



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 26 May 2026

Held in the Killara Centre
At the Camperdown Community
Centre
Commenced at 3:00 pm



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Order of Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Corangamite Shire Council
held in the Killara Centre at the Camperdown Community Centre,
210-212 Manifold Street, Camperdown Victoria 3260
At 3:00 pm on Tuesday 26 May 2026

Present

Councillors

K. Makin (Chairperson), J. Beard, N. Cole, G. Conheady, R. Gstrein, L. Hickey, J. Vogels

Officers

David Rae, Chief Executive Officer
Justine Linley, Director Sustainable Development
Shaun Broadbent, Director Works and Services
Xavier Flanagan, Director Corporate and Community Services
Gabrielle Henry, Manager Governance and Civic Support
Albert Giorgini, Acting Manager Finance
Belinda Bennett, Manager Environment and Emergency
Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation
John Kelly, Manager Assets Planning

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

Nil

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Cr Jo Beard declared a General Conflict of Interest regarding Item 12.1 Rates Refund Request – Cobden Golf Club.

No other conflicts were declared.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Corangamite Shire Council meeting held on 28 April 2026 be confirmed as correct.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Nick Cole
Seconded: Cr Laurie Hickey

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

6 Deputations and Presentations

The Mayor, Cr Kate Makin, invited members of the public who had requested to address Council to make their presentations.

- No items were submitted.

7 Committee Reports

Nil

8 Planning Reports

Nil

9 Officer's Reports

9.1 S11A Instrument of Appointment & Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)

Directorate: Governance and Civic Support

Author: Gabrielle Henry, Manager Governance and Civic Support

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for appointment of authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* through the updated Instrument of Authorisation and Appointment ('the Instrument'). This request arises from recent staff changes and the appointment of external contractor, PT Tomkinson & Associates Pty Ltd (Tomkinson), in March 2026 to undertake planning enforcement work in the role of Planning Investigation Officer on behalf of Council.

Council has powers under the *Local Government Act 2020* to appoint a person, including contractors, as an officer for the purpose of enforcement. Authorising these officers will ensure they have the required authority to perform their duties under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Council will ensure they have the required authority to carry out their roles within legislated requirements.

Recommendation

Council resolves that:

1. The officers referred to in the attached Instrument be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument.
2. The Instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instrument and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
3. The common seal of Council be affixed to the Instrument.
4. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987 only) dated 25 November 2025 be revoked.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Laurie Hickey

Seconded: Cr Ruth Gstrein

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Officers authorised to act under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* have authorisation to enter sites, gather evidence or serve legal notices and if required undertake related enforcement functions as appropriate to their level of experience and qualifications.

The specific authorisations provided through this Instrument include:

- Under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic) – appointment as an authorised officer for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and
- Under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) authorisation generally to institute proceedings for offences against the Act and/or any regulations.

If officers are not appropriately authorised, they risk not having the legal authority to perform key aspects of their roles, compromising enforcement across the Shire. If officers act without the correct authority, actions can be challenged and invalidated and officers may be personally liable.

Council, in a shared-service arrangement with Southern Grampians Shire Council, engaged Tomkinson in March 2026 to undertake planning enforcement work on behalf of Council in the role of Planning Investigation Officer following a public request for quotation process. Tomkinson is a provider of planning services with offices in Bendigo, Westmeadows, Torquay, Wangaratta and Ballarat.

Council has powers under section 224(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* to appoint any person (including contractors) as an authorised officer for the purpose of enforcement.

The attached Instrument has been reviewed and updated to reflect staff changes and the appointment and role of Tomkinson, and authorises the following officers:

Council staff:

- Amanda Power
- Angela Daly
- Belinda Bennett
- Darren Frost
- David Crowe
- David Rae
- James Nield
- Jarrod Bell
- Jennifer Schoof

- Justine Linley
- Katherine Shurvell
- Melanie Osborne
- Stefan Alber

Tomkinson staff, in the role of Council Planning Investigation Officer:

- Sam Hockly
- Shravan Miryala
- Daniel Stagg
- Katie Xiao

Options for Council Consideration

Option 1 – Endorse the updated Instrument

This option is recommended by officers as it will ensure the nominated officers are appropriately authorised under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Option 2 – Not endorse the updated Instrument

This option is not recommended by officers as it will limit the authorisations and authority of nominated officers, particularly those external contractors specifically engaged to undertake planning enforcement work on behalf of Council.

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

Local Government Act 1989

Local Government Act 2020

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Nil

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications identified for the subject of this report.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Nil

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil

Risk Consideration

Failure to appropriately authorise officers may expose Council to legal and operational risks, including invalid enforcement action.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation May 2026 [9.1.1 - 2 pages]

9.2 2026-2027 Draft Budget

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Author: Xavier Flanagan, Director Corporate and Community Services

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the 2026-2027 Draft Budget (Budget), incorporating the 2026-2027 Fees and Charges Schedule in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) for the purposes of public exhibition. The 2026-2027 Budget is attached to this report. The Budget aims to maintain Council's stable financial position in a challenging environment and includes significant capital works.

The Budget allocates resources annually to support the Council Plan delivery, particularly the strategic initiatives. It aims to meet these objectives in the most financially sustainable manner possible whilst continuing to provide quality services to all sections of our community.

The 2026–2027 Budget for the financial year beginning 1 July 2026 has been developed in consultation with the community, Councillors and Council officers and is aligned with the Financial Plan, Asset Management Plans and Community Vision. The Budget is a short-term plan which specifies the resources required to fund the Council's services and initiatives over the next 12 months and subsequent three financial years.

Council is currently operating in a challenging economic climate characterised by inflation, rising costs, decreasing government grants and limited contractor and materials availability. In addition to this we see continued and increasing instances of Cost-Shifting from all levels of government. This combination of adverse factors creates significant pressure on Council's financial resources and operational capacity.

It is also important to note that this Budget has been prepared in the context of the ongoing drought and the fires of early 2026 noting that recovery activities, and their associated impacts, are continuing.

In a rate-capped environment, where the Council cannot easily increase rates to raise additional revenue, these financial challenges become even more pronounced. Rate capping limits Council's ability to adjust its primary source of income to meet rising costs.

Fuel price volatility and broader upward cost pressures linked to ongoing geopolitical disruption, including global geopolitical instability, present a significant challenge for the 2026-2027 Budget. These pressures affect both Council's operating and capital programs, increasing costs across fleet operations, waste collection, road maintenance, parks and gardens services and contracted works. With limited capacity to offset these increases, Council must continue to priorities essential services and deliver value for our community within the rate cap.

Balancing the Budget into the future is an increasingly difficult task. It requires meticulous financial planning, and frugal fiscal management, and strategic decision-making to ensure essential services are maintained, and statutory obligations are met.

The Budget document has been prepared based on the legislative requirements contained in the 'model budget' as developed by the Local Government industry taskforce and issued to all municipalities across Victoria. In accordance with the Act, the Budget includes links to the Council Plan 2025-2029 and details:

- Activities and initiatives to be funded.
- How the activities and initiatives will contribute to achieving strategic objectives.
- The service performance indicators.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Places the Draft Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year, and subsequent 3 financial years, and the Draft 2026-2027 Fees and Charges, on public exhibition.**
2. **Gives public notice via Council's website, local newspapers and social media that Council has prepared a Draft Budget for the 2026-2027 year and subsequent 3 financial years, including the Draft 2026-2027 Fees and Charges.**
3. **Determines that the public exhibition period will be no less than 14 days from the initial public notice.**
4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its obligations under sections 94, 95 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**
5. **Will consider for adoption the Budget 2026-2027, and subsequent 3 financial years, including the 2026-2027 Fees and Charges at the Council Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 30 June 2026 at 3pm at the Killara Centre after consideration of any written community feedback received by Council.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Laurie Hickey
Seconded: Cr Ruth Gstrein

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues***Budget Overview***

An operating deficit of \$2.04 million has been budgeted with a capital works program of \$19.05 million. Key performance indicators include delivery of a year-end unrestricted working capital ratio of 291%.

	2025-2026 Adopted Budget	2026-2027 Draft Budget
Operating expenditure	41,462,958	43,194,156
Capital expenditure	16,740,636	19,053,109
Transfers to reserves	278,000	315,500
Total budget commitments	58,481,594	62,562,765
Rates and charges income	26,927,227	27,864,482
Rate Cap Increase	3.00%	2.75%
Net operating result	(195,233)	(2,043,231)
Underlying net operating result	(2.1%)	(14.1%)
Projected unrestricted cash/investment balance	18,625,820	22,558,226
Unrestricted working capital ratio	241%	291%
Capital expenditure	16,740,636	19,053,109
Asset renewal/upgrade ratio	96%	93%

The Budget is an essential planning and resource tool produced annually and is vital to the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council. It sets out the expected income and expenditure of both operational and capital activities for the coming year and incorporates Council's rating and borrowing strategies. The Budget also ensures the accountability of Council's operations and forms part of the public accountability process.

The Budget has been prepared to ensure that Council continues to maintain its services and meet the objectives of Council's asset management framework and financial plan. The principles of sound financial management require Council to continue to invest in asset renewal and maintain adequate liquidity. The Budget presented delivers these outcomes.

When we view the budget from a cash perspective, the Draft Budget 2026–2027 forecasts a net cash deficit of \$238,000 for the year, as per table below.

	2025-2026 Forecast Budget 000s	2026-2027 Proposed Budget \$'000
Accum Cash Surplus Brought Forward	33,258	24,266
Recurrent Operations	(11,423)	(13,491)
Loans / Lease repayments	(120)	(120)
Loan / Lease proceeds	0	0
Rate Income	26,982	27,864
Capital (Net)	(18,416)	(13,004)
Operating Projects	(6,929)	(2,766)
Extra-ordinary events	331	0
Transfer From/(To) Reserves	582	1,278
Cash Result for year	(8,992)	(238)
Accum Cash Surplus Carried Forward	24,266	24,028

In this context, a net cash deficit for the year (see 'Cash Result for year' in table above), represents an allocation of cash to Recurrent Operations, Lease repayments, and Capital and operating projects that exceeds that of the cash inflows from Rates income and transfers of cash held in reserve.

This outcome does not, of itself, indicate financial distress and is not unexpected in the context of Council's overall cash management position. A cash deficit can occur when Council deliberately draws on existing cash holdings to fund planned service delivery, renewals, or capital works. Importantly, Council enters 2026-2027 with an Accumulated Cash Surplus carried forward from prior years (\$24.27 million as per table above), which provides the capacity to absorb a modest net cash outflow while maintaining required liquidity and operational continuity. The forecast cash deficit should therefore be considered within the broader context of Council's strong opening cash balance, planned expenditure profile, and prudent financial governance.

The Budget document details the processes to be undertaken in accordance with the Act and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations). As required by the Regulations, the Budget also includes the

prescribed performance indicators as shown in Section 5 of the attached Budget document.

For the 2026-2027 budget process, Victorian councils are required by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) to set mandatory targets for eight specific performance indicators (four service and four financial) as part of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) to improve accountability and transparency, as detailed in the *'Performance Target Guide - Local Government Victoria 2026-27'*. The eight Targeted Performance Indicators, Council has selected, will sharpen organisational focus on the outcomes most important to our community and to strengthen accountability for budget investments. The targeted indicators will be monitored through a structured reporting timeline (quarterly performance reporting and end-of-year results). By embedding these Council-selected measures into budget governance and business planning, Council will be better positioned to track value for money, demonstrate progress against strategic objectives, and ensure resources are directed to the highest-impact activities, supporting continuous improvement and transparent reporting to the community.

