy directions would reduce legal risk and improve the likelihood of successful authorisation.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Consultation on the *Grow Corangamite Strategy* (and the earlier Scoping Study) was undertaken throughout 2023 and 2024 through a series of structured engagement phases and activities, including an established Project Reference Group comprising industry representatives and key stakeholders.

Public exhibition of Amendment C67cora will form part of the formal planning scheme amendment process. Engagement with relevant State agencies, stakeholders, and the broader community will be undertaken during this phase in accordance with statutory requirements.

Financial Considerations

The Grow Corangamite implementation budget assumed that authorisation would be granted to prepare a planning scheme amendment in its current or a substantially similar form. It is anticipated that the refinements required under Option 1 would necessitate an additional budget allocation in the order of \$20,000 to \$30,000. This additional funding would support further strategic justification requested by the Department of Transport and Planning, updates to the Strategy and associated mapping, and revisions to the planning scheme amendment to reflect a reframed and State-aligned approach.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Nil

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Amendment C67cora is anticipated to deliver positive environmental outcomes for the community, including strengthened protection of high-quality agricultural land across the Shire. The Amendment supports sustainable land use and development by providing clearer planning policy guidance on managing and considering the environmental impacts associated with timber production.

Risk Consideration

As outlined under the Relevant Policy Implications, key risks include failing to adequately address the matters raised by the Department of Transport and Planning, which could result in further refusal or delay. Such outcomes would prolong uncertainty and may leave high-quality agricultural land within the Shire with reduced policy protection. There is also a risk that additional resources are invested in revising the Amendment to address DTP concerns, yet authorisation is still not granted.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Under Separate Cover - Refusal letter Department of Transport and Planning [9.6.1 - 1 page]
2. Under Separate Cover - Grow Corangamite Review Report [9.6.2 - 32 pages]
3. Under Separate Cover - Grow Corangamite Brochure [9.6.3 - 1 page]

9.7 Ready Now Grants: October 2025 - March 2026

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Bec Reedman, Coordinator Community Engagement and Development

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of Council's Ready Now Grant allocations October 2025 – March 2026 inclusive.

Recommendation

That Council notes the approved Ready Now Grants October 2025 to March 2026.

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The Ready Now Grants program is a targeted program focused on community benefit, supporting community groups and activities where small grants can make a difference.

The program is designed to be flexible and responsive to community needs. Applications for Ready Now Grants are assessed as they are received, with approval of grant applications delegated to the CEO, enabling a quick turnaround.

The program provides small allocations of funds of up to \$500 for beneficial projects and activities supporting community inclusion and participation, and providing equipment, facilities and public spaces that are appropriate for community use. Grants are open to volunteer-based, incorporated community groups operating within Corangamite Shire. The table below details the Ready Now Grants approved between October 2025 and March 2026.

Organisation	Purpose	Amount	Date	Ward
Camperdown Theatre Company Inc.	Camperdown Community Carols	\$500.00	2/10/2025	Leura
Camperdown Memorial Swimming Pool	Sound System	\$500.00	13/10/2025	Leura
South Beach COM	Bench Seats	\$470.00	22/10/2025	Gnotuk
Carpenteit Hall and Recreation Reserve	Christmas community BBQ	\$350.00	1/12/2025	Tandarook
Port Campbell Community Events Inc	Christmas decorations for town	\$500.00	1/12/2025	Coorimungie
Progressing Cobden Inc	BBQ setup	\$500.00	12/12/2025	Tandarook
Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club Inc	Replace existing glassware	\$500.00	16/12/2025	Coorimungie
South Western Model Engineers Inc	Purchase new microwave	\$500.00	12/01/2026	Lake Elingamite
SW Reconciliation	Port-a-loo hire	\$180.00	14/01/2026	Leura
Rotary Club of Camperdown	Purchase of bins/stickers	\$500.00	22/01/2026	Leura
Lions Club of Camperdown	Community dress display event	\$500.00	22/01/2026	Leura
Heytesbury Princetown Cricket Club Inc	3 x women's training kits	\$500.00	11/02/2026	Lake Elingamite
Camperdown Clocktower Quilters Inc.	Materials for community quilts	\$500.00	25/02/2026	Gnotuk
Zoe Wilkinson (Camperdown Community House)	International Womens Day event	\$500.00	4/03/2026	Gnotuk
Terang Men's Shed	Purchase new laptop	\$500.00	17/03/2026	Lake Keilambete
Port Campbell community events committee	Easter Hunt	\$500.00	30/03/2026	Coorimungie
Kidding Around Cobden auspiced by Rotary Club of Cobden	Kidding Around Cobden@ home	\$500.00	30/03/2026	Tandarook
TOTAL		\$8,000.00		

Table 1: Approved Ready Now Grant Applications: October 2025-March 2026

In addition to the grants outlined in the table above, one (1) additional application was received for an ineligible expense which was not approved.

