

Minutes

Council Meeting
Wednesday 22 April 2026 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 Kate Kendall (Mayor), Cr Cassy Borthwick (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jennifer Anderson, Cr Rob Guthrie, Cr Alison Joseph, Cr Janet Pearce, Cr Andrew Scanlon, Cr Daniel Young

IN ATTENDANCE

Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer), Adele Drago-Stevens (Director Corporate), Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment), Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations), Martin Collins (Director Community), Jessica Clarke-Hong (Manager Governance and Performance), Talysha Dawson (Governance Officer)

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Scanlon declared a material conflict in relation to item PE.1 due to his financial and professional relationship with Greater Western Water.

Cr Anderson declared a general conflict of interest in relation to item PE.2 due to a close personal association to an individual who will be directly impacted by the decision.

6 PETITIONS**6.1 PETITION IN RELATION TO THE CAMPASPE RIVER WALK DOG OFF-LEASH ZONE****Summary**

A petition has been received from Amy Cockroft in Kyneton on behalf of 421 residents regarding the Campaspe River Walk Dog Off-Leash Zone stating:

“Mayor and Councillors of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, we the undersigned, petition Macedon Ranges Shire Council as of 5 September 2025 to withdraw its proposal to remove the section between Piper Street and Jennings from the dog off-leash zone to the Campaspe River Walk from the Domestic Animal Management Plan (2026-2029).

We further petition Macedon Ranges Shire Council to include the following for the Campaspe River Walk:

- (1) Make the entire length from the Kyneton Racecourse to Langley Street off-leash from 7:30am to 10am daily;
- (2) Add an off-leash period from 5 – 7 pm daily;
- (3) Allow dogs to swim in the Campaspe River; and
- (4) Install more rubbish bins for responsible dog poo disposal.”

Resolution 2026/41

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council:

1. **Notes the petition from Amy Cockroft on the matter of the Campaspe River Walk Dog Off-Leash Zone with 421 signatories;**
2. **Notes that the petition has been circulated to all Councillors confidentially as it contains personal information; and**
3. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report in response to this petition to be presented at the June 2026 meeting of Council.**

CARRIED

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**7.1 PUBLIC QUESTIONS – ROBERT GREEN****Question 1:**

In the email reply from Director Corporate Drago-Stevens after 10 weeks to previous question regarding Foy St tip Lancefield it claims the Shire knew about it sometime in July and then was changed to May 2019. What date in May 2019 did this occur?

Answer:

Thank you for the question. As provided in response to a previous public question during the April 2025 Council Meeting, Council was formally notified of its responsibility for the

disused landfill site on the Showlers Lane road reserve (also known as the Foy St tip) around July 2019.

As further advised in correspondence to Mr Green in June 2025, on request, officers undertook a further search of our records, and confirmed that one email was discovered from the then Director Assets and Operations to the then Director Planning and Environment on 30 May 2019, that provided information that officers had been in contact with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) following a community report about a potential historic landfill or tip on a road reserve off Showlers Lane, Lancefield. The email discovered also requested that a member of the team support the EPA, stating that it was for advice regarding planning matters.

Question 2:

In a Shire (MRSC) email 8th December 2016 it identified a rare plant the matted flax lily (*Dianella amoena*) with federal, state and local protection under the “*Environmental Protection and Biological Act 1999*”. Why wasn’t the adjoining landowners independent panel, planning minister, contractor cutting grass and performing road works notified of its existence?

Answer:

Thanks for the question, and I would encourage Mr Green to engage directly with staff on the specifics of this question so that sufficient detail can be provided in the question and subsequent answer.

In general, however, the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) is a comprehensive, web-based system that collects, manages, and shares information on Victorian flora and fauna to inform conservation and land management. It is managed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and is used as a tool to manage and measure biodiversity across Victoria.

You can use the tool to search and map species from across the state, check for threatened species in a location.

The process for updating the VBA involves uploading new species records directly on the VBA website and submitting them for review. Council regularly uploads species records to the VBA for upload from our monitoring and citizen science program – generally records will be on Council-managed land.

Council do not notify landholders of threatened species on their land. The onus for notifying landowners of threatened species lies with the state and federal departments and the landholder themselves has a responsibility to report the discovery of threatened species during environmental impact assessments on their land.

Council's roadsides have all been assessed and rated for their conservation value. Roadsides with rare and/or high quality native vegetation will be marked as 'high value' which is checked before roadside slashing occurs. Generally roadsides of high conservation value will not be slashed.

8 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Resolution 2026/42

Moved: Cr Rob Guthrie
Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That the minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council held on Wednesday 25 March 2026 as circulated be confirmed.

CARRIED

9 MAYOR'S REPORT**9.1 MAYOR'S REPORT****Resolution 2026/43**

Moved: Cr Rob Guthrie

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

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 Councillors 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 2026/44

Moved: Cr Janet Pearce

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

Procedural Note: Having previously declared a conflict of interest in relation to this item, Cr Andrew Scanlon left the meeting at 7:11pm.