The eight new specific performance indicators, which can be found in Section 5 of the Draft Budget 2026-2027 document, are as follows:

- Indebtedness Ratio
- Expenses per head of population
- Own-source revenue per head of population
- Average rate per property assessment
- Liquidity Ratio
- Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)
- Rates compared to property value
- Cost of kerbside waste collection service

Fuel Crisis

Given the current geopolitical disruptions caused by war in the Middle East and their impacts on the price and availability of fuel, changes have been made to the fuel budget to account for this in the underlying assumptions. An additional \$0.5 million has been added to the first 6 months of the fuel budget, which assumes a price per litre of \$3.0 from July 2026 to December 2026. This will be reviewed by Officers through the year, however this does represent a risk to Council's budget if fuel prices climb higher than \$3.0 per litre and or remain at this level past December 2026.

Rate Income

Rates and Charges will account for 46.3% of total Council revenue in 2026-2027. An increase in rate income is required to meet Council's aspirations and community expectations for new and existing infrastructure.

The Victorian Government rate cap for 2026-2027 is 2.75%.

The 'General rates' forecast for the 2025-2026 year calculated to be \$21.99 million, includes supplementary rate income earned through the year. Applying the 2.75% rate cap increase gives a Draft Budget 2026-2027 of \$22.85 million as shown in the table below.

Rates and charges	2025-26 Forecast Budget	2026-27 Budget	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General rates*	21,979	22,583	605	2.75%

The Budget-on-Budget growth in 'General rates', from 2025-2026 Adopted Budget (\$21.95 million) to Draft Budget 2026-2027 (\$22.85 million) represents a 2.91% increase in the revenue item, as the 2025-2026 Adopted Budget figure does not include supplementary rates income.

The waste management charge per eligible household will increase by 6.67% from \$450.00 in 2025-2026 to a proposed \$480.00 in 2026-2027. The increase reflects the impact of inflation on the costs associated with the service, and global geopolitical instability impacting fuel and the supply chain.

Rates and charges	2025-26 Forecast Budget	2026-27 Budget	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Waste management charges	2,590	2,763	173	6.67%

The overall increase in rates and charges including the waste management charge and rating agreements will be 3.30% over the 2025-2026 forecast (Refer to notes 4.1.1 (k) of the Budget).

Council is responsible for collecting the Victorian State Government Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF). ESVF appears on rate notices as a separate charge. Council does not derive any benefit from this and is required to remit amounts collected to the State Revenue Office quarterly. Council is also responsible for collecting the Landfill Levy on behalf of the State Government.

User Fees and Charges

The majority of the user fees and charges are projected to increase by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and all user fees have been set with a view to minimise Council subsidy where possible and to provide equity across user group.

Operating Expenditure

The Council's total budgeted expenditure on an accounting basis for 2026-2027 is \$62.15 million. After excluding \$18.65 million in non-cash transactions, such as depreciation and amortisation, the budgeted operating expenditure for 2026-2027 will be \$43.51 million on a cash basis.

This represents an increase of \$6.52 million, or 11.7% over the 2025-2026 adopted Budget, made up in the most part by an increase in Depreciation and Amortisation expense (\$4.79 million) driven by the impact of asset revaluations, materially increasing asset values, and Employee expenses (\$2.42 million) made up of pay rises and banding increments required by the Enterprise agreement, and required increases in FTE to maintain staff ratios for Pre Prep roll out in the Community Services space.

Major Operating Budget Initiatives

Some major initiatives included in the 2026-2027 Budget are:

Project	Amount
Council Grants Programs	\$320,000
Implementation of Early Years Plan 2025-2035	\$250,000
Implementation of Swimming Pool Renewal audit findings	\$275,000
Implementation of Urban Street Tree Asset Management program	\$250,000
Terang Stadium upgrade works	\$280,000

Capital Expenditure

The total capital works program will be \$19.05 million, and the details are provided in Section 4.2 of the attached Budget document. Council will continue to heavily invest in its road network through capital renewal, which is also supplemented by programmed maintenance.

The 2026-2027 Capital works program includes:

- Roads (\$9.95 million) – including rehabilitation, strategic local road upgrades, resheeting and resealing.
- Waste Management (\$2.0 million) – including investment in the Naroghid landfill site to accommodate for the increased volumes.
- Buildings (\$1.17 million) including Early years Plan 2025-2035 implementation, Initiating Timboon key worker housing, building a house in Trestle Estate, Terang Hall Access improvements (Stage Lift and Stage Floor) and Camperdown Civic Centre accessibility improvements.
- Plant and equipment (\$3.76 million) including ongoing cyclical replacement of the light and heavy plant vehicle fleet.

A substantial proportion of the capital works program is based on existing asset management plans and other projects have been included to take advantage of external funding opportunities and to deliver community planning outcomes.

The Council's average asset renewal ratio for the 2026-2027 year is projected to be 93% against a long-term target of 100%.

Borrowings

The Budget provides for no new borrowings in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Statutory Disclosures

The 2026-2027 Budget includes the disclosure requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. The required statutory information pertaining to Rates and Charges is detailed within Section 4.1.1.

Integrated Strategic Planning

The Budget has been prepared in accordance with the:

- Council Plan
- Revenue and Rating Plan
- Asset Plan
- Financial Plan

Policy and Legislative Context

Council is required under the *Act* to adopt the Budget by 30 June 2026. Council is required to undertake community engagement as part of the process in accordance with Council's policy.

The Budget is Council's annual financial strategic document and is in keeping with the commitments in the Council Plan 2025-2029.

Internal / External Consultation

Council is required to undertake community engagement in accordance with the Corangamite Shire Community Engagement Policy (2021) as instructed under the *Act*.

The 2026-2027 Budget has sought and proposes additional community input as follows:

- Pre budget submissions were requested via the website from December 2025 through to February 2026.
- The submissions were collated into themes and presented to Council during a briefing session to help inform the 2026-2027 budget process.
- Submissions were collated and evaluated by the Executive Leadership Team to provide Councillors with a list of new initiatives for consideration.

- Councillors participated in budget workshops with officers to review budget documentation including submissions and provide direction.
- Draft Budget was prepared by officers.
- Draft Budget will be made available on Council's website following the May Council meeting for a period of 14 days calling for public feedback.
- Community engagement will also take place through local news outlets and social media.
- Following the May 2026 community engagement, Council's Budget will be updated with changes as directed by Councillors.
- The Budget (with any revisions) will be presented to June Council meeting for adoption.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Budget has been prepared in accordance with the direction provided by Council and in accordance with Council's Financial Plan. The Budget has been prepared within the following parameters:

- Rate increases capped at 2.75% for 2026-2027.
- An operating deficit of \$2.04 million.
- A capital works program of \$19.05 million.
- An unrestricted working capital ratio of 291% to maintain a solid liquidity buffer for Council to meet short-term obligations.
- Asset Renewal ratio of 93%.
- Capital budgets have been prepared in accordance with good asset management principles.

Contained within the 2026-2027 Budget document is:

- Detailed information on project initiatives, staffing and resources.
- Detailed capital works program including proposed future capital expenditure (Section 4.2).
- 2026-2027 Fees and Charge Schedule

The 2026-2027 Budget maintains Council's stable financial position with a commitment to maintaining services, complemented by a significant capital works program.

The 2026-2027 attached Budget has been prepared in accordance with the best practice "model budget".

Options for Council Consideration

Council may choose to either:

1. Place the 2026-2027 Budget and the 2026-2027 Fees and Charges Schedule on public exhibition (Recommended);
2. Place the 2026-2027 Budget and the 2026-2027 Fees and Charges Schedule on public exhibition, with amendments; or

3. Not place the 2026-2027 Budget and the 2026-2027 Fees and Charges on Schedule for public exhibition.

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

In relation to the Budget, Council has specific obligations under the following sections of the

Local Government Act 2020:

- Section 94 – The Budget
- Section 95 – Revised Budget
- Section 96 – Preparation of Budget and revised Budget

Section 94 requires that:

- a) A Council must prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years by 30 June each year.
- b) The Budget must give effect to the Council Plan and contain a list of prescribed information, which is in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report (LGMFR) in accordance with the regulations.
- c) If Council determines to apply a rate increase above the average rate cap for the financial year, the Budget must contain a statement that Council intends to apply for an increase above the average rate cap, or is waiting for the outcome of an application, or specify any approved average rate cap that applies.

Section 95 requires that a Council must prepare and adopt a revised Budget before the Council can make a variation to the declared rates or charges, undertake any borrowings not previously approved in the Budget, or where Council considers a change to the Budget should be the subject of community engagement. In addition, Part 4 - Division 4 of the Act requires Council to implement the prescribed financial management principles in undertaking their duties. Section 96 specifically states that:

A Council must develop the Budget and any revised Budget in accordance with—

- a) the financial management principles; and
- b) its community engagement policy.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

An initial budget consultation process was undertaken early in the development process. From December 2025 to January 2026, the community were invited to share their views and ideas on what they would like Council to prioritise in the 2026-27 Budget. The submissions received from that process were collated and considered as part of the budget development process.

To ensure the Budget is adopted by 30 June 2026, it is proposed that the Draft Budget 2026-2027, including the Draft 2026-2027 Fees and Charges, be placed on public exhibition for a period no shorter than 14 days. During this time feedback will be invited from the community and considered by Council.

Financial Considerations

The Budget has been prepared in accordance with the direction provided by Council and in accordance with Council's Long-Term Financial Plan. The Budget has been prepared within the following parameters:

- Rate increases capped at 2.75% for 2026-2027.
- An operating deficit of (\$2.04) million.
- A capital works program of \$19.05 million.
- An unrestricted working capital ratio of 291% to maintain a solid liquidity buffer for Council to meet short-term obligations.
- Asset Renewal ratio of 93%.
- Capital budgets have been prepared in accordance with good asset management principles.

Contained within the 2026-2027 Budget document is:

- Detailed information on project initiatives, staffing and resources.
- Detailed capital works program including proposed future capital expenditure
- 2025-2026 Fees and Charge Schedule.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

The Draft Budget 2026–2027 has been prepared with an equity lens to ensure Council resources, services and capital investments are accessible and responsive to the needs of all community members, particularly groups who may experience disadvantage or barriers to participation (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, older people, young people, LGBTIQ+ communities, and people experiencing financial hardship). In addition to this budget decisions have been informed by relevant impact considerations and to progressively improve universal access in Council facilities and public spaces.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

The Draft Budget 2026–2027 has been developed to support Council's environmental sustainability and climate response commitments by prioritising initiatives that reduce emissions, improve energy and water efficiency, protect and enhance natural assets, and strengthen community resilience to climate risks. Provision has been made for continued investment in energy and water efficiency savings and to progressively reduce Council's operational footprint while maintaining essential service levels.

Risk Consideration

The Budget is prepared in a constrained economic environment including inflationary pressures, rate capping and volatility in input costs. These factors present a risk to Council's ability to maintain service levels and deliver the capital works program. Risks will be continually monitored to ensure financial sustainability.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. Corangamite Shire Budget 2026-2027 - Draft [9.2.1 - 58 pages]

9.3 Revocation of Information Technology Policies

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Author: Xavier Flanagan, Director Corporate and Community Services

Executive Summary

This report recommends revoking the Domain User Account Password and Endpoint Security policies as Council policies, as they are operational in their nature and application. These policies are more suitably managed internally as organisational policies, allowing more timely updates while continuing to apply to Councillor use of Council IT systems.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Revoke the Domain User Account Password Policy**
- 2. Revoke the Endpoint Security Policy**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jo Beard

Seconded: Cr Jamie Vogels

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

This report recommends the revocation of the following Information Services policies: the Domain User Account Password Policy and Endpoint Security Policy.