Options for Council Consideration

That Council:

1. Notes the report detailing the Ready Now Grants (October 2025 to March 2026)
2. Requests additional information on the allocated Ready Now Grants.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

A Community that enables healthy, active, and resilient living

- Deliver, support and enable services and programs for all life stages particularly youth and aged

- Provide, maintain and promote recreational facilities and programs

- Support population attraction and retention initiatives and ageing in place

- Enable, advocate and where responsible deliver improved amenity and public safety

Quality infrastructure and community connections

- Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure

Strong Civic Leadership

- Engage community members in meaningful and accessible ways including our youth and young adults, and older members of the community

- Celebrate cultural diversity, promote cultural awareness and remove barriers to participation

- Support volunteers and community leaders

- Be financially responsible and sustainable

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Council Grants and Funding Policy 2025

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The Ready Now Grants program is widely promoted enabling community groups to readily access the grants. The Council Grants and Funding Policy was reviewed, updated and adopted in November 2025. These updates took into consideration community and staff feedback. This update absorbed the previous Ready Now Policy, streamlining the process for staff and community.

Financial Considerations

The Ready Now Grant program has an annual budget allocation of \$20,000. To end March 2026, \$14,900 has been awarded against this budget. The remaining \$5,100 is anticipated to be granted during the remaining quarter with additional promotion of the availability of the grant to be undertaken.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Ready Now Grants are available to Community groups which are representative of the diversity in the Shire. All applications are considered equitably against the Policy which was developed and reviewed in keeping with a Gender Impact Assessment.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Ready Now Grants support a range of initiatives including sustainability focused initiatives.

Risk Consideration

N/A

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Under Separate Cover - Ready Now Grant Applications: October 2025 - March 2026 [9.7.1 - 1 page]

9.8 Business Assistance Scheme April 2026 Applications

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Samantha Fox, Coordinator Economy and Tourism

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the assessment and recommended funding allocation for the April 2026 round of the Business Assistance Scheme (BAS). The BAS is part of Council's Grow and Prosper Corangamite initiative which consolidates economic and community development, including arts, culture, tourism and the circular economy. The BAS supports local businesses, community enterprises, creative industries and new businesses looking to establish in the municipality.

Recommendation

That Council approves the Business Assistance Scheme applications for funding, being:

- 1. D.C Gilbert & P.J Gilbert trading as Gilbo's Cafe & Takeaway, Terang for the amount of \$1,595 and fee waiver of \$226.50 excluding GST.**
- 2. Western Victorian Axemans Association, Camperdown for the amount of \$1,100 excluding GST.**

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The BAS provides business, building owners and community the opportunity to apply for support, including financial assistance. Applications are assessed on merit, considering the eligibility criteria and available funds.

The Scheme is ongoing across the year enabling businesses to submit when suitable for their proposed project and provides four streams 1) Business Facade Improvement; 2) Creative Industries and Placemaking; 3) Community Enterprise Projects; and 4) Fees and Enabling Infrastructure.

There is one application for Stream 1 Business Facade Improvement and one application for Stream 3 Community Enterprise Projects that have been assessed and are recommended for assistance to be considered by Council for determination:

- D.C Gilbert & P.J Gilbert (Gilbo's Cafe & Takeaway) Terang:* New business identification signage. The funding assistance requested is \$1,595 excluding GST and planning permit fee waiver of \$226.50 excluding GST.
- Western Victorian Axemans Association, Camperdown:* First Aid training and accreditation to increase capacity of club volunteers to run and support local events safely. The funding assistance requested is \$1,100 excluding GST.

The BAS scheme is an ongoing grant and business support scheme that is open for applications year-round. Council officers work with applicants to enable applications to be grant ready. Applications are assessed against the relevant stream criteria and evaluated by an assessment panel to ensure they meet assessment criteria and align with the objectives of the program and if so, are recommended for approval.

Options for Council Consideration

Officers have assessed the two applications and recommend them for assistance under the Business Assistance Scheme (BAS). The options are:

1. Allocate funds of \$2,695 (excluding GST) and planning permit fee waiver of \$226.50 to the two Business Assistance Scheme applicants.
2. Not allocate funding through the program.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

A Community that enables healthy, active, and resilient living

Deliver, support and enable services and programs for all life stages particularly youth and aged

A growing and prosperous economy

Support and promote local businesses

Enhance and promote tourism opportunities

Support and enable job creation

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Business Assistance Scheme Policy October 2025.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Extensive external promotion and consultation about the BAS has occurred across the Shire including media releases, Council's social media channels, Corangamite News, Corangamite E-News and Corangamite Business E-News.

