

Minutes

Council Meeting
Wednesday 23 April 2025 at 7:00 PM
Gisborne Administration Centre
40 Robertson Street, Gisborne

DRAFT

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DRAFT

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past, and present.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

2 RECORDING OF LIVE STREAMING OF THIS COUNCIL MEETING

This meeting was recorded and streamed live on the internet in accordance with Council's 'Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Meetings Policy, which can be viewed on Council's website.

3 PRESENT

Cr Dominic Bonanno (Mayor), Cr Kate Kendall (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jennifer Anderson, Cr Cassy Borthwick, Cr Alison Joseph, Cr Janet Pearce, Cr Andrew Scanlon, Cr Christine Walker, Cr Daniel Young

IN ATTENDANCE

Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer), Adele Drago-Stevens (Director Corporate), Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment), Amy Holmes (Acting Director Community), Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations), Jessica Clarke-Hong (Manager Governance and Performance), Lucy Olson (Senior Governance Officer - Council Business),

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

6 PETITIONS

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

7.1 PUBLIC QUESTION - TREVOR KOOPS

Question

The status of the proposed Woodend - Macedon - New Gisborne - Riddells Creek shared trail lacks transparency and appears to have blown-out in terms of budget and completion date. In relation to this project would it be possible for council to provide something for ratepayers which in the one document sets out:

- the initial total project cost expected before commencement and the cost now forecast, and reason for difference;
- the initial completion date expected and the date now forecast, and reason for difference;
- information on ALL lifecycle project cost components from inception including feasibility, design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation, both incurred to date and budgeted;
- details of the competitive tendering processes associated with each of the components including the engagement of Newearth Constructions and any private consultants;
- all major changes in the specification of the shared trail in terms of engineering and the trail surface, and the reason for these; and
- additional council plans for cycling related initiatives including criterium cycling circuit at Gisborne Regional Sports Hub, Regional MTB Park/s or any other potential projects being considered.

Answer

Officers would like to thank Mr Koops for his question to this meeting regarding the Woodend – Riddells Creek Shared Trail. Due to the scale of the question and the response required, in accordance with Governance Rule 34(J) *“If a question cannot be dealt with adequately or appropriately during public question time, the Mayor or a nominated staff member may advise that they will provide a written answer in response to the question”*, a full written response will be provided outside of the meeting.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Once available the officer response will be attached to these minutes.

7.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS - ROBERT GREEN

Questions

- (1) What date were contractor's agent's representatives, and senior staff notified of the tip in Foy St Lancefield?
- (2) When was this matter reported to Margot Stork CEO and Director of Planning at the time or Angela Hughes Director?

Answers

- (1) As stated in response to a previous public question at the 22 March 2023 Council Meeting, a review of records indicates that Council was notified of the responsibility for the disused landfill site on the Showlers Lane road reserve around July 2019.
 - (2) To provide an answer to this question requires officers to undertake a detailed record search. The topic of this enquiry included multiple directorates and individuals. In accordance with Governance Rule 34(J) *“If a question cannot be dealt with adequately or appropriately during public question time, the Mayor or a nominated staff member may advise that they will provide a written answer in response to the question”*, a full written response will be provided outside of the meeting.
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8 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**Resolution 2025/23**

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson

Seconded: Cr Alison Joseph

That the minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council held on Wednesday 26 March 2025 as circulated be confirmed.

CARRIED

9 MAYOR'S REPORT**9.1 MAYOR'S REPORT - MARCH-APRIL 2025****Resolution 2025/24**

Moved: Cr Andrew Scanlon

Seconded: Cr Alison Joseph

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's report.

CARRIED

10 RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF

10.1	RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF
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Summary

Rule 66 of Council's Governance Rules requires a written record of matters discussed at specified meetings of Councilors and Council staff to be reported to the next practicable scheduled Council Meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting. This report provides a summary of meetings of Councillors and Council staff held since the last Council Meeting.