These policies are operational in nature and application, and are more appropriately managed as organisational policies rather than Council endorsed policies. Managing them through internal organisational processes will allow more timely updates in response to changes in technology, security standards, and operational requirements.

The policies will remain in effect in their current form as organisational policies until they are reviewed and updated through the internal policy management process.

After the policies transition from Council policies to organisational policies, they will continue to apply to Councillor use of Council IT equipment and software services.

The policies are attached at the end of the report.

Options for Council Consideration

That Council has the options for the two policies to remain as Council policies, or alternatively, to support their revocation and transition to organisational policies.

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

N/A

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

N/A

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

N/A

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

N/A

Risk Consideration

Retaining these policies as Council policies requires formal Council approval for updates, which can delay changes and increase the risk that controls become outdated and misaligned with current security and operational needs.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. Policy Council Domain User Account Password Adopted Current [9.3.1 - 6 pages]
2. Policy Council Endpoint Security Adopted Current [9.3.2 - 3 pages]

9.4 Local Law Related Policies

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Belinda Bennett, Manager Environment and Emergency

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's consideration of a suite of policies that support the implementation of the General Local Law 2025 including:

1. Use of Council Land Policy
2. Use of Private Land Policy
3. Animals Policy
4. Fuel Reduction Slashing on Roadsides Policy
5. Roadside Firewood Collection Policy
6. Enforcement- Infringements and Prosecutions Policy
7. Kerbside Landfill, Recyclables, Glass and Food Organics & Garden Organics Policy
8. Open Air Burning Policy
9. Nature Strip Planting Policy
10. Support for Events and Festivals (Traffic Management and Local Law Fee Exemptions) Policy

The Policies provide the community and Council officers with guidance on the application of the Local Laws for the referenced uses and activities.

These Policies have been reviewed and updated following the commencement of the General Local Law 2025 in December. The report recommends that Council adopt the revised Local Law Policies.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Revokes the following policies:
 - a. Use of Council Land Policy dated November 2021
 - b. Use of Private Land Policy dated February 2024
 - c. Animals Policy dated November 2021
 - d. Fuel Reduction Slashing on Roadsides Policy dated January 2023
 - e. Roadside Firewood Collection Policy dated January 2023
 - f. Enforcement- Infringements and Prosecutions Policy dated January 2023
 - g. Kerbside Landfill, Recyclables, Glass and Food Organics and Garden Organics Policy dated June 2024
 - h. Open Air Burning Policy dated November 2021
 - i. Nature Strip Planting Policy dated June 2023
 - j. Support for Events and Festivals (Traffic Management and Local Law Fee Exemptions) Policy dated March 2024
2. Adopts the following policies:
 - a. Use of Council Land Policy dated May 2026
 - b. Use of Private Land Policy dated May 2026
 - c. Animals Policy dated May 2026
 - d. Fuel Reduction Slashing on Roadsides Policy dated May 2026
 - e. Roadside Firewood Collection Policy dated May 2026
 - f. Enforcement- Infringements and Prosecutions Policy dated May 2026
 - g. Kerbside Landfill, Recyclables, Glass and Food Organics and Garden Organics Policy dated May 2026
 - h. Open Air Burning Policy dated May 2026
 - i. Nature Strip Planting Policy dated May 2026
 - j. Support for Events and Festivals (Traffic Management and Local Law Fee Exemptions) Policy dated May 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Laurie Hickey
Seconded: Cr Geraldine Conheady

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The General Local Law 2025 commenced on 9 December 2025. The Local Law regulates and controls activities on Council land and private land to protect community safety, public amenity and the environment.

Council has several policies that relate to the General Local Law. These policies provide the community and Council officers with guidance on the application of the Local Laws, such as permitted and prohibited activities, compliance requirements, permit exemptions, decision guidelines and permit conditions.

All policies have been reviewed and updated to ensure that they reference and align with the new Local Law. The review also included updates to policies to ensure that they are consistent with other legislative requirements, meet community and Council needs and are clear and easy to understand.

The following table provides a summary of the policies and key changes. The revised policies are attached.

Policy	Policy Summary	Key changes
1. Use of Council Land Policy	Regulates the use of Council land, including (but not limited to) events, trading activities, informational signage and road closures/changed traffic conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added in guidance for the assessment of permit applications. Removed provisions about roadside grazing (shifted to Livestock Policy) Clarified Council's position on trading activities not associated with an adjoining business or not part of a community event. Added in guidance on the display of election or political signs on Council land and roads. Other minor administrative changes to align with the General Local Law 2025 and other legislation.
2. Use of Private Land Policy	Regulates the use of private land to prevent and/or minimise impacts on community amenity and safety. For example, unsightly properties, caravans and camping on private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added guidance on how detrimental to general amenity to land will be assessed. Remove references to persistent use of recreational vehicles as this is no longer regulated by the Local Law. Other minor administrative changes to align with the General Local Law 2025.

	land, and trees and plants overhanging footpaths and roads.	
3. Animals Policy	Controls animal numbers and sets standards for the housing of animals (including poultry) to avoid detrimental amenity impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor administrative changes to reference the General Local Law 2025 and make the policy clearer to understand.
4. Fuel Reduction Slashing on Roadsides Policy	Allows slashing or cutting of roadsides with without a permit where policy requirements are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor administrative changes to reference the General Local Law 2025
5. Roadside Firewood Collection Policy	Prohibits the collection of firewood from Council managed roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor administrative changes to reference the General Local Law 2025
6. Enforcement-Infringements and Prosecutions Policy	Provides guidance on Council enforcement approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor administrative changes to reference the General Local Law 2025 Expanded the policy to apply to all enforcement functions of Council (previously just Local Law and Environmental Health)
7. Kerbside Landfill, Recyclables, Glass and Food Organics & Garden Organics Policy	Defines the level of service provision for kerbside waste services and outlines requirements for residents that receive the service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated policy statements that were removed from the previous Local Law relating to bin placement, contamination and accepted bins.
8. Open Air Burning Policy	Controls open air burning to prevent detrimental impacts on community safety and amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated permit exemptions to align with changes to the General Local Law 2025. Clarified that the burning of prohibited materials is regulated by other legislation.
9. Nature Strip Planting Policy	Regulates plantings on nature strips to protect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed restrictions on planting of edible plants

	neighbourhood amenity, community safety and assets/utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted the planting of noxious and environmental weeds
10. Support for Events and Festivals (Traffic Management and Local Law Fee Exemptions) Policy	Defines Council's role in supporting events and festivals with traffic management and Local Law permit fee waivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced application period to six weeks to align with Department of Transport and Planning timeframes and reduce pressure on event organisers • Added that other non-incorporated organisations can apply for support where the event provides significant community benefit. • Added that events run by local schools and health services will be considered on a case-by-case basis. • Clarified which officer roles can consider exemptions to the policy. • Minor administrative changes to align with the General Local Law 2025

Options for Council Consideration

Council can adopt the policies as presented or choose to amend any of the policies.

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

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

A growing and prosperous economy

Explore ways to reduce red tape for our community

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

The policies have been developed in accordance with the General Local Law 2025 and relevant Acts and regulations.

Legal advice was received during development of the General Local Law 2025 which informed the development of the policies.

The policies have been reviewed and developed in accordance with Council's Policy Development Framework.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The policies are a revision of existing policies. Development of the policies was informed by engagement with internal teams who will be impacted by or have a role in implementing the policies.

Community engagement was undertaken to develop the General Local Law 2025 which have informed the policy changes. There are not substantive changes to the policies proposed outside of the updates to align with the new General Local Law 2025.

Financial Considerations

Council has received \$130,000 funding through the Business Acceleration Fund (BAF) for review of the Local Laws, associated policies and permit systems.

A key focus of this funding will be to reduce regulatory burden on businesses, such as streamlining permit requirements and processes for low-risk business activities such as advertising signs, outdoor dining and display of goods on footpaths. This permit system will work alongside the Use of Council Land Policy which specifies the requirements for footpath trading.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

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. Gender Impact Assessments have been undertaken for each policy, and it is considered that the policies meet the needs of people of different genders, addresses gender inequality, and promotes gender equality.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

The General Local Law 2025 and related policies support protection of the environment on private and Council land.

Risk Consideration

The General Local Law 2025 impacts on STRATEGIC RISK 52- Community health and wellbeing services are not safely or competently delivered. The development and enforcement of policies are risk mitigation strategies for this strategic risk and all contained in Enterprise Risk 60 and 61 in Council's Risk Register relating to Local Laws. The current risk rating is medium and the residual risk rating is medium.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. 1. Use of Council Land Policy May 2026 [9.4.1 - 6 pages]
2. 1. Under Separate Cover- Use of Council Land Policy May 2026- with tracked changes [9.4.2 - 11 pages]
3. 2. Use of Private Land Policy May 2026 [9.4.3 - 6 pages]
4. 2. Under Separate Cover - Use of Private Land Policy May 2026 - tracked changes [9.4.4 - 11 pages]
5. 3. Animals Policy May 2026 [9.4.5 - 4 pages]
6. 3. Under Separate Cover- Animals Policy May 2026- tracked changes [9.4.6 - 11 pages]
7. 4. Fuel Reduction Slashing on Roadsides Policy May 2026 [9.4.7 - 4 pages]
8. 4. Under Separate Cover- Fuel Reduction Slashing on Roadsides Policy May 2026- tracked changes [9.4.8 - 5 pages]
9. 5. Roadside Firewood Collection Policy May 2026 [9.4.9 - 3 pages]
10. 5. Under Separate Cover- Roadside Firewood Collection Policy May 2026- tracked changes [9.4.10 - 3 pages]
11. 6. Enforcement - Infringements and Prosecutions Policy May 2026 [9.4.11 - 5 pages]
12. 6. Under Separate Cover- Enforcement - Infringements and Prosecutions Policy May 2026- tracked changes [9.4.12 - 6 pages]
13. 7. Kerbside Landfill, Recyclables and Food Organics and Garden Organics Collection Policy May 2026 [9.4.13 - 12 pages]
14. 7. Under Separate Cover- Kerbside Landfill, Recyclables and Food Organics and Garden Organics Collec [9.4.14 - 15 pages]
15. 8. Open Air Burning Policy May 2026 [9.4.15 - 4 pages]
16. 8. Under Separate Cover- Open Air Burning Policy May 2026- tracked changes [9.4.16 - 6 pages]
17. 9. Nature Strip Planting Policy May 2026 [9.4.17 - 7 pages]
18. 9. Under Separate Cover- Nature Strip Planting Policy May 2026- tracked changes [9.4.18 - 7 pages]
19. 10. Support for Events and Festivals Policy May 2026 [9.4.19 - 5 pages]
20. 10. Under Separate Cover- Support for Events and Festivals (Traffic Management and associated Local [9.4.20 - 7 pages]

9.5 Livestock Policy May 2026

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Belinda Bennett, Manager Environment and Emergency

Executive Summary

The Livestock Policy (May 2026) has been developed to regulate the movement, grazing and droving of livestock on Council land and roads. It guides the application of the General Local Law 2025 in relation to livestock.

The Livestock Policy is a new policy that incorporates guidance that was previously covered by the Livestock Local Law 2015 (now lapsed). Whilst there has not been any significant change to requirements relating to the movement, grazing and droving of livestock, this guidance is better placed in a policy rather than in the General Local Law 2025.