On receipt of applications internal consultation is undertaken with relevant teams (e.g. planning, building and environmental health) to ensure all aspects of proposals are considered and applicants are supported through the permit processes.

Financial Considerations

The current two applications are seeking a total funding commitment of \$2,695.

Council's 2025-2026 adopted budget includes an allocation of \$50,000 for the BAS, with a remaining budget of \$16,724.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

The April BAS applications include applications from D.C Gilbert & P.J Gilbert (Gilbo's Cafe & Takeaway) Terang and Western Victorian Axemans Association, Camperdown. Stream 1 of the BAS program enables businesses to apply for funding for a variety of improvements, while Stream 3 enables community enterprise projects focused on upskilling for economic benefit.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

NA

Risk Consideration

This matter addresses Enterprise Risk 77 – Insufficient investment by Council in Economic Development. The allocation of funding to provide support for businesses is a mitigation measure for this risk. The current risk rating is low and the residual risk remains low.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Under Separate Cover - Business Assistance Scheme April 2026 Applications
[9.8.1 - 2 pages]

9.9 Hard Court Maintenance Policy April 2026

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jane Hinds, Sports and Recreation Coordinator

Executive Summary

This report recommends Council adopt the Hard Court Maintenance Policy, which provides direction to Council and community groups regarding the provision of funding for maintenance and upgrade responsibilities for both competition standard netball and tennis courts throughout the Shire.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Hard Court Maintenance Policy dated April 2023.**
- 2. Adopts the Hard Court Maintenance Policy dated April 2026.**

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Council's Hard Court Maintenance Policy aims to establish maintenance and upgrade responsibilities for hard court facilities and related infrastructure located in the Corangamite Shire regardless of tenure.

A number of hard court surfaces in the Corangamite Shire have been renewed over the past ten years. An audit of hard court facilities was conducted in March 2017 to ensure investment in the facilities is warranted and funds can be directed to facilities based on condition and need.

The hard court audit provides a detailed report on the current standard of playing surface and outlines any maintenance requirements. Hard court assessment has been focused on the following parameters:

- Pavement type
- Surface texture
- Surface shape
- Cracking
- Evenness of surface
- Joints in surface and location
- Vegetation in pavement.

All courts have been ranked by priority ranking based on the technical assessments. This report and ranking guides hard court investment.

Over the last three years the hard court maintenance contribution which has been provided to volunteer reserve committees has been well received given the aging court infrastructure, the increasing cost of operating expenses and ongoing maintenance required at the reserves. Courts at Camperdown Lakes, Port Campbell and Timboon recreation reserves have all benefited from the allocation which will ensure that the hard courts across the shire are fit for purpose, maintained to an appropriate standard which allow for continued sporting participation for years to come.

The policy has been reviewed with only minor amendments recommended to reflect current strategies and policies.

It is proposed that Council continue to:

- Consider allocation of funding as a part of its annual budget development.
- Include hard court related infrastructure for consideration of resource allocation for maintenance and upgrades.

Options for Council Consideration

Council can adopt the Hard Court Maintenance Policy as presented, or choose to amend the Policy.

Alignment to Council Plan

The Hard Court Maintenance Policy is a Council Policy which provides an approach to the funding and management arrangements for hard court facilities and infrastructure throughout the Corangamite Shire.

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

A Community that enables healthy, active, and resilient living

Provide, maintain and promote recreational facilities and programs

Quality infrastructure and community connections

Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure

The policy is also consistent with Council's Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2016-2026 to:

- Improve the quality of existing sport and recreation facilities and spaces
- Increase participation in sport and recreation
- Provide high quality, optimally used, sustainable sport and recreation facilities.

This policy has been reviewed and developed in accordance with Council's Policy Development Framework.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Nil

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The Hard Court Maintenance Policy is a revision of an existing policy and has been reviewed internally by Council's Facilities and Recreation Department and Executive Leadership Team.

Financial Considerations

Council will consider in its 10-year capital works plan, dollar for dollar financial assistance for the maintenance or upgrade of hard court surfaces and related infrastructure located on Council owned or managed land, or on land identified by Council as a township reserve.

Hard court surfaces located on other Crown land or public reserves will be eligible to apply to Council's Facility Grant Program for funding assistance on a dollar for dollar basis.

In past budgets, Council has included an allocation of \$50,000 for hard court upgrades. This allocation has been forecast in Council's long term capital and operating projects.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

A review of the policy in consideration of fair access has been considered. The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires Council to undertake gender impact assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service which has a direct and significant impact on the public.