PE.1 PLN/2020/165 - 198 MOUNT GISBORNE ROAD, GISBORNE**Recommendation**

That Council extends Planning Permit PLN/2020/165 for development of a telecommunications facility at 198 Mount Gisborne Road, Gisborne for a further 2 years so that development must commence by 22 December 2027 and be completed by 22 December 2029.

Cr Alison Joseph moved an alternative motion.

Resolution 2026/45

Moved: Cr Alison Joseph
Seconded: Cr Rob Guthrie

That Council refuses to extend Planning Permit PLN/2020/165 for the development of a telecommunications facility at 198 Mount Gisborne Road, Gisborne on the grounds that:

- 1. Sufficient time as elapsed for the development of the land to commence; and**
- 2. The applicant has failed to provide good reasons or sufficient evidence as to why the extension should be granted.**

In Favour: Crs Cassy Borthwick, Jennifer Anderson, Rob Guthrie and Alison Joseph

Against: Crs Kate Kendall, Janet Pearce and Daniel Young

CARRIED 4/3

Procedural Note: Cr Andrew Scanlon returned to the meeting at 7:26pm.

Procedural Note: Having previously declared a conflict of interest in relation to this item, Cr Jennifer Anderson left the meeting at 7:26pm.

PE.2 ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES GRANT GUIDELINES**Summary**

In 2025 Council established the Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund and associated guidelines, to support traffic management efforts for established Anzac Day Commemorative Services in the Macedon Ranges Shire. The Guidelines were tested in the first round of grant awarding and require amending to ensure all long held Anzac Day Services across the Shire can receive Council support for traffic management.

Resolution 2026/46

Moved: Cr Daniel Young
Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council adopts the guidelines for the Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund, as attached.

In Favour: Crs Kate Kendall, Rob Guthrie, Janet Pearce and Daniel Young

Against: Crs Cassy Borthwick, Alison Joseph and Andrew Scanlon

CARRIED 4/3

Procedural Note: Cr Jennifer Anderson returned to the meeting at 7:43pm.

12 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**CX.1 PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE CLARKE STREET FOOTBRIDGE IN MOUNT MACEDON IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE CHRISTINE WALKER - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES****Summary**

To present the results of community consultation regarding the proposal to rename the Clarke Street footbridge in Mount Macedon to “Christine Walker Footbridge” in honour of the late South Ward Councillor Christine Walker, and to seek Council’s decision on whether to proceed with the naming request.

Resolution 2026/47

Moved: Cr Janet Pearce

Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council:

- 1. Notes the feedback received during the community consultation period and acknowledges community participation in the process;**
- 2. Resolves to proceed with submitting the proposed name, “Christine Walker Footbridge” to the Registrar of Geographic Names in accordance with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria;**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to appoint an officer to lodge the proposal with Geographic Names Victoria; and**
- 4. Requests that the Chief Executive Officer provide updates, once the Registrar’s determination has been received, to:**
 - **The family of the late Christine Walker;**
 - **All respondents to the consultation process; and**
 - **Council’s website and social media channels.**

CARRIED

13 CORPORATE REPORTS**COR.1 BUDGET 2026/27 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT****Summary**

This report seeks Council's endorsement to initiate community engagement on key elements of the proposed Budget for the 2026/27 financial year, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The draft Budget 2026/27 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 that will support the ongoing development of the Budget 2026/27 and seeks Council's approval to commence consultation ahead of presentation of the final draft Budget to Council in June this year.

Resolution 2026/48

Moved: Cr Cassy Borthwick

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That Council:**1. Endorses:**

- (a) the release of the Draft 2026/27 Budget consultation material; and
- (b) that community consultation be undertaken for a period of four weeks, commencing 24 April 2026, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

2. Notes the responses received during community consultation and that submissions and responses will be presented to Council, together with the Draft Budget 2026/27 at the June meeting of Council.**CARRIED****COR.2 INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION****Summary**

This report seeks to revoke four (4) Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation for the officers listed in this report 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).

Recommendation

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 the following officers listed in this report.

Cr Rob Guthrie moved an amended officer recommendation.

Resolution 2026/49

Moved: Cr Rob Guthrie

Seconded: Cr Cassy Borthwick

That Council resolves to revoke the Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation for the following officers:

- Amy McKenzie (Swan)
- Declan Hunter
- Sky Chen
- Rees May

CARRIED

COR.3 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Summary

This report presents the Risk Management Policy for Council's consideration and formal adoption.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Risk Management Policy 2026 as presented with this report, effective from 23 April 2026.

Cr Jennifer Anderson moved an alternative motion.

Resolution 2026/50

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson

Seconded: Cr Alison Joseph

That Council defers the consideration of the Risk Management Policy 2026 to the August 2026 Council Meeting to allow further discussion and setting of our risk appetite.