The report recommends that Council adopt the Livestock Policy (May 2026).

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Livestock Policy May 2026.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jamie Vogels
Seconded: Cr Geraldine Conheady

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The Livestock Policy provides detailed operational guidance for these activities, including permit requirements and exemptions.

The Policy seeks to support farming activities whilst protecting Council land, road safety and community amenity. It supports compliance with legislative requirements in relation to road management and native vegetation and ensures that Council's liability risks are managed appropriately.

The Livestock Policy allows for the movement of livestock (i.e. stock crossings) on Council land and roads without a permit where the policy requirements are met. A Local Laws permit is required to graze or drive livestock on Council land and roads. The Livestock Policy outlines requirements for this grazing and droving, as well as permit assessment criteria and conditions.

There are currently around 150 active permits for grazing on Council roads. Council charges a peppercorn fee for these permits to encourage grazing where it will reduce fire risks without impacting on native vegetation.

Whilst the Livestock Policy is a new policy, there has not been any substantive change to the requirements for the movement, grazing and droving of livestock on Council land and roads. These requirements were previously covered by the Livestock Local Law 2015 which has now lapsed. During the development of the General Local Law 2025, it was determined that these requirements are better covered by a separate policy rather than the Local Law to allow for greater flexibility to changing conditions and needs.

Options for Council Consideration

Council can adopt the Livestock Policy 2026 as presented or choose to amend the Policy.

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

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

A growing and prosperous economy

- Explore ways to reduce red tape for our community

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

The Livestock Policy been developed in accordance with the General Local Law 2025. It supports compliance with various Acts and regulations, such as the *Road Management Act 2004*, *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Legal advice was received during development of the General Local Law 2025 which informed the development of this policy.

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

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The Policy was developed in consultation with internal teams who are responsible for administering and enforcing the Policy.

Whilst the Livestock Policy is a new policy, there has not been a substantive change to the requirements for the movement, grazing and droving of livestock on Council land and roads.

Community consultation was undertaken to develop the General Local Law 2025 which has been used to inform the development of the Livestock Policy.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications identified for the subject of this report.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

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

The Livestock Policy supports the protection of native vegetation and other environmental value on Council land and roads.

Risk Consideration

The General Local Law 2025 impacts on STRATEGIC RISK 52- Community health and wellbeing services are not safely or competently delivered. The development and enforcement of policies are risk mitigation strategies for this strategic risk and all contained in Enterprise Risk 60 and 61 in Council's Risk Register relating to Local Laws. The current risk rating is medium and the residual risk rating is medium.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. Livestock Policy May 2026 [9.5.1 - 7 pages]

9.6 Curdies Catchment Flood Study

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Belinda Bennett, Manager Environment and Emergency

Executive Summary

The Curdies Flood Study commenced in late 2024. It seeks to build understanding of flood risks in priority reaches of the Curdies catchment with consideration to riverine, overland and storm surge flooding.

Council has partnered with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) to deliver the Curdies Flood Study. WaterTechnology were engaged to undertake the study.

WaterTechnology undertook modelling to map flood impacts across the catchment for a series of rainfall events. Using this mapping, the Flood Study assesses the potential flood impacts on properties, roads and other assets, including identification of properties with above floor flooding.

The study estimates annual average flood damage costs and models several options to mitigate flood risks in priority areas, including cost-benefit analysis.

A key output of the Study is the development of mapping and draft documentation for an amendment to the Corangamite Planning Scheme. Incorporating flood intelligence into the planning scheme will mitigate future flood impacts and ensure that future development is appropriate for the flood risk. This planning scheme amendment would be subject to further community consultation. Since this project commenced, the Victorian Government has announced a state-led approach to implementing planning scheme amendments relating to flood risks.

The Curdies Flood Study project has now been completed. This report presents the final Flood Study reports for Council consideration and adoption.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1) Adopt the Curdies River Flood Study comprising:
 - R01 – Data Review and Validation Report
 - R02 – Hydrologic/Hydraulic Modelling Report
 - R03 – Floodplain Risk Management Report
 - R04 – Summary Report
- 2) Seek the written consent from the Minister for Planning to prepare and give notice of draft planning scheme amendment C70cora to the Corangamite Planning Scheme to implement the findings of the Curdies River Flood Study.
- 3) Notes that, subject to Ministerial consent, community and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken on the draft planning scheme amendment, including proposed ordinance and flood mapping.
- 4) Notes that a further report will be presented to Council following completion of consultation, outlining:
 - a. the outcomes of submissions and stakeholder feedback; and
 - b. recommended next steps, including whether to refer the draft amendment to the Standing Advisory Committee or request the Minister for Planning intervene under section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to implement the draft amendment.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jamie Vogels
Seconded: Cr Nick Cole

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The Curdies River catchment is subject to a range of flood events including riverine flooding, overland flooding and flooding associated with closure of the estuary mouth. Limited information existed on flooding risks and mitigation options across the catchment.

To address this knowledge gap, Council partnered with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) to undertake a flood study on priority reaches of the Curdies catchment. Whilst most flood studies focus on riverine flooding, the Curdies Flood study considered all types of flooding including riverine, overland and storm surge flooding. The scale of the study is extensive, providing an opportunity for integrated catchment scale understanding of, and response to, flooding challenges.

The extent of the flood study area is shown in orange in Figure 1 below.

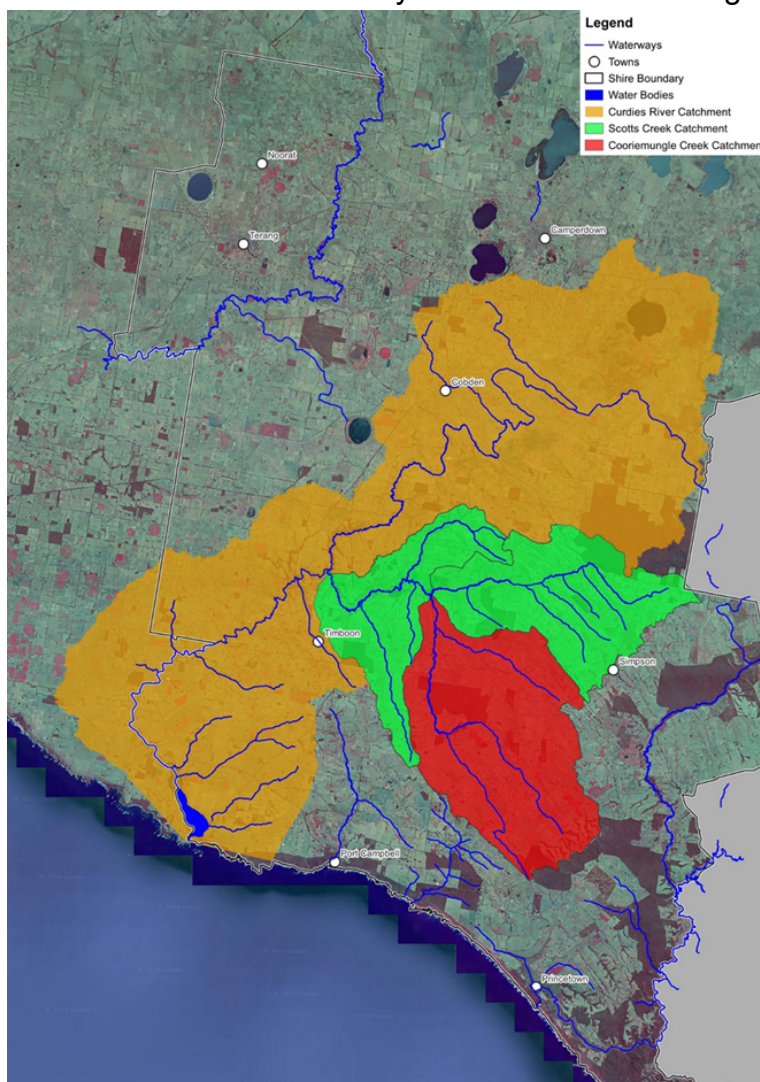


Figure 1: Curdies Catchment Flood Study Area is shown in Orange. The Scotts Creek sub-area (green) and Cooriemungle sub-area (red) were outside of the study area and will be subject to future flood studies.

The purpose of the Curdies Flood Study is to better understand flood risks to:

- Support Council, VICSES and other emergency agencies to respond to flood emergencies, such as pre-emptively closing roads that are subject to inundation and contacting properties that may be affected by developing flood emergencies.
- Inform the Corangamite Planning Scheme to ensure that future use and development of land is appropriate for the flood risk.
- Implement flood mitigation works to increase resilience and reduce the frequency, extent and severity of flooding, such as optimising road and drainage upgrades.
- Improve the community's awareness and preparedness for flood emergencies.

The Curdies Flood Study uses hydrologic (rain-runoff) and hydraulic (water flow within a system) modelling to map flood impacts across the catchment for a series of rainfall events. Using this mapping, the Flood Study assesses the potential flood impacts on properties, roads and other assets and models a range of options to mitigate flood risks in priority areas.

Methodology

Council engaged Water Technology in August 2024 to undertake the Curdies Flood Study. The Flood Study is consistent with established modelling and reporting approaches for flood investigations. It has been delivered in three stages:

Stage 1- Project Inception, Data Collection and Community Engagement

This stage included:

- Inception meeting with project steering group.
- Data collation, including previous flood investigations, historic flood information (such as photos), rainfall and streamflow data, road asset information (culverts and bridges) and strategic planning documents.
- First round of asset surveying (required for hydraulic modelling).
- Community consultation sessions were held in Cobden and Timboon in November 2024 to make the community aware of the project and gain local information on historic flood events.

Stage 1 was completed in late 2024. A data review report (R01) was produced as part of this stage and is attached under separate cover.

Stage 2- Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling

This stage included:

- Build of the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Models.
- Calibration of the models against historic flood events to validate their accuracy.
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic modelling and mapping for different rainfall events including:
 - 20% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) (1 in 5 year)
 - 10% AEP (1 in 10 year)
 - 5% AEP (1 in 20 year)
 - 2% AEP (1 in 50 year)
 - 1% AEP (1 in 100 year)
 - 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year)
 - 0.2% AEP (1 in 500 year)
 - 0.1% AEP (1 in 1000 year)
 - Probable Maximum Flood (the largest flood that could conceivably occur in a location).
- Hydraulic Modelling for 10% AEP and 1% AEP events under two future climate change scenarios to 2100 ('SSP3' and 'SSP5' as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change- IPCC).
- Community consultation sessions which were held in Cobden and Timboon in August 2025 to help validate the accuracy of the modelling.
- Additional asset surveying.
- Survey of floor levels at properties with structures that are likely to have above-floor flooding.

Stage 2 was completed in January 2026. A copy of the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Report (R02) is attached under separate cover. This is a technical report that outlines the methodology used for the modelling.

Council has received flood maps produced from the modelling. This includes a series of maps for each of the modelled scenarios outlined above, including flood depth, maximum flood depth, flood velocity and flood hazard classification. Given the number of maps produced, only flood maps for the 1% AEP SSP3 scenario are attached to this report under separate cover.

The modelling considers coastal inundation within the Curdies estuary from storm surge flooding and closure of the river mouth. A closed mouth can impact on flooding at the estuary and further upstream toward Timboon West without high rainfall. Ocean conditions can be influential with large swell and storm surge events (also called storm tides) impacting on flood dynamics. The modelling assumes that the berm (river mouth) is closed during a flood event with the berm opening once sufficient overtopping occurs. The modelled berm height is based on the maximum berm height observed over the past decade from CCMA records. However, if ocean conditions and water quality within the estuary allow, the berm is likely to be artificially opened before overtopping occurs to prevent flooding of the caravan park and dwelling on the west side of the river (Moyne Shire) and the Great Ocean Road on the east side of the river. Modelled flood impacts in the lower section of the catchment are therefore highly influenced by the condition of the berm.