A Gender Impact Assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that the policy meets the needs of people of different genders, addresses gender inequality, and promotes gender equality.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil

Risk Consideration

Nil

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Council Hard Court Maintenance Policy April 2026 [**9.9.1** - 3 pages]
2. Under Separate Cover - Council Hard Court Maintenance Policy April 2026 with tracked changes [**9.9.2** - 3 pages]



Hard Court Maintenance Policy

Corangamite Shire

April 2026

Council Policy



Hard Court Maintenance Policy

Introduction

Sport and recreation play an important role in promoting a sense of community, social inclusion and community wellbeing. Suitable hard courts and related infrastructure are important assets that provide opportunities for participation in sports with high participation rates such as netball and tennis which in turn contributes to the social fabric of the community.

Purpose

The aim of this policy is to establish maintenance and upgrade responsibilities for hard court facilities located in Corangamite Shire.

Scope

This policy applies to hard court surfaces that are accessible by community members and are used for recreational or competition netball and/or tennis.

References

Corangamite Shire Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029
Corangamite Shire Council Plan 2025-2029
Recreation Reserve Masterplans 2021-2031
Great South Coast AFL, Cricket and Netball Strategy 2019-2033

Policy Detail

Council will consider as a part of its annual budget development and its 10 year capital works plan, dollar for dollar financial assistance for the maintenance or upgrade of hard court surfaces and associated infrastructure located on Council owned or managed land or on land identified by Council as a township reserve (including reserved funds for the resealing of Camperdown's Lakes Recreation Park courts).

Hard court surfaces located on other Crown land or public reserves will be eligible to apply to Council's Facility Grants Program for funding assistance on a dollar for dollar basis.

Council officers will assist committees, associations or individual clubs in gaining State Government grants for upgrade projects.

Responsibility for the management of the hard court surfaces and related infrastructure will continue to rest with the relevant recreation reserve committee, tennis association or tennis club.

Public liability insurance arrangements for hard court surfaces and related infrastructure will continue to be in accordance with land owner responsibilities (i.e. Council or Crown) and will involve organisational insurance where those courts and associated infrastructure are used by an independent club or association.

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Reference to linked Procedure or Guidelines

Netball Australia National Facilities Policy
Netball Victoria Compliance Fact Sheet
National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006).

The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires Council to undertake Gender Impact Assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service which has a direct and significant impact on the public. A Gender Impact Assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that the policy meets the needs of people of different genders, addresses gender inequality, and promotes gender equality.

Review Date

April 2030

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Manager Facilities and Recreation
Document Number:

Department: Facilities and Recreation
To be reviewed by: April 2030

Page Number: 3

9.10 Memorial Policy Review April 2026

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Executive Summary

This report recommends adoption of a revised Memorials Policy (Policy) as a guide to the application and installation of memorials within the Corangamite Shire.

This Policy has been reviewed with only minor amendments recommended.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Revokes the Memorials Policy dated September 2022, and**
2. **Adopts the Memorial Policy dated April 2026**

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Council, from time to time, receives requests from individuals or organisations for the installation of memorial plaques, park seating or planting of trees in recognition of the contribution of family members or residents to the Corangamite Shire area.

This Policy provides direction so that applications for memorials are managed on a consistent basis and in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines.

The Memorials Policy applies to:

- Any applicant wishing to apply for the placement of a memorial on Council owned or managed land whether as a monument, plaque, tree or bench seat.
- All existing memorials within Corangamite Shire prior to the adoption of this Policy.

The Policy has been reviewed with only minor amendments noted as outlined below and is reviewed every four years.

Options for Council Consideration

Council can adopt the Memorials Policy as presented, or choose to amend the Memorials Policy.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

Strong Civic Leadership

Engage community members in meaningful and accessible ways including our youth and young adults, and older members of the community
Support volunteers and community leaders

This Policy has been reviewed and developed in accordance with Council's Policy Development Framework.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Nil

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The Memorials Policy is a revision of an existing policy and has been reviewed internally by Council's Facilities and Recreation Department and Executive Leadership Team.

Financial Considerations

Council's recurrent budget provides conservation of the existing monuments and memorials. Council has limited budget to accommodate installation of new requests for memorials across the Shire.

All proposals will be closely considered by Council with analysis on projected recurrent costs associated with the maintenance of memorials.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

A review of the Policy in consideration of fair access has been considered. The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires Council to undertake gender impact assessments when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service which has a direct and significant impact on the public. The Policy will not have a direct and significant public impact and a Gender Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil

Risk Consideration

Nil

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Council Memorials Policy April 2026 [**9.10.1** - 4 pages]
2. Under Separate Cover - Council Memorials Policy April 2026 with track changes [**9.10.2** - 4 pages]

Memorials Policy

Corangamite Shire
April 2026



Council Policy



Memorials Policy

Introduction

From time-to-time Council receives requests from individuals or organisations for the installation of memorial plaques, park seating or planting of trees in recognition of the contribution of family members or residents to the Corangamite Shire.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that applications for memorials are managed on a consistent basis.

