

Minutes

Council Meeting
Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 7:00 PM
Gisborne Administration Centre
40 Robertson Street, Gisborne

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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), Maria Weiss (Director Community), Lucy Olson (Senior Governance Officer - Council Business), Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations), Jessica Clarke-Hong (Manager Governance and Performance)

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

6 PETITIONS

6.1 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.”

Resolution 2025/12

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council:

1. Notes the petition from Nicholas Martin on the matter of the speed limit on Spencer Road Woodend with 30 signatories;
2. Notes that the petition has been circulated to all Councillors confidentially as it contains personal information; and
3. Requests that the Chief Executive prepare a report in response to this petition to be presented at the April meeting of Council.

CARRIED

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

7.1 PUBLIC QUESTION MATTHEW ROBERTS

Question

The Municipal Association of Victoria was concerned that decriminalising sex work would lead to an unmanageable number of complaints about sex work in the first year after sex work was decriminalised in Vic, Macedon Ranges Shire Council received 3 complaints about sex work. Does the Council believe it has enough resources to adequately respond to 3 annual complaints about sex work.

Answer

Thank you for the question. It is useful to reflect on the impact to local government of legislation change.

In the period 01/12/2023 - 01/12/2024, following the decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria, Macedon Ranges Shire Council has received three complaints relating to sex industry businesses. These complaints took an average of one hour each to investigate and resolve.

Council is currently sufficiently resourced across our compliance areas to adequately investigate and respond to complaints relating to sex work.

7.2 PUBLIC QUESTION SUZANNE EREAUT

Question

Can Council justify the increase in animal registration fees by over 12% in a year following a hefty increase last year? I point out that this level of increase is well outside the rate of inflation and well above all other fees levied by Council, I can only view this as a blatant money grab.

Answer

Council charges an animal registration fee to assist in covering the costs of Council's animal management program run by Council. This includes:

- Maintaining dog off leash areas including increased signage
- Supply of dog waste bags in popular dog exercising locations
- Responsible management of dog's campaign – for the love of paws
- Active animal management staff to respond to community reports, conducting proactive off leash patrols, and running a 24hr after hours service over 365 days per year
- Free ride home program for lost pets that are currently registered and don't have prior history of escaping or been involved in a dog attack.
- Service, maintain and operate kennelling/cattery facilities and purpose-built ranger vehicles
- Contracted pound services with the Lost Dogs Home for pets that cannot be returned home by officers
- Subsidised programs with discount incentive schemes for new registrations to promote pet adoptions and desexing

Council funds its Animal Management operations through fees, having adopted an educational approach to public dog management, and therefore doesn't rely on revenue from infringements issued to our community.

Animal registration fees are set each year through Council's budget process. When setting fees, Council considers the impact on the community and the sustainability of our services. The review of the fees for registrations reflects consideration of the increased costs to deliver these services. Between 2023 to the current year, all animal registration fees have gone up an average of 14%.

Across all of Council's fees and charges, while many have increased close to 5%, many have gone up by a greater or lesser degree, which reflects the impact of CPI increases, costs of service delivery, and other drivers.

The fees charged reflect the costs of the animal management program and is within the range of like benchmarked Councils.

8 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**Resolution 2025/13**

Moved: Cr Kate Kendall

Seconded: Cr Christine Walker

That Council confirms the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting of Macedon Ranges Shire Council held on 26 February 2025, as circulated with the notice of motion item number updated from 1/2024-25 to 70/2024-25.

CARRIED

9 MAYOR'S REPORT**9.1 MAYOR'S REPORT - FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025****Resolution 2025/14**

Moved: Cr Kate Kendall

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 - FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025
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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 2025/15

Moved: Cr Kate Kendall

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 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTS**PE.1 ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES SUPPORT FUND****Summary**

To present the guidelines for the 2026 ANZAC Day Commemorative Services Support Fund for Council endorsement, which aims to support traffic management efforts for established ANZAC Day Commemorative Services in the Macedon Ranges Shire.

Resolution 2025/16

Moved: Cr Daniel Young
Seconded: Cr Christine Walker

That Council adopts the guidelines for the 2026 ANZAC Day Commemorative Services Support Fund.

CARRIED

PE.2 DRAFT 2025 EVENTS AND FESTIVALS GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**Summary**

The 2025 Events and Festival Grant Program Guidelines have been prepared to provide a framework for the applicant and assessment of grants for events and festivals. The Guidelines are presented to Council for endorsement.

Resolution 2025/17

Moved: Cr Andrew Scanlon
Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council adopts the Draft 2025/2026 Events and Festival Grant Program Guidelines.