Stage 3- Floodplain Risk Management

Stage 3 involved analysis of the flood modelling and delivery of key outputs to support Council's flood planning and response activities including:

- Flood Intelligence Assessment
 - Identification of properties and roads impacted by flooding for each of the modelled AEP events. Using surveyed floor levels, the assessment identifies the number of properties/structures likely to be flooded above floor.
 - Preparation of a flood warning assessment, including flood warning times to help determine when properties or roads are likely inundated from the start of rainfall.
 - Updates to the Corangamite Municipal Flood and Storm Emergency Plan and Local Flood Guides.
- Flood Damages and Mitigation Assessment
 - Assessment of flood damages (average annual cost)
 - Modelling of structural flood mitigation options, including high-level cost benefit analysis
- Planning Scheme Amendment Documentation
 - Preparation of mapping and documentation for use when amending the Corangamite Planning Scheme to ensure it reflects current best knowledge of flood risks.

Deliverables from this stage included:

- A Floodplain Risk Management Report with individual sections detailing the above (R03- attached under separate cover).
- Final mapping, spatial datasets and model files.
- Flood animations (based on current conditions) to assist Council to visualise flood progression for different modelled events
- A Summary Report (R04-attached) that consolidates all three project stages into a holistic view of findings and recommendations for the completed project. It provides high level summaries of the technical reports intended for a community audience.

Property and Road Impacts

The Flood Study identifies properties directly impacted by above floor flooding at different AEP events based on the modelling. Table 1 below shows the number of buildings inundated for each of the modelled events. It should be noted that the flooding in Cobden and Timboon is mainly relating to stormwater or overland flooding, rather than flooding of the Cobden Creek or Power Creek.

Table 1: Number of residential and commercial buildings with above floor flooding for different flood events

Event	Cobden	Timboon	Curdievale	Peterborough	Rural
20% AEP	7	6	0	0	0
10% AEP	14	6	0	0	0
5% AEP	22	7	0	0	0
2% AEP	28	7	0	0	1
1% AEP	33	7	0	0	1
0.5% AEP	38	7	1	0	1
0.2% AEP	40	8	3	2	4
0.1% AEP	47	9	3	4	5

The Flood Study also identifies roads inundated for the different AEP flood event. Table 2 provides a summary of roads inundated by Curdies River only. The Summary report includes depth of inundation for each road for each of the flood events. There are also other roads across the catchment inundated during flood events. For example, during a 20% AEP flood, 178 individual sections of road will be inundated.

Table 2: Roads inundated by different flood events- Curdies River only

Event	Road
20% AEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorntons Road E north of Jancourt Road • Maddens Bridge Road • Morehouses Bridge Road • Limeworks Road • Boggy Creek Road* • Great Ocean Road**
10% AEP	Roads listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorntons Road E south of Jancourt Road • Curdies River Road
5% AEP	
2% AEP	
1% AEP	Roads listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lavers Hill-Cobden Road • Curdies River Road at bend southwest of bridge • Timboon-Nullawarre Road bridge
0.5% AEP	Roads listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobden-Port Campbell Road
0.2% AEP	Roads listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Cobden-Port Campbell Road
0.1% AEP	

*influenced by berm conditions

**strongly influenced by berm conditions

Flood Damages and Mitigation

It is estimated that the average annual cost of flood damage within the study area is \$431,123 per year. This includes direct damage to roads, dwelling, and buildings. It does not account for indirect impacts, such as loss of income if milk tankers cannot access farms due to inundation of roads or bridges.

The Flood Study modelled and analysed several mitigation options to address flood impacts on key assets including:

1. Cobden Pool- upgraded culverts, flood wall and stormwater pump
2. Moorehouses Bridge Road, Curdies River Crossing- raise bridge and approaches to 1% AEP flood level
3. Moorehouses Bridge Road, Unnamed tributary- upgraded culvert to 1% AEP flood level
4. Timboon-Nullawarre Road- additional culvert pipes
5. Lavers Hill-Cobden Road- raise bridge and approaches to 1% AEP flood level
6. Maddens Bridge Road- additional culverts were modelled but were unsuccessful at preventing inundation of road. Closing this road during flood events remains the most appropriate intervention.

A cost benefit analysis was undertaken on all mitigation options except the non-viable Maddens Bridge Road option. This cost benefit analysis considered the estimated cost to implement the mitigations and estimated reduction in average annual costs attributable to inundation (i.e. damage to infrastructure). Based on this analysis, the options do not achieve a neutral or positive cost benefit ratio because they are costly to implement and only produce a small reduction in the average annual damages. The cost benefit analysis does not however consider the indirect cost benefits associated with reduced road closures and uninterrupted economic activity. Nor does it consider intangible but critically important community benefits, such as the reduced threat for road users.

Planning Scheme Amendment

The Flood Study included the preparation of mapping and draft documentation for an amendment to the Corangamite Planning Scheme to incorporate flood intelligence. This will mitigate future potential flood impacts and ensure that future development is appropriate to the flood risk.

The Planning Scheme amendment mapping is being prepared based on 1% AEP and 'SSP3 2100' climate scenario. The Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs) are climate change scenarios to 2100 based on projected global socio-economic conditions defined by the IPCC. There are five scenarios for emission projections ranging from a rapid transition to net zero emissions (SSP1) to a fossil-fuelled development approach (SSP5). Based on consultation with the CCMA, the SSP3 scenario has been adopted for the planning scheme mapping as it is a likely, yet conservative future scenario describing changes in climate and catchment conditions.

The Planning Scheme amendment mapping also includes a sea level rise of 0.8 metres to 2100 which is consistent with current state planning policies.

It is proposed that a Floodway Overlay is applied to areas with one of more of the following:

- Flood depths $\geq 0.3\text{m}$
- Flood velocities $\geq 2.0\text{m/s}$
- Product of depth and velocity $\geq 0.3\text{m}^2/\text{s}$

A Land Subject to Inundation Overlay is proposed for most of the remaining modelled flood extent, noting that shallow and sheet flow inundation in paddocks (i.e. overtopping of rural drains in high rainfall events) has been excluded from the planning scheme mapping.

A Special Building Overlay is proposed for a number of small areas in Cobden that are subject to hazardous stormwater flooding that do not meet the definition of 'mainstream flooding'. Additional areas subject to less hazardous flooding within Cobden are recommended to be managed through the Building Regulations. This means that a minimum floor level can be set 300mm above the flood level, but does not trigger the need for planning permit.

The draft planning scheme mapping is shown in the summary report. More detailed mapping is attached under separate cover. The draft mapping and proposed controls will require further community consultation as part of any Planning Scheme amendment.

It is important to note that the Victorian Government announced a state-led approach to incorporating flood studies into local planning schemes in October 2025. Once the flood study has been adopted by Council, officers will work with the Department of Transport and Planning and the CCMA to incorporate the Curdies Flood Study in the Corangamite Planning Scheme.

The recommendations of this report are consistent with DTP advice on the new approach.

Flood Study recommendations

The Summary Report identifies recommendations for consideration by Council, CCMA and other agencies to support improved floodplain management, emergency preparedness, and community resilience within the Curdies River catchment:

- That the findings of the study be considered by the relevant authorities.
- The additions to the draft Municipal Flood and Storm Emergency Plan are adopted into a working version of the plan.
- Flood mapping produced by the study is shared with the community (including through Council's flood portal currently under development).
- The draft planning scheme mapping is considered for adoption in the Corangamite Planning Scheme.
- Community education regarding flood damages and risks are carried out.
- The viability of additional gauges as recommended in the Flood Warning assessment are investigated in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology.
- The model files and other deliverables of the study are filed by CCMA and Council for future use.

Next steps

Once adopted, outputs from the Flood Study will be shared with project partners for incorporation into relevant plans and spatial platforms. This includes working with VICSES to update the Municipal Flood and Storm Emergency Plan to incorporate the Curdies flood intelligence and working with the CCMA to upload flood mapping onto Digital Twin Victoria platforms. The flood mapping will also be uploaded onto Council's flood portal (currently under development) which will be available to the community. Mitigation options for Council managed roads and assets will be considered through Council's assets planning programs.

Council will work with DTP and CCMA to incorporate the Curdies Flood Study into the Corangamite Planning Scheme.

Council will also work with the Bureau of Meteorology and other partners to investigate and advocate for the installation of additional rainfall gauges to improve flood warning and data collection capabilities.

Options for Council Consideration

Council may adopt the Curdies Flood Study. Alternatively, Council may defer adoption of the Study to allow further investigation or amendment to the Study.

Alignment to Council Plan

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

A growing and prosperous economy

- Encourage sustainable agriculture

- Explore ways to reduce red tape for our community

Quality infrastructure and community connections

- Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure

Protection and enhancement of our Environment

- Enhance community resilience to emergencies

- Adapt and mitigate climate change impacts

- Protect biodiversity and our natural assets

Strong Civic Leadership

- Lead by example in response to climate change

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Council has a statutory duty to ensure that flood risk and community safety in flood-prone areas are appropriately and effectively managed. Consistent with state government policy and the *Victorian Floodplain Management Plan*, flood-prone land in the Corangamite Planning Scheme, including land predicted to be inundated by future sea-level rise, must be mapped using the most up-to-date data and modelling available. Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council must also consider matters including 'the degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard'. The Curdies Flood Study supports Council to meet these obligations.

Collaborative Procurement

Council partnered with the CCMA to deliver this project.

Part of the Curdies Catchment is located within Moyne Shire. It was necessary that the flood modelling include the catchment area within Moyne Shire. Moyne Shire Council has partnered on the delivery of this project through representation on the project steering group and participation in community consultation.

Consultation and Engagement

Council established a Project Steering Committee to oversee the project, which includes representatives from:

- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Corangamite CMA
- Moyne Shire Council
- Victorian State Emergency Service
- Parks Victoria
- Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority
- Council's Assets, Works, Planning and Emergency teams.

Two rounds of community engagement were undertaken including drop-in sessions held in Cobden and Timboon and feedback sought through a project website.

WaterTechnology also engaged with select landholders in the modelled flood area to undertake surveys to determine above-floor flooding impacts.

Financial Considerations

Council has a budget of \$320,000 to deliver this project. This includes a \$140,000 grant from Emergency Management Victoria, \$120,000 from a DEECA grant obtained through the CCMA, and \$60,000 from Council's budget.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Not applicable

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

The Curdies Flood Study aligns with Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2025 by increasing understanding of climate change risks and identifying climate adaptation (flood mitigation) strategies. The modelling considers climate change scenarios defined by the IPCC.

Risk Consideration

The Curdies Flood Study is a risk mitigation action to address the following risks in Council's Enterprise Risk Register

Risk 15: As a result of major fire/flood not being managed effectively, environmental damage occurs and lives are lost

Risk 26: As a result of ineffective planning for increased climate variability Corangamite Shire's operations are adversely affected.

Risk 51: Ineffective adaption or response to climate variability, adverse environmental conditions and natural disasters.