Purpose

This policy aims to

- Provide guidelines for the application and installation of memorials.
- Define conditions under which Council will accept requests for memorials.
- Provide consistency with which Council commemorates the contribution of members of the community to the social, cultural or political aspects and development of the Corangamite Shire.

Scope

This policy applies to

- any applicant wishing to apply for the placement of a memorial on Council owned or controlled land whether as a monument, plaque, tree or bench seat.
- all memorials existing within Corangamite Shire prior to the adoption of this policy

Council will consider the donation of park furniture and trees subject to Council's discretion with respect to appropriateness, location, standards of park furniture type and style, or tree species choice.

Definitions

Plaque - a flat metal tablet that includes text or images that commemorate an individual.

Applicant - the person or organisation submitting a proposal for the installation of a memorial.

Memorial - a monument, plaque, park furniture, tree as set out in the application form for the purpose of commemorating a group or individual.

Council Owned or Controlled Land - land that is managed or owned by Council including public land, road reserve, crown land and any other land in Council's control and management.

References

Policy Community Initiated Projects
Council's Liability Mutual Insurance Liability Policy
Roads Manual – sight lines

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Manager Facilities & Recreation
Document Number:

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To be reviewed by: April 2030

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Policy Detail

Applications for memorials may be considered based on the following criteria:

- A person (or persons) who has been recommended for commemoration based on
 - a) Having made a significant contribution to Corangamite Shire community; AND
 - b) being widely known and respected within the local community; OR
 - c) has a recognised historical link with the locality or is generally acknowledged as having made a significant contribution to the social, economic, sporting and/or cultural development of the community; AND
 - d) is of good repute and not likely to be the subject of controversy; AND
 - e) is not commemorated elsewhere in the Corangamite Shire (unless otherwise permitted by Council).
- A memorial in a Council road reserve subject to relevant guidelines for safe sight lines
- A tree planting subject to relevant species and Council's Urban Street Tree Management Plan
- A park seat subject to appropriateness, location, standards of park furniture type and style as confirmed by Council
- The projected recurrent cost of maintenance of the memorial

Memorials must be consistent with any relevant Management Plan for the proposed location.

All memorials placed on Council owned or controlled land are Council assets and therefore are owned and under the care, control and management of Council.

All memorials placed on Council controlled land e.g. Crown Land will be subject to relevant land owner consent and will be therefore owned by the Crown and under the care, control and management of Council or their delegated authority.

Applications

Applicants will need to provide details of the proposed memorial in writing, including:

- Name of the person to be commemorated
- A summary of the reasons for commemorating the individual e.g. outlining their service to the community, achievements, etc.
- The proposed size, text or images to be included
- The preferred location for the seat/tree/etc
- Any other pertinent information
- Name and contact details of the person/organisation proposing the memorial

All requests for memorials must be made in writing to the Manager Facilities and Recreation.

All applications will be considered in accordance with Council's annual budget allocation for memorials on a case by case basis and with respect to the criteria above.

Approval

- Approval must be sought prior to the installation of a memorial
- Applications will be considered by relevant officers in Council's Works and Services Directorate
- Approval is at the discretion of Council in accordance with this Policy
- Decisions will be confirmed in writing to the applicant.

Adopted at Council on:
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Cost

- The applicant will be required to meet all costs associated with the design, purchase and delivery of the approved memorial.
- The applicant will reimburse Council all costs for installation of the approved memorial.

Design, purchase and delivery

- Council will be required to authorise the size and design of the plaque in accordance with the type of seating on which it will be placed.
- The ordering and supply of memorial item/s and plaque will be undertaken by the applicant as approved by Council.

Installation

- Council will be responsible for the installation of the approved memorial.

Maintenance / Renewal

Park furniture, tree(s) and a memorial plaque will be subject to the same level of maintenance as other infrastructure located in the park or reserve. The donation would remain in place as long as it remained in good working condition and complied with Council standards.

Council shall accept no responsibility or obligation for repair or damage to or theft of the structure. Applicants may re-apply should the park furniture or tree(s) need to be removed or replaced.

Council reserves the right to remove a memorial if it falls into a state of disrepair or remove a memorial at the point at which the asset requires replacement in order to maintain its amenity.