Resolution 2025/25

Moved: Cr Christine Walker

Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council receives and notes the record of meetings of Councillors and Council staff, as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

11 CORPORATE REPORTS**COR.1 DRAFT COUNCILLOR INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE****Summary**

Under the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations), Council is required to adopt a new Internal Resolution Procedure by 1 July 2025. This internal procedure will be for dealing with alleged breaches of the Model Code of Conduct and will operate alongside the provisions within the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) for Internal arbitrations and Councillor Conduct Panel's and is designed to be an informal process managing interpersonal disputes.

Resolution 2025/26

Moved: Cr Kate Kendall
Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council adopts the Draft Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure

CARRIED

COR.2 ALTERATION OF DATE OF JUNE COUNCIL MEETING**Summary**

It is proposed that Council reschedule the June Scheduled Council Meeting from Wednesday 25 June 2025 to Wednesday 18 June 2025.

Resolution 2025/27

Moved: Cr Alison Joseph
Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council reschedules the June Scheduled Council Meeting from Wednesday 25 June 2025 to 7pm Wednesday 18 June 2025 at the Gisborne Administration Centre.

CARRIED

COR.3 INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION**Summary**

This report seeks to revoke two Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation for two authorised officers who are no longer employees of Council. Only Council, by a resolution, can revoke the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation for authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) and the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Resolution 2025/28

Moved: Cr Alison Joseph

Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council resolves that in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation for Sarah Annells and Shawn Langley be revoked.

CARRIED

COR.4 BUDGET 2025-26 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement to initiate community engagement on key elements of the proposed Budget for the 2025-26 financial year, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The draft Budget 2025-26 is being developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and forms a key part of Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, to reflect community priorities, financial sustainability, and strategic delivery of services.

This report presents an overview of the elements of consultation material to be shared with the community to support the development of the Budget 2025-26 and seeks Council's approval to commence consultation to inform its development ahead of presentation to Council in June this year.

Resolution 2025/29

Moved: Cr Christine Walker

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the release of the Draft 2025-26 Budget consultation material.**
- 2. Endorses that community consultation to be undertaken for a period of two weeks, commencing 24 April 2025 until 8 May 2025, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.**
- 3. Notes that submissions to this period of community consultation will be presented to Council, together with the Draft Budget 2025-56 at the June meeting of Council.**

CARRIED

COR.5 CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED AS AT APRIL 2025**Summary**

This report provides details of contracts proposed to be awarded under a delegation from Council, from the date of the last report to 28 July 2021. Although this report recommends noting the power delegated to Council officers, Council has the power to:

- a) direct that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) award the contract under the direct delegation from Council; or
- b) specifically delegate the power to the CEO.

Resolution 2025/30

Moved: Cr Alison Joseph
Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council notes that the following contracts will be awarded by Council officers under delegated authority:

1. **C2025-85 Kerrie Hall Renewal**
2. **C2025-86 Gisborne Mechanics & Community Hall Works**
3. **C2025-87 Lauriston Footbridge Removal**

CARRIED**COR.6 MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA VOTING DELEGATE****Summary**

This report is presented to Council to determine Council's voting delegate, substitute voting delegate and second substitute voting delegate to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meetings until November 2025, following the election of Councillor Jennifer Anderson to the position of MAV President.

Resolution 2025/31

Moved: Cr Christine Walker
Seconded: Cr Cassy Borthwick

That Council appoints Councillor Daniel Young, Councillor Janet Pearce and Councillor Christine Walker to be the Council's voting delegate, substitute voting delegate and second substitute voting delegate for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meetings until November 2025.

CARRIED

12 COMMUNITY REPORTS**COM.1 SMALL PROJECTS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS APRIL 2025****Summary**

The Small Project Grants program supports projects and initiatives that:

- support local needs;
- are unlikely to be funded by other Council funding programs; and
- align with Council Plan priorities.

Council's Small Project Grants budget for 2024-25 is \$30,000 and not-for-profit groups can apply for a maximum of \$3,000 per application.

Applications are assessed against set criteria outlined in the Small Project Grants Guidelines. Funding recommendations are presented at a Council meeting for review and consideration.