Conflict of Interest

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

Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer has designated this attachment as confidential on the grounds that it contains information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. In particular the attachment contains information regarding identification of personal property information.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL - R01 Data Review Report [9.6.1 - 51 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - R02 Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling Report [9.6.2 - 147 pages]
3. CONFIDENTIAL - R02 Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling Report- Appendix E Flood Mapping Calibration [9.6.3 - 96 pages]
4. CONFIDENTIAL - R03 Floodplain Risk Management Plan [9.6.4 - 87 pages]
5. R04 Summary Report [9.6.5 - 38 pages]
6. CONFIDENTIAL - Flood Mapping 1% AEP SSP3 2100 [9.6.6 - 24 pages]
7. CONFIDENTIAL - Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Mapping- South [9.6.7 - 1 page]
8. CONFIDENTIAL - Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Mapping- North [9.6.8 - 1 page]

9.7 Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Committee Nominations and Annual Report for 2026

Directorate: Sustainable Development

Author: Jessica Maxwell, Environment Projects Officer

Executive Summary

The Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee is a Community Asset Committee of Council, established initially in 1995. The Committee's role is to implement the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Plan and Risk Management Plan. The Committee comprises six community representatives and one Council representative. Community representatives are elected to the Committee for a three-year term, with two positions advertised annually.

The Committee manages the Reserves in accordance with the Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan 2013–2018 and the Risk Management Plan. These plans were developed following extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders. They capture the expectations of Council, Committee and the community to guide the management and development of the Reserves.

The existing plans now require revision and updating to meet current legislation and to reflect the level of progress achieved over the past 13 years. The Committee has revised and updated the Plans accordingly. This report presents the revised Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan 2026-2036 and Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Risk Management Plan 2026 for Council's consideration and adoption.

This report also presents the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee annual update for 2025-2026 and provides advice to Council on the appointment of two community representatives to the Committee.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Plan 2026-2036.**
2. **Adopts the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Risk Management Plan 2026.**
3. **Appoints Frances Grundy and Caroline Duynhoven as community representatives on the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee for a three-year term.**
4. **Receives the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Reserve Management Committee annual update for 2025-2026.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Laurie Hickey
Seconded: Cr Ruth Gstrein

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan 2026-2036 and Risk Management Plan 2026

The Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee currently manage the Reserves in accordance with the Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan 2013–2018. The Committee, with support from Council officers, have undertaken a review and update of this plan to develop the revised Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan 2026–2036 (attached).

The review included a comprehensive assessment of all works and actions achieved to date. Many of the issues and aspirations listed in the current Management Plan have been achieved and are no longer relevant. For example, cessation of the grazing lease and construction of an all-weather hub for educational activities and meetings.

The existing Plan was developed following extensive consultation with the community consultation and stakeholders, including schools, community groups, user groups, neighbouring landholders, and government agencies. The revised Management Plan maintains the vision and key objectives of the existing plan, with updated actions.

The revised Management Plan includes updated guidance for revegetation informed by a 2022 report that investigated tree stem density and vegetation establishment across the Reserves. This report assisted the Committee to identify future priorities for revegetation, including understorey planting of native shrubs and grasses to support ecological resilience.

The Risk Management Plan for the Reserves was reviewed and updated to ensure that it is consistent with the revised Management Plan and to address current risks and opportunities that have developed over time. For example, increased use of drones on the reserves has required the installation of 'no drones' signage at the top car park. There are also new opportunities for ecological burning or cultural burning as a risk reduction and vegetation management tool.

Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Annual Update 2025-2026

Over the past year, the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee has worked towards implementation of the Management Plan.

Committee achievements for the past year have included:

- Acquitting the \$10,000 grant from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.
- Controlling woody and non-woody weeds across 50 hectares.
- Completion of Hollows for Habitat Project part 3.
- Designing and installing a sign about the history of the Mount Sugarloaf quarry.
- Planting 1270 indigenous plants for understorey biodiversity including the addition of Showy Podolepis and Cherry Ballart
- Reviewing and updating the Mount Leura Management Plan and Risk Management Plan.

An annual calendar of events is co-managed with the Friends of Mt Leura (FoML) community group. Over the past year events delivered by the Committee and FoML have included:

- NAIDOC week activities attended by over 50 people
- Come and Explore Day with included activities including a cultural walk led by Brett Clarke and launch of the iNaturalist citizen science project.
- Ninth annual 'Four Peaks Challenge' event which was attended by over 100 people.
- Plant propagation workshops including a mistletoe propagation
- Monthly working bees at the Reserves
- Guest speaker events, including a talk on the history and culture of the Djargurd Wurrong people from local historian Bob Lambell.

The Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Reserves Officer (0.2 FTE) is employed to undertake ongoing maintenance activities at the Reserves

Duties carried out by the Reserves Officer in 2025-2026 included:

- Coordination of contractors including arborists, landscapers and weed control.
- Assisted with the completion of the annual hazard and maintenance schedule, including addressing necessary work identified.
- Installed new signage across the Reserves.
- Assisted the Committee to undertake monitoring and management of weeds across the Reserves.

Volunteers and community partnerships remain strong with Committee members and volunteers of FoML contributing over 1000 hours of volunteer hours to projects over the past 12 months. In-kind labour for Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf is

estimated to total \$25,000 for the 2025-2026 (based on 1000 hours valued at \$25 per hour).

Committee Appointments

In accordance with the Committee's Instrument of Delegation, Council is required to advertise two vacant Committee positions annually with terms of three years. These positions were advertised for a period of four weeks during April 2026. Council received three nominations (provided under separate cover) for the two available positions.

Five Committee members considered the nominations according to the selection criteria, to provide advice to Council. The recommendation of the Committee is for Caroline Duynhoven and Frances Grundy to be appointed to the Committee for a three-year term. These two nominees meet the selection criteria and current and future skills required by the Committee.

Options for Council Consideration

Council may adopt the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Plan 2026-2036 and Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Risk Management Plan as presented. Alternatively, Council may request amendments to the Plans prior to adoption.

Council may receive the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf annual update for 2025-2026 as tabled or alternatively chose not to receive the update.

Council may appoint Caroline Duynhoven and Frances Grundy to fill the two vacant positions on the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee for a three-year term. Alternatively, Council may decide not to appoint the nominees and readvertise the vacancies.

Alignment to Council Plan

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

A growing and prosperous economy

Enhance and promote tourism opportunities

Quality infrastructure and community connections

Provide and promote walking and cycling infrastructure

Protection and enhancement of our Environment

Protect biodiversity and our natural assets

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Committee operates in accordance with the Instrument of Delegation for Community Asset Committees. Under C7 of the Instrument of Delegation:

- the Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan must be approved by Council.
- Council is required to advertise two vacant Committee positions annually with a term of three years.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The existing Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Management Plan was developed following extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders, including schools, community groups, user groups, neighbouring landholders, and government agencies. The revised Management Plan maintains the vision and objectives of this Plan.

The Risk Management Plan was reviewed by the Committee and Council Officers, including Council's Risk Management Coordinator.

Nominations for the Committee vacancies were advertised through local newspapers and on Council's website and Facebook page for four weeks during April 2026.

Financial Considerations

The Committee received an allocation of \$34,000 during 2025-2026 to deliver the annual work program. Future allocations to the Committee will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Access to Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf is a key principle of the management plan, with the car park at the Mt Leura summit providing opportunity for individuals to drive to the peak. The Risk Management Plan addresses the actions taken to continue to provide an accessible destination to the community.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Climate Change has been considered in the revision of the Management Plan and Risk Management Plan with the potential change in distribution of pest animals and weeds on the Reserves. The Risk Management Plan addresses measures for extreme weather events including heavy rainfall or extreme heat which may occur more frequently.

Risk Consideration

The Risk Management Plan was revised and updated in accordance with current risk management standards. This Plan supports the Committee and Council to mitigate risks associated with the use and management of the Reserves.

Conflict of Interest

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

Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer has designated this report and its attachments as confidential on the grounds that it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. In particular the report contains information regarding the appointment of new Committee members to the Mt Leura & Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL - Committee Nomination Panel Assessment Summary Report [9.7.1 - 2 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - 1. Committee Nomination [9.7.2 - 2 pages]
3. CONFIDENTIAL - 2. Committee Nomination [9.7.3 - 2 pages]
4. CONFIDENTIAL - 3. Committee Nomination [9.7.4 - 2 pages]
5. Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan 2026-2036 [9.7.5 - 33 pages]
6. Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Risk Management Plan 2026 [9.7.6 - 30 pages]
7. Under Separate Cover - Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Plan 2026 - 2036 - Tracked Changes [9.7.7 - 74 pages]
8. Under Separate Cover - Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Risk Management Plan 2026 - Tracked Changes [9.7.8 - 36 pages]

9.8 Business Assistance Scheme May 2026 Application

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 May 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 application for funding for The Trustee for Arpan Nominees Trust (Foodworks Lismore) for the amount of \$1,775 excluding GST.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ruth Gstrein

Seconded: Cr Nick Cole

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

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 that has been assessed and is recommended for assistance to be considered by Council for determination:

- *The Trustee for Arpan Nominees Trust (Foodworks Lismore)*: New business identification signage. The funding assistance requested is \$1,775 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 application and recommend it for assistance under the Business Assistance Scheme (BAS). The options are:

1. Allocate funds of \$1,775 (excluding GST) to the Business Assistance Scheme applicant.
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 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

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 application is seeking a total funding commitment of \$1,775. Council's 2025-2026 adopted budget includes an allocation of \$50,000 for the BAS, with a remaining budget of \$14,949.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

The May BAS application is from The Trustee for Arpan Nominees Trust (Foodworks Lismore). Stream 1 of the BAS program enables businesses to apply for funding for a variety of improvements.

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 May Application [9.8.1 - 1 page]

9.9 Recreation Reserves Management Policy

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Executive Summary

This report recommends adoption of a revised Recreation Reserves Management Policy (Policy) as a guide to the funding and management arrangements for recreation reserves located within the Corangamite Shire following a deferral from the 24 March 2026 Council meeting and subsequent briefing.

This Policy has been reviewed with amendments recommended.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Recreation Reserves Management Policy dated March 2023**
- 2. Adopts the Recreation Reserves Management Policy dated March 2026**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jo Beard

Seconded: Cr Geraldine Conheady

That this item be deferred for future discussion at a Councillor Briefing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Sport and recreation play an important role in promoting a sense of community, social inclusion and community wellbeing. Recreation reserves are important assets that encourage broad community use and opportunities for a well-balanced lifestyle with a range of physiological, mental, social and educational benefits.

The Recreation Reserves Management Policy aims to detail Councils involvement in the funding and management arrangements of recreation reserves within the shire. It notes that whilst not owned by Council, the reserves play a significant role in the community and the provision of support through this policy helps volunteers manage the recreation reserves.

The Recreation Reserves Management Policy has been reviewed and proposes the following amendments:

- Reference to the management arrangements and responsibilities to the Port Campbell and Princetown Recreation Reserve.
- Addition of a category acknowledging additional reserves.
- Review of the policy to be undertaken every four years.

There is considerable burden on committee volunteers to monitor, maintain and upkeep their facilities with increasing utility and other operating costs. The majority of the Committees of Management have limited revenue raising opportunities. There are no changes recommended to the financial contribution percentages allocated to the recreation reserves, whilst the budgetary amount provided will be considered as part of Councils annual budget process.

The challenges associated with recreation reserves and generating revenue is well known. The volunteers that oversee the management of the facilities should be acknowledged and applauded. The current policy proposes a percentage allocation to the committee based on a tiered structure. This has worked well in the past and it is not proposed to make any changes to this percentage breakdown.

Options for Council Consideration

Council can adopt the Recreation Reserves Management Policy as presented, or choose to amend the Policy.