Trees, park furniture and plaques have a finite life, and whilst every reasonable effort will be made to preserve the life of the item, Council cannot guarantee that the memorial will remain at the designated site indefinitely. Council envisages any change to the location of the memorial will be due to:

- The area in which the memorial is sited is to be redeveloped
- Use of the site changes significantly in character and the item is not deemed suitable for the site

Prior to any removal or change to the location of the memorial every attempt will be made to contact the applicant to discuss relocation or removal of the memorial.

A register of memorials will be kept by Council.

It is considered that this policy does not adversely impact on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)* and does not adversely impact community members or employees of different genders and has been developed in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Review Date

April 2030

Adopted at Council on:
Agenda Item:
Responsibility: Manager Facilities & Recreation
Document Number:

Department: Facilities & Recreation
To be reviewed by: April 2030

Page Number: 4

9.11 Capital and Operating Quarterly Report Update - March 2026

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Shaun Broadbent, Director Works and Services

Executive Summary

Council continues to deliver a broad range of capital and operational initiatives this financial year. In total 213 projects are planned across the organisation. The endorsed capital works program is valued at \$23.7 million and forms a major share of Council's annual expenditure. At the end of March year to date spending is in line with forecast expectations indicating the capital and operating program is progressing in line with the adopted budget and delivery timeframes. Of the 213 projects 46% are complete and 49% are in progress.

Recommendation

That Council notes the quarterly status project update report to 31 March 2026.

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Council's 2025–2026 capital and operating program includes 213 projects across infrastructure renewal, asset upgrades, community facility improvements and strategic initiatives. The adopted capital budget of \$23.7 million highlights Council's ongoing focus on maintaining and improving community assets while supporting long term service delivery goals. In addition, Council has \$9.1m in non-recurrent operating projects.

The breakdown of projects across the organisation is as follows:

Corporate & Community Services	32
Sustainable Development	61
Works & Services	114
Governance & Civic Support	6

The status of projects as at the end of March 2026 is detailed below:

Directorate	Completed	In Progress	Not Started
Corporate & Community	10	22	-
Sustainable Development	11	45	5
Works & Services	74	39	1
Governance & Civic Support	3	3	-

Table 1: Project Status end March 2026

As part of ongoing monitoring of the capital and operating projects program, expenditure performance is tracked against the adopted budget. Year to date expenditure to 31 March 2026 was \$12.9m compared to a budgeted expenditure of \$13.5m. This represents a minor underspend of \$593k or approximately 4%.