CARRIED

PE.3 DRAFT KYNETON URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK FOR ADOPTION**Summary**

The draft Kyneton Urban Design Framework (UDF) is a strategic plan for streetscape and public realm improvements in and around Kyneton's main commercial streets. Following consultation on the draft UDF carried out over three phases, the UDF has been amended in response to community and stakeholder feedback. A final draft of the UDF is now presented.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopts the draft Kyneton Urban Design Framework (2025).**
2. **Notifies all submitters of this decision and thanks them for their feedback.**

Cr Kate Kendall moved an alternative motion.

Resolution 2025/18

Moved: Cr Kate Kendall

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council:

1. **Adopts the draft Kyneton Urban Design Framework (2025), subject to the following changes:**
 - (a) **Removal of proposed kerb outstands at the:**
 - **South-east corner of Market Street/Mollison Street,**
 - **West corners of Yaldwyn Street West/Mollison Street.**
 - (b) **Undertakes community consultation for the final detailed design of Mollison Street/Piper Street intersection to ensure appropriate traffic movements.**
 - (c) **The kerb outstands in Piper Street are designed to ensure the heritage appearance of the street is maintained.**
 - (d) **Implementation of a kerb outstand trial on a Mollison Street intersection.**
 - (e) **The speed limit be modified to a minimum of 40km per hour.**
2. **Notifies all submitters of this decision and thanks them for their feedback.**

CARRIED

12 CORPORATE REPORTS

COR.1 CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED AS AT MARCH 2025

Summary

This report provides details of contracts proposed to be awarded under a delegation from Council, from the date of the last report. 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 certain powers to the CEO.

Resolution 2025/19

Moved: Cr Kate Kendall

Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council:

1. Notes that the following contracts will be awarded by Council officers under delegated authority:
 - (a) C2025-82 Woodend Tennis Courts Resurfacing and Drainage Works
 - (b) C2025-84 Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Urgent Works
2. Grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to execute the following contracts:
 - (a) C2025-81 Supply Panel Commercial Builders
3. Grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award the following contracts:
 - (a) C2025-83 Provision of Tree Management Services Supply Panel

CARRIED

13 ASSETS AND OPERATIONS REPORTS

AO.1 LANCEFIELD PARK RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Summary

This report presents the Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan (Attachment 1) to Council for consideration and noting.

Resolution 2025/20

Moved: Cr Daniel Young
Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council notes the Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

CARRIED

AO.2 RESPONSE TO PETITION - IMPROVED WILDLIFE SIGNAGE AND SPEED LIMIT REVIEW IN WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**Summary**

A petition has been received from Janine McDougall, a resident of Riddells Creek, on behalf of 62 people stating:

“Mayor and Councillors of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, we the undersigned, petition Macedon Ranges Shire Council, as of Friday September 22nd, 2024, to allocate more funding in the 2024-2025 Council managed roads audit to improved wildlife warning signage, speed limit review with a view to speed reduction in Wildlife prone area, and wildlife corridor feasibility studies.”

This report provides an update to councillors on the Council's ongoing and upcoming efforts to improve wildlife safety. It includes consideration of regulatory requirements, technical standards for speed reduction in Victoria, data integration, and the identification of hotspots. The report also outlines the development of a mitigation strategy and emphasises the importance of collaborating with the community and external stakeholders.

Resolution 2025/21

Moved: Cr Alison Joseph

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Anderson

That Council:

1. Continues collecting data and collaborating with Wildlife Victoria to identify areas with a high frequency of wildlife-vehicle collisions.
2. Continues to seek to reduce the potential for injury when planning and designing roads.
3. Continues to advocate for additional funding to support the ongoing implementation of Wildlife Victoria's Wildlife Road Toll Reduction project.
4. Continues to educate the community about wildlife and road safety.
5. Continues to review road operating speeds and signage at identified hotspots.
6. Submits a budget bid based on resolution 1 to 5 when a mitigation opportunity exists.

CARRIED

14 NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESCISSION**NO. 71/2024-25: NOTICE OF MOTION - OLD KYNETON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I, Councillor Janet Pearce, give notice that at the next Meeting of Council to be held on 26 March 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

Resolution 2025/22

Moved: Cr Janet Pearce

Seconded: Cr Kate Kendall

That Council:

- 1. Write to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Creative Victoria requesting a comprehensive update on the status and future plans for the Old Kyneton Primary School site, including the following detail at a minimum:**
 - **Confirmation of completed works and certification status;**
 - **Timeline for opening completed areas for public use;**
 - **Schedule and plans for any outstanding works;**
 - **Enabling access to outdoor spaces for public use;**
 - **Identification of the managing organisation, and their commencement timeline;**
 - **Timely communication with all parties who submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI), incorporating the above details; and a**
 - **Commitment to providing monthly progress updates via their website and to subscribed stakeholders.**
- 2. Provide a copy of the letter to the Minister for Creative Industries, the Hon. Colin Brooks MP.**

CARRIED

15 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

16 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

The meeting closed at 7:56pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 23 April 2025.