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

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 Recreation Reserves Management 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

The Recreation Reserves Management Policy recommends Council allocate a financial contribution as a part of its recurrent budget to assist reserve committees with managing their facilities.

Council allocated \$182,337 as a part of its recurrent budget to recreation reserves in 2025-2026. Any future allocations will be considered as part of Council's annual budgeting process.

The breakdown in the 2025-2026 financial year for the facilities, based on the different categories, is outlined in the table below;

Category	Amount
Category 1	\$22,455
Category 2	\$17,964
Category 3	\$12,575

Table 1: 2025-2026 financial contributions by category

In reviewing the Policy, it is recommended that additional reserves be considered for funding, which will result in an increase of \$35,418 in the 2026-2027 budget for financial contributions to recreation reserves.

Category	Amount
Category 1	\$23,073
Category 2	\$18,458
Category 3	\$12,921
Category 4	\$7,601

Table 2: Proposed 2026-2027 financial contributions by category

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 (GIA) when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service which has a direct and significant impact on the public.

A GIA has been undertaken in relation to the Recreation Reserves Management Policy in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* (GEA). The Policy primarily addresses the provision of funding and maintenance at the recreation reserves. The GIA has identified and recommends consideration be given to the Committee of Management Guidelines that the committees utilise.

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. Recreation Reserves Management Policy May 2026 [9.9.1 - 5 pages]
2. Under Separate Cover - Recreation Reserves Management Policy with track changes May 2026 [9.9.2 - 6 pages]

9.10 Fair Access Policy Review

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a review of the Fair Access Policy (the Policy), which seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure.

Sport is a highly visible and valued feature of Corangamite Shire's culture and identity. The sport and active recreation sector provides opportunities for enriching our communities through the promotion of respect and fair-mindedness for all people, while also supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. Corangamite Shire is well positioned to design and implement place-based, integrated action plans that progress gender equality in community sport.

The policy has been reviewed, with only minor amendments proposed including the addition of reference documentation associated with the Policy.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Fair Access Policy dated May 2023**
- 2. Adopts the Fair Access Policy dated May 2026**
- 3. Endorses the Fair Access Action Plan dated May 2026**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geraldine Conheady

Seconded: Cr Jo Beard

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

In December 2015 the Victorian Government released a report from the independent Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation. The inquiry shed light on gender inequality in Victorian sport and recreation and outlined a way forward to improve participation and leadership opportunities for women and girls.

The report involved consultations and workshops throughout the state with representatives from all levels of sport and recreation, from coaches to administrators, to assess the current state of female representation in the sport sector, especially in leadership roles.

The overwhelming finding is that women are under-represented in leadership roles in a sports sector that is still predominantly male-centric. The report also highlights a growing movement of women and girls keen to showcase their talent and desire to contribute to the sport and active recreation sector, but the opportunities to participate and lead are limited or not readily evident.

The Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation outlined nine recommendations to increase leadership and participation by women and girls.

Recommendations included:

1. Drive commitment through an Ambassadors of Change program
2. Engage and empower by connecting Ambassadors to women and girls
3. Mandate gender balance and good governance principles
4. Reform recruitment practices and processes for leadership positions
5. Enhance participation choice and improve how opportunities are marketed
6. Deliver female-friendly built environments and equitable facility usage policies
7. Build an enabling environment through education and training
8. Showcase the pathways and opportunities through role models
9. Increase the profile of women in sports media.

Fair Access Policy Roadmap

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap is a policy framework that was developed by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, in partnership with VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria, aimed at providing equal access to community sports infrastructure for women and girls across Victoria.

The roadmap is structured in a three-phase journey which includes:

- Education (August 2022-2023)
Building awareness of gender equity issues, providing guidance, templates and resources to support policy development.
- Readiness (2023 – June 2024)
Preparing councils and organisations to implement gender equitable policies, including conducting gender impact assessments and creating locally relevant action plans.
- Progress (1 July 2024 onwards)
Monitoring and reporting on policy implementation, evaluating outcomes, and continuously improving access to facilities.

The roadmap is designed for local governments, sport and recreation organisations and other groups which manage publicly owned community sports infrastructure. Councils are required to demonstrate progress against these policies to remain eligible for Victorian Government funding for community sports infrastructure.

Fair Access Principles

This Policy and any resultant action plan are based on six principles of inclusivity, full participation, equal representation, encouraging and supporting user groups, and prioritising user groups committed to equality.

Corangamite Shire considers that these principles provide clear direction, while also enabling adaptation specifically to Corangamite Shire.



Figure 1: Fair Access Six Principles

Implementation

The scope of the Fair Access Policy is to support Corangamite Shire to take positive action towards achieving gender equity in the access and usage of community sports infrastructure. The Policy is designed:

- To build capacity and capabilities of Corangamite Shire in the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs, communications, and delivery of services in relation to community sport and recreation.
- To ensure an effective place-based response for the gender equitable use and access of community sports infrastructure.
- To promote gender equality in policies, programs, communications, and services as they relate to community sports infrastructure.

For Corangamite Shire, the Policy applies to the following community sports facilities where Council is owner, land manager and / or operator of the facility:

	Facility	Location
1	Camperdown Stadium	Camperdown
2	Mockridge Park	Camperdown
3	Camperdown Outdoor Swimming Pool	Camperdown
4	Lake Recreation Reserve	Camperdown
5	Cobden Outdoor Swimming Pool	Cobden
6	Lismore Outdoor Swimming Pool	Lismore
7	Skipton Outdoor Swimming Pool	Skipton
8	Terang Outdoor Swimming Pool	Terang
9	Timboon Outdoor Swimming Pool	Timboon
10	Timboon Sporting Centre	Timboon
11	Timboon Hockey Ground	Timboon

Council can refer to the Fair Access Policy within lease agreements and contract management arrangements given they are not directly managing the facilities. In the instance where Council manages the Camperdown and Timboon Stadiums, hire agreements are in place with each of the associations for use of the facilities.

Council can refer to the Fair Access Policy within the hire agreements for use by Associations. Further, consideration in relation to day-to-day stadium operations will need to be undertaken. This will include a review of policy, programs, communications, and delivery of services directly related to the stadiums.

Sport and Recreation Victoria has advised that grant applications made on behalf of Council for township recreation reserves and clubs, it will be satisfactory for only Council as the applicant to comply with the Fair Access Roadmap requirements.

Corangamite Shire acknowledges that the requirement to have a gender equitable access and use policy and action plan (or equivalent) in place, and the ability to demonstrate progress against that policy and action plan (or equivalent), will form part of the eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funding programs relating to community sports infrastructure. Currently it only includes Victorian Government funding programs.

Council officers have maintained ongoing engagement with Sport and Recreation Victoria since the implementation of Fair Access initiatives. This engagement has included attendance at workshops and feedback sessions, as well as participation in the 2024–2025 Fair Access Progress Survey.

The statewide results of the survey indicate that all Fair Access policies have continued to progress during this period and are contributing to improved gender equity outcomes in Victorian community sport and recreation through locally tailored approaches.

Trends in the types of actions completed or commenced include:

- Integration of Fair Access principles into broader Council policies to support long-term impact, such as embedding these principles within multi-year sport and recreation strategies and updating funding criteria to require applicants to demonstrate a commitment to gender equity.
- Delivery of capability-building initiatives for the community, including workshops, training opportunities, and the development and provision of supporting resources.
- Comprehensive analysis of Council documentation and internal processes to identify opportunities for improvement, including the application of Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs) and other targeted reviews and audits.

Corangamite Shire has developed an action plan in line with the Fair Access Policy to support continued delivery of gender equity outcomes. Looking ahead for Corangamite, the implementation of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2026-2036 will be a key strategic initiative for embedding Fair Access principles across Corangamite Council activities. This will include opportunities for knowledge sharing, education and resources to support communities, capability-building sessions, and the provision of ongoing guidance and support.

Council's Fair Access Policy has been reviewed with only minor amendments recommended.

Options for Council Consideration

Council may opt to adopt the Fair Access Policy as proposed or choose to make amendments to the policy.

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

Provide, maintain and promote recreational facilities and programs

Quality infrastructure and community connections

Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure

Strong Civic Leadership

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

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires Council to undertake Gender Impact Assessments when developing or reviewing policies, programs and services that have a direct and significant impact on the public.

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap, administered by Sport and Recreation Victoria, requires councils to demonstrate progress in implementing gender equitable access and use policies to maintain eligibility for Victorian Government community sports infrastructure funding programs.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The Fair Access Policy is a revision of an existing policy and has been reviewed internally by Council's Facilities and Recreation Department, Executive Leadership team and Gender Equality Action Group.

Financial Considerations

Implementation of the Policy will be considered through existing policy, planning, maintenance and capital works processes relating to community sports infrastructure.

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

Failure to implement and maintain a compliant Fair Access Policy and Action Plan may impact Council's eligibility for Victorian Government community sports infrastructure funding and limit Council's ability to demonstrate progress toward gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. Council Fair Access Policy May 2026 [**9.10.1** - 7 pages]
2. Council Fair Access Policy Action Plan May 2026 [**9.10.2** - 3 pages]
3. Under Seperate Cover - Council Fair Access Policy May 2026 with tracked changes [**9.10.3** - 7 pages]

9.11 Decommissioning Former Camperdown Saleyards and Truck Wash

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Jarrod Woff, Manager Facilities and Recreation

Executive Summary

In June 2024, the lease of the Camperdown Saleyards held by Regional Livestock Exchange concluded and operations at the site ceased. Following this, Council undertook an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to explore potential future uses of the site, which did not result in a viable proposal.

The site has since remained vacant. This report seeks Council's consideration of the decommissioning of the site, including the removal of remaining fittings and infrastructure.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Authorises the decommissioning of the former municipal saleyards located at 71 Camperdown-Lismore Road, Camperdown on the basis that the facility is no longer required for its original purpose and ongoing maintenance presents an unnecessary financial and operational burden.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a. **Undertake all necessary actions to implement the decommissioning process, including procurement of specialist services where required;**
 - b. **Obtain any required statutory approvals or permits associated with decommissioning works.**
3. **Notes that a future report will be presented to Council outlining options for the long-term use, disposal or redevelopment of the site following completion of decommissioning and future masterplan.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Laurie Hickey
Seconded: Cr Nick Cole

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

Council is the landowner of the Camperdown Saleyards, located at 71 Camperdown–Lismore Road, Camperdown. The site is zoned Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) and has operated for a number of years as a livestock selling centre by Council and then under lease to Regional Livestock Exchange (RLX).

In June 2024, RLX provided written notice of its intention to exit the lease, with the final sale held on Tuesday 25 June 2024. Following the closure, Councillors and officers met with agents, livestock transport operators, and other stakeholders to gauge interest in the future use of the site, and to provide an opportunity to raise issues and ideas arising from the cessation of saleyard operations.

A review of the site has also been undertaken as part of the Camperdown Production Precinct Project, the Industrial Land Review, and the Camperdown Structure Plan.

Use of the site as a saleyard had declined in recent years, with reduced throughput numbers recorded. In addition to saleyard operations, the site includes an inoperable truck wash and holding yards.

At the Council meeting on 23 July 2024, Council resolved to no longer pursue the use of the site as a livestock selling centre and investigate the feasibility of a commercial truck wash at another location within the Shire. Council has subsequently received enquiries from stakeholders expressing interest in purchasing existing site infrastructure, including sheds, yards, ramps, lighting, and fencing.

Council has identified the development of a Camperdown Saleyards Masterplan for completion in the 2026–2027 financial year. The masterplan will consider:

- the most sustainable future use of the land to achieve optimal outcomes and value for ratepayers and the community;
- consultation with the business community and broader community regarding future land use.