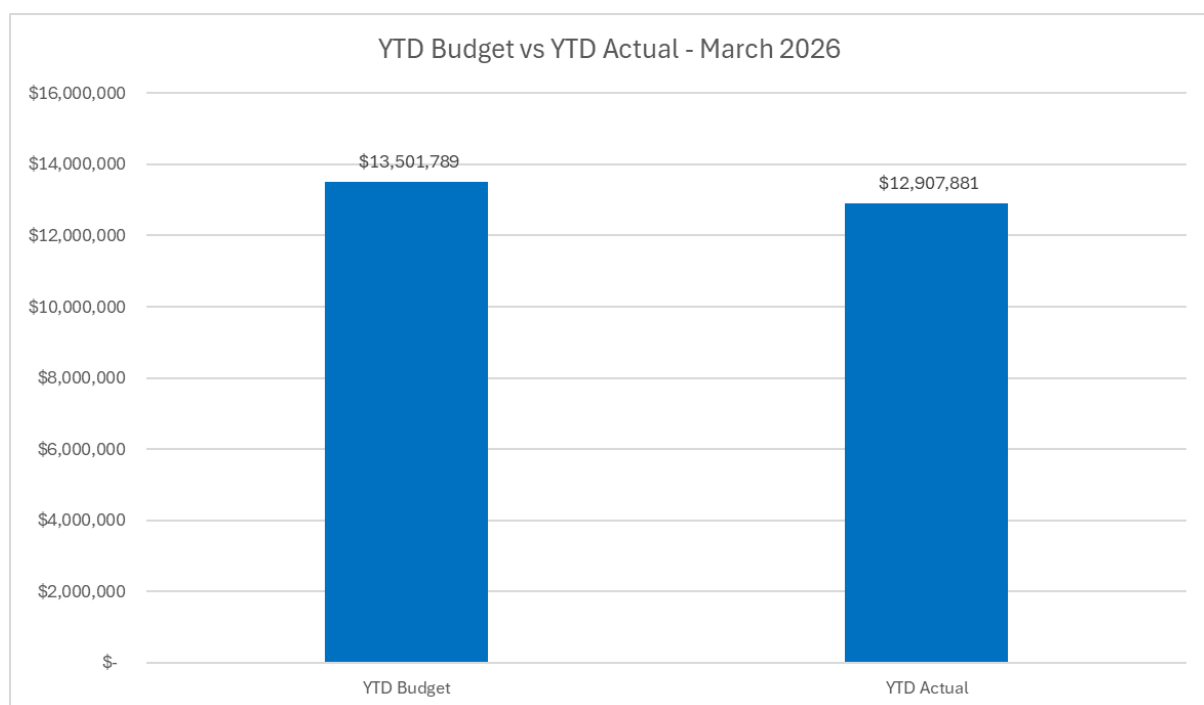


Chart 1: YTD Budget vs YTD Expenditure

The level of spending corresponds with the phased implementation of the capital works program, with the majority of the program progressing through procurement, design and the initial stages of construction during the first three quarters of the financial year.

Key project milestones are generally being achieved in line with scheduled timeframes. Any minor deviations encountered are primarily attributable to procurement timeframes, contractor resourcing or statutory approval requirements.

Monitoring of expenditure timelines and risks will continue through the remainder of the financial year to support delivery within approved budgets and in line with Council's strategic priorities.

Project Status

Projects are grouped by stage of completion. Council has defined five project status categories and reports against these to provide an overview of program performance. The table below summarises program status as at 31 March 2026.

Project Status	Number	Percentage
Completed	98	46%
In Progress	104	49%
Deferred	-	-
Not Started	6	3%
In Progress – Grant Funded/Multi-Year	5	2%

Table 2: Project Status March 2026

With 46% of the program complete and a further 49% in progress, Council is well positioned to deliver the majority of capital and operational projects within the current financial year.

While the majority of projects are on track for delivery this financial year, some projects are forecast to carry forward into 2026–27 due to their scope and delivery timelines. Some projects are also reliant on external funding and cannot be completed until funding is confirmed.

The current number of projects forecast to be carried forward into the 2026–27 financial year is 31, representing 15% of the capital and operating program. At this stage, the forecast carry forward is considered manageable within existing budget allocations and does not present a material financial risk to Council.

As shown in the chart below, the majority of projects forecast for carry forward are multi-year projects.

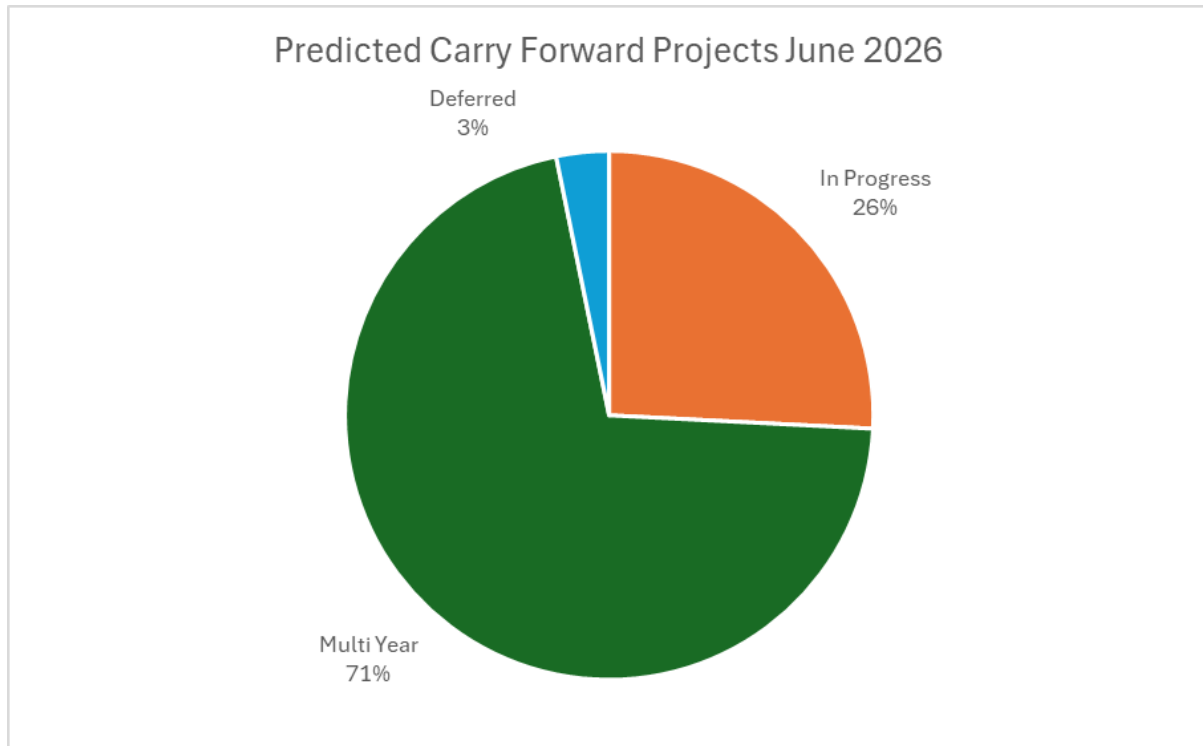


Chart 2: Predicted Carry Forward Projects as % June 2026

As at 31 March 2026, a number of key projects and programs have been delivered, including:

- Road rehabilitation program
- Safety barrier maintenance program
- Rail Bridge Replacement B14 and B15
- Tandarook Park Masterplan Implementation Stage 1
- Apex Park Camperdown All Access project Stage 1
- Hampden Tennis Association Clubrooms Renewal
- Terang Avenue sprinklers
- Timboon Stadium extended Gym hours
- Corangamite Libraries façade refresh and collection materials
- Camperdown Production Precinct Masterplan
- Domestic Wastewater Management plan
- Climate Risk Assessment Plan
- Camperdown and Terang structure plans
- Universal Access to Council buildings audit
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan

Options for Council Consideration

Council may choose to note the March 2026 quarterly project status report or request further information from officers.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029:

A growing and prosperous economy

- Support and promote local businesses
- Enhance and promote tourism opportunities
- Seek to diversify our economy including retail and hospitality and support creative industries

Quality infrastructure and community connections

- Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure
- Provide and promote walking and cycling infrastructure
- Improve traffic safety on roads and streets

Protection and enhancement of our Environment

- Deliver and support sustainable waste management
- Encourage sustainable practices and educate on sustainability
- Protect biodiversity and our natural assets

Strong Civic Leadership

- Support volunteers and community leaders
- Be financially responsible and sustainable

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Council's capital and operational works program is delivered in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic), which sets out Council's obligations in relation to sound financial management, transparency, accountability and good governance in the use of public resources.

Where projects involve procurement activities, these are undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and associated procedures, ensuring compliance with principles of value for money, fairness, transparency and probity.

Project delivery also considers relevant statutory obligations under applicable legislation including (where relevant) the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic), the Building Act 1993 (Vic) and Building Regulations 2018 (Vic), and the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic) to ensure safe design, construction and delivery of infrastructure projects.

Where external grant funding forms part of project financing, delivery is undertaken in accordance with funding agreement conditions and reporting requirements, including acquittal obligations and milestone reporting to funding bodies.

Collaborative Procurement

Council has considered opportunities for collaborative procurement with other Councils and public bodies across the portfolio of programs and projects and will implement where appropriate.

Consultation and Engagement

This report has been developed in collaboration with departmental managers, officers and the Executive Leadership Team.

Financial Considerations

The Capital and Operational Project Program is delivered within existing Council budget allocations. As at 31 March 2026, year-to-date expenditure totals \$12.9 million compared to a budgeted amount of \$13.5 million, resulting in a minor underspend of \$593,000.

The year-to-date variance is primarily attributable to scheduling variations across the program, rather than underlying budget constraints. Financial performance and project progress will continue to be closely monitored through established reporting processes to support delivery of the full program within the approved annual budget.

Risk Consideration

The delivery of a capital and operating program of this scale carries inherent risks, including procurement delays, contractor availability, statutory approvals, grant funding compliance requirements and cost escalation pressures. These risks are managed through established project governance frameworks, regular financial monitoring, milestone reporting and executive oversight.

An emerging risk relates to volatility in global fuel prices, which may place upward pressure on construction, transport and materials costs. While this has not yet had a material impact on program delivery, it has the potential to influence contractor pricing and overall project costs if sustained. This risk will continue to be closely monitored, with mitigation measures to be considered where required to minimise any impact on the approved budget and delivery timeframes.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Under Separate Cover - Quarterly Project Status Report March 2026 [9.11.1 - 6 pages]

10 Other Business

10.1 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion were submitted.

11 Open Forum

Members of the public are very welcome to make statements or ask questions relevant to Corangamite Shire at the Open Forum section of scheduled Council meetings.

To assist with the smooth running of the meeting, we ask that you raise a maximum of two items at a meeting and please follow this procedure:

1. Wait until the Mayor asks if there are any items in Open Forum and invites you to speak.
2. Stand if you are able and introduce yourself.
3. Speak for a maximum of five minutes.

We will undertake to answer as many questions as possible at a meeting, and if we cannot answer a question at the meeting, we will provide a written response no later than five working days after the Council meeting.

12 Confidential Items

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting be closed to the public to enable consideration of the following reports as they relate to Council business information and personal information.

12.1 Confidential Items - Close Meeting

12.2 Hardship Application for Rates Waiver

13 Close Meeting