In Favour: Crs Cassy Borthwick, Jennifer Anderson, Rob Guthrie, Alison Joseph and Andrew Scanlon

Against: Crs Kate Kendall, Janet Pearce and Daniel Young

CARRIED 5/3

14 COMMUNITY REPORTS**COM.1 SMALL PROJECT GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS****Summary**

The Small Project Grants program provides opportunities for not-for-profit community groups to access funding for 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 2025/2026 Budget Year 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 Scheduled Council Meeting for review and approval.

Between 1 January and 28 February, 11 applications were received and evaluated against the program eligibility criteria. Nine (9) applications were deemed eligible and proceeded to assessment in March 2026, seeking a combined funding request of \$20,836, exceeding the available budget by \$6,379.70. Seven (7) applications are recommended for funding, with the remaining two (2) applications encouraged to re-apply under the Community Funding Scheme in April 2026.

Resolution 2026/51

Moved: Cr Janet Pearce

Seconded: Cr Alison Joseph

That Council

- 1. Endorses the Small Project Grants Assessment Panel's recommendation to award:**
 - (a) an \$840 Small Project Grant to Woodend Neighbourhood House, for the 'Infant life-saving skills for informal carers' project;**
 - (b) a \$3,000 Small Project Grant to Newham Mechanics Institute Inc, for the 'Replacement Glasswasher' project;**
 - (c) a \$1,870.30 Small Project Grant to Macedon Ranges Filipino Community, for the 'Handa at Matatag (Ready and Resilient)' project;**
 - (d) a \$2,600 Small Project Grant to Kyneton Croquet Club, for the 'Kyneton Croquet Club 150th Anniversary' project;**
 - (e) a \$2,600 Small Project Grant to Gisborne & District Adult Riding Club Inc. for the 'Inclusive Equestrian Confidence and Wellbeing Program';**
 - (f) a \$1,500 Small Project Grant to Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group, for the 'Engaging Men Through Lived Experience Storytelling' project;**
 - (g) a \$2,046 Small Project Grant to Woodend Bowling Club, for the 'Bowls for children, elderly & disabled' project.**

2. **Notes that the Small Project Grants Program budget for 2025-26 has now been expended, and that prospective applicants will be encouraged, if eligible, to apply for project funding via the Community Funding Scheme, opening in April 2026, or the 2026-27 Small Project Grants Program, opening in July 2026.**

CARRIED

15 ASSETS AND OPERATIONS REPORTS

AO.1 THREE CHAIN ROAD, NEWHAM - INTERSECTION UPDATE

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the safety concerns and actions undertaken following the fatal crash at the intersection of Three Chain Road, Egans Lane and Dons Road, Newham in February 2026.

The report outlines the findings of the independent Road Safety Audit, confirms that officers have formally submitted a request to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to reduce the speed limit on the section of Three Chain Road surrounding the intersection from 100 km/h to 80 km/h, and advises that additional traffic count and speed data is currently being assessed to inform any further safety measures that may be considered.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes the officer update regarding the Three Chain Road / Egans Lane / Dons Road intersection, Newham;**
2. **Endorses the officer submission to the Department of Transport and Planning seeking a reduction of the speed limit from 100 km/h to 80 km/h on the section of Three Chain Road surrounding the intersection; and**
3. **Endorses officers continuing to assess the findings of the Road Safety Audit together with recently collected traffic count and speed data to inform any further safety measures for Council's future consideration.**

Cr Jennifer Anderson moved an amended officer recommendation.

Resolution 2026/52

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson

Seconded: Cr Andrew Scanlon

That Council:

1. **Notes the officer update regarding the Three Chain Road / Egans Lane / Dons Road Intersection, Newham;**
 2. **Notes that the Department of Transport and Planning has supported Council's submission and approved a reduction of the speed limit from 100 km/h to 80km/h on the section of Three Chain Road surrounding the intersection; and**
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3. Endorses officers continuing to assess the findings of the Road Safety Audit together with recently collected traffic count and speed data to inform any further safety measures for Council's future consideration.

CARRIED

16 NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESCISSION

NO. 16/2025-26: NOTICE OF MOTION - MOUNT MACEDON MEMORIAL CROSS VIEW LINES PROJECT

I, Councillor Jennifer Anderson, give notice that at the next Meeting of Council to be held on 22 April 2026, I intend to move the following motion:

Motion

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson

Seconded: Cr Cassy Borthwick

That Council:

1. Notes that:

(a) The Victorian State Minister for Planning, the honourable Sonya Kilkenny MP, has determined to support the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross View Lines Project as a State Project under Clause 52.30-2 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

(b) The Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Planning Delegated Committee refused to grant a permit for the removal of the same vegetation at the same site at its meeting on 12 July 2023.

(c) Council was not notified that the Minister for Planning had received an application from Parks Victoria to consider the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross View Lines Project as a State Project and had no opportunity to provide feedback as part of the Minister's decision.

(d) The approval by the Minister for Planning allows the removal of a number of Snow Gums. The Mount Macedon Snow Gum populations represent the highest altitude stands within the Shire and are documented to be among the largest occurring outside eastern Victoria and the Alpine regions, as noted in the Assessment of