Given the condition of existing infrastructure, there is an opportunity to consider the disposal of these assets, in line with Council's Disposal of Assets Policy. The proposed decommissioning does not include the existing offices on the site, which continue to be used under agreement with Council.

Council's Disposal of Assets Policy provides the framework for the disposal process, including obligations, requirements and responsibilities associated with the sale or disposal of Council assets.

Options for Council Consideration

Council may look to undertake the decommissioning of the saleyards, including the removal of all yards, walkways and associated infrastructure via an expression of interest process, or alternatively wait for the delivery of the Camperdown Saleyards Masterplan prior to undertaking next steps.

Alignment to Council Plan

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

Quality infrastructure and community connections

Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure

Strong Civic Leadership

Be financially responsible and sustainable

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Council's Disposal of Assets Policy outlines the requirements and processes for the disposal of Council assets. The following disposal options have been considered:

- a. Trade-in
- b. Expression of interest
- c. Open tender
- d. Public auction
- e. Destroy or Decommission
- f. Donation or Gifting

Option B (Expression of Interest) has been identified as the likely method for disposal.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Any expression of interest process for the removal of fittings and infrastructure would be undertaken through a public process.

Financial Considerations

Resourcing will be required to undertake an EOI process for the decommissioning of the saleyards. It is expected that revenue generated from the sale of fittings will offset costs associated with decommissioning and provide a positive return for Council. All procurement activities will comply with Council's Procurement and Contract Management Policy and associated officer delegations.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Nil

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Environmental considerations associated with disposal and removal of infrastructure will be managed through the decommissioning process.

Risk Consideration

If Council does not proceed with decommissioning, there is a risk that existing infrastructure will continue to deteriorate, resulting in reduced asset value, increased maintenance or safety risks, and potential future costs to Council.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

Nil

9.12 Essential Safety Measures Policy

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: Nicole Kinnersly, Administration Officer

Executive Summary

This report recommends adoption of a revised Essential Safety Measures Policy, which aims to ensure that essential safety measures within Council owned and occupied buildings are maintained in accordance with relevant legislation, regulations and Australian Standards.

The Policy has been reviewed with only minor amendments recommended.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Revokes the Essential Safety Measures Policy dated May 2022.**
- 2. Adopts the Essential Safety Measures Policy dated May 2026.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ruth Gstrein
Seconded: Cr Laurie Hickey

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The Essential Safety Measures framework assists Council to reduce risk exposure and support the safety of occupants within buildings and places of public entertainment. Essential safety measures are the fire safety, life safety and essential services systems installed or incorporated within a building to ensure appropriate levels of safety are maintained throughout the life of the building.

Typical categories of essential safety measures include:

- Fire equipment
- Electrical fittings
- Air conditioning/mechanical ventilation systems
- Exit doors, paths of egress and passive fire elements

Essential safety measures include traditional fire protection systems such as sprinklers and mechanical services, together with passive fire infrastructure including fire doors, fire-rated structures, exit doors and paths of travel to exits.

The primary objective of essential safety measures legislation is to ensure that all essential safety measures continue to perform to the standard required at the time of commissioning and issue of the Occupancy Permit.

Maintenance involves the identification of relevant passive and active safety measures as required under the National Construction Code, together with the completion of periodic inspections and testing in accordance with relevant Australian Standards. Appropriate documentation, including annual reports and maintenance records, is also maintained.

Council has overall responsibility for maintaining essential safety measures within Council owned or occupied buildings to ensure compliance with the requirements of the National Construction Code.

The policy has been reviewed, with only minor amendments proposed to reflect updates to current strategic plans and relevant standards. The policy is primarily driven by legislative and maintenance requirements and has been updated to align with current National Construction Code requirements.

Options for Council Consideration

Council can adopt the Essential Safety Measures Policy as presented or choose to amend the policy.

Alignment to Council Plan

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

Quality infrastructure and community connections

Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure
Strong Civic Leadership

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

The Essential Safety Measures Policy has been developed to support Council's compliance obligations under relevant legislation, regulations and Australian Standards in relation to all Council owned and occupied buildings, other than minor structures excluded under the applicable regulations.

The policy supports Council's obligations under the Building Act 1993 and Building Regulations 2018 (Vic), the National Construction Code and relevant Australian Standards.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

The Essential Safety Measures Policy is an existing policy that has been reviewed internally by the Facilities and Recreation department, Council's building department and Executive Leadership team.

Financial Considerations

Council currently allocates \$35,000 annually within its recurrent budget to undertake essential safety measure inspections and the maintenance of defective systems within Council owned and occupied buildings.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

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. This 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

Failure to maintain essential safety measures may result in increased risk to building occupants, non-compliance with statutory obligations, potential enforcement action by the Municipal Building Surveyor and increased liability exposure for Council.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. Essential Safety Measures Policy May 2026 [9.12.1 - 4 pages]
2. Under Separate Cover - Essential Safety Measures Policy May 2026 with tracked changes [9.12.2 - 4 pages]

9.13 Proposed Part Road Discontinuances Adjacent to Cobden Recreation Reserve

Directorate: Works and Services

Author: John Kelly, Manager, Assets Planning

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval to discontinue sections of the road reserves in Lord and Adams Streets, Cobden, and transfer the land to the Crown for incorporation into the Cobden Recreation Reserve.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the partial discontinuation of the road reserves in Lord and Adams Streets abutting the Cobden Recreation Reserve shown as Allotments 2004 and 2005 on the attached Survey Plan No. OP127711T
2. Publishes a Partial Road Discontinuation Notice for the areas shown as Allotments 2004 and 2005 on the attached Survey Plan No. OP127711T in the Victorian Government Gazette in accordance with Clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
3. Authorises the transfer of the discontinued road reserve land to the Crown for incorporation into the Cobden Recreation Reserve.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jo Beard
Seconded: Cr Geraldine Conheady

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Discussion/Key Matters/Issues

The existing boundary fence lines along the Cobden Recreation Reserve in Lord and Adams Streets extends into the road reserve by approximately 4m and 1.5m respectively. A recently installed shelter for the netball courts has been constructed to the fenceline along Lord Street and as a result, encroaches into the road reserve.

The Cobden Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (CoM) has prepared plans for the redevelopment of the sports pavilion with the design based on construction extending to the existing fence line.

The intention is to realign the road reserve boundaries of Lord and Adams Streets so the above encroachments from the Cobden Recreation Reserve are removed.

Options for Council Consideration

The options for Council are to either approve, amend or not approve the partial discontinuation of the roads as proposed.

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

Provide, maintain and promote recreational facilities and programs

Quality infrastructure and community connections

Maintain and upgrade our infrastructure

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

Clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (as applicable under transitional provisions) grants Council the power to discontinue a road or part of a road by publishing a notice in the Government Gazette and then to transfer the land to the Crown.

Once the part road discontinuation of Lord Street and Adams Street has been published in the Government Gazette the resulting lands can be transferred to the Crown in accordance with Clause 3(b) of Schedule 10. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) will then formally request reservation of these lands under the provisions of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* and formal appointment of the Cobden Recreation Reserve CoM for these lands.

Persons are given the right to make a submission on the proposed partial discontinuation of the road in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil

Consultation and Engagement

DEECA supports the proposed partial road discontinuances and will request reservation of the resultant land following gazettal of the discontinuance notice.

In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council published a public notice in the Cobden Timboon Coast Times dated 15 April 2026 seeking submissions to the proposed partial discontinuation of Lord and Adams Street. Nil submissions from the public have been received since this notice was published.

Financial Considerations

No material financial implications have been identified for Council.

The proposed pavilion redevelopment falls along the existing fenceline in Lord Street. The rest of the remaining boundary fence lines in Lord Street and Adams Street are to remain in their current positions. Council infrastructure is not impacted by this adjustment to the road reserve boundaries. In addition, service authority assets are not impacted.

Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Nil

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

Nil

Risk Consideration

No material risks have been identified. The statutory consultation process has been completed with no submissions received.

Conflict of Interest

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

Attachments

1. Plan of Proposed Cobden Recreation Reserve Sports Pavilion Redevelopment [9.13.1 - 1 page]
2. Public Notice for Proposed Partial Road Discontinuance in Lord and Adams Streets [9.13.2 - 1 page]
3. Aerial Plan of Cobden Recreation Reserve with Existing Title Boundaries [9.13.3 - 1 page]
4. Survey Plan No. O P 127711 T Showing Proposed Part Road Discontinuances in Lord and Adams Streets, [9.13.4 - 1 page]

10 Notices of Motion

Nil

Other Business

Cr Hickey requested an update on truck wash facilities and the work of the task force which was created over a year ago.

David Rae advised that following the review undertaken by the taskforce, a report was prepared and submitted to the Minister. Recommendations cannot yet be disclosed until made public by the Minister. Mr Rae noted that the review does recognise the inadequacy of truck wash facilities right across rural and regional Victoria. He is optimistic there will be funding streams for the private sector to leverage. It is recognised that this is an issue to be solved by all players from the private sector and various levels of Government. Details will be made available at the earliest opportunity.

Cr Beard reiterated concerns she raised at the 27 January 2026 Council Meeting on behalf of the Cobden Aerodrome Committee. This was in relation to concerns about the Mumblin Windfarm development and the proximity to the aerodrome.

Cr Beard noted that the State Government has ignored the submission presented which highlights impacts of the windfarm on the safe use of the facility. She noted that the positioning of the turbines will shut the aerodrome down.

Cr Beards called on Council to reiterate to the state government on behalf of the committee the concern that the submissions have been completely overlooked and to continue to advocate the importance of maintaining the aerodrome.

Cr Gstrein - Congratulations to Bookaars Penny Smith for her Gold Medal in the Womens Trapp Shooting World Cup.

11 Open Forum

The Mayor, Cr Kate Makin, invited members of the public to ask a question or make a statement.

The following items were submitted:

- Ken and Nola Farquarson submitted a letter of concern regarding the positioning of a proposed footpath on Walker St Cobden. Shaun Broadbent, Director Works and Services provided an explanation of the proposed footpath and advised his team will work with the Farquarson's to ensure their concerns are addressed.

- A Petition was submitted to Council by David Rae, CEO on behalf of lead petitioner Val Lang. Mr Rae explained the Petition outlines an objection to Planning Permit Application PP2026/046. Mr Rae asked Council to accept the petition. He advised that Council would respond to the petition at the next Council meeting and the Planning team will deal with the objection under the Planning and Environment Act and also in accordance with Council Policy.

Recommendation

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Nick Cole
Seconded: Cr Laurie Hickey

That standing orders be suspended to move into Confidential Items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Standing items were suspended at 4.21pm

Recommendation

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Laurie Hickey
Seconded: Cr Jo Beard

That the standing orders resume

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Standing orders resumed at 4.23pm

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jamie Vogels
Seconded: Cr Ruth Gstrein

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

The meeting moved into confidential items at 4.23pm.

12.2 Rates Refund Request - Cobden Golf Club

Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer has designated this report and its attachments as confidential on the grounds that it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. In particular, the report contains information regarding the personal, financial and valuation details of a specific ratepayer and associated correspondence with Council.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ruth Gstrein
Seconded: Cr Jamie Vogels

That the meeting move out of confidential items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

The meeting moved out of confidential items at 4.42pm.

13 Close Meeting

Mayor, Kate Makin declared the Council Meeting closed at 4.42pm

I hereby certify that these minutes have been confirmed and are a true and correct record.

CONFIRMED: _____
Chairperson

DATE: _____