This month one application has been received, seeking a total of \$1,440.00 in funding. The application has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and is deemed to be eligible.

Resolution 2025/32

Moved: Cr Andrew Scanlon

Seconded: Cr Alison Joseph

That Council approves the awarding of a \$1,440.00 small project grant to Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network, for their Equine Landcare. Healthy Land, Healthy Horse project.

CARRIED

COM.2 GOLDFIELDS LIBRARY SERVICE AND FUNDING AGREEMENT**Summary**

This report seeks Council approval for signing the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Agreement 2025 - 2027 (attached).

The agreement provides a framework for the provision of services and funding of the Regional Library Corporation for the next two years, with an expectation that the Corporation will be wound up and library services will be operating under a new constitution and library agreement within this time.

Resolution 2025/33

Moved: Cr Daniel Young

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Anderson

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Regional Library Service and Funding Agreement 2025 – 2027.

CARRIED

13 ASSETS AND OPERATIONS REPORTS**AO.1 RESPONSE TO PETITION IN RELATION TO THE SPEED LIMIT ON SPENCER ROAD, WOODEND****Summary**

A petition has been received from Nicholas Martin in Woodend on behalf of 30 residents stating:

“Mayor and Councillors of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, we the undersigned, petition Macedon Ranges Shire Council as of 1 March 2025 to maintain the speed limit for Spencer Road as a maximum of 50km/h, and move to re-install signage by the end of the month.”

On 26 March 2025 Council received a letter, signed by 21 individuals, strongly objecting to the request to formalise the default speed limit on Spencer Road at 50km/h, with the preference for an 80km/h limit instead.

This report provides recommendations based off regulatory and technical considerations to Councillors in regard to the speed limit along Spencer Road, Woodend.

Resolution 2025/34

Moved: Cr Kate Kendall

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council:

- 1. Proceeds with seeking approval from the Department of Transport and Planning to formalise the speed limit along Spencer Road, Woodend as 80km/h.**
- 2. Notifies residents of the recommendation of Council and the speed limit change.**
- 3. Installs speed signs once approval from the Department of Transport and Planning is received.**
- 4. Continues reviewing other instances of potential historical speed limit inconsistencies and proceed with formalising these with appropriate speed limits.**

CARRIED

AO.2 REQUEST TO INCLUDE UNMAINTAINED SECTION OF BLACKHILL ROAD, KYNETON ONTO THE PUBLIC ROAD REGISTER**Summary**

This report has been prepared in response to a request from a resident of Blackhill Road, Kyneton, to add an unmaintained section of the Blackhill Road access track - from the intersection of Blackhill Road and Foxes Lane to 558 Blackhill Road, spanning approximately 1,270 meters - to the Council's Public Road Register.

Resolution 2025/35

Moved: Cr Janet Pearce

Seconded: Cr Alison Joseph

That Council:

1. Does not proceed with including the section of Blackhill Road, Kyneton onto the Public Road Register.
2. Informs residents and other stakeholders of this decision.

CARRIED

AO.3 REQUEST TO INCLUDE UNMAINTAINED SECTION OF NORTHERN END OF MT WILLIAM ROAD ONTO THE PUBLIC ROAD REGISTER**Summary**

This report has been prepared in response to a request from a resident of Mt William Road, Goldie, to add an unmaintained section of the Mt William Road at the northern end, spanning approximately 130 meters (from end of the public road section) - to the Council's Public Road Register.

Resolution 2025/36

Moved: Cr Andrew Scanlon

Seconded: Cr Christine Walker

That Council :

1. Does not proceed with including the section of Mt William Road, Goldie onto the Public Road Register.
2. Informs residents and other stakeholders of this decision.

CARRIED

14 NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESCISSION

Nil

15 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

16 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**Resolution 2025/37**

Moved: Cr Janet Pearce

Seconded: Cr Alison Joseph

That pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council closes the meeting to the public to consider the confidential report(s) listed below, which are confidential on grounds provided in Section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

16.1 Community Award Nominations**CARRIED****Confidential reasons****16.1 Community Award Nominations**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - f of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 28 May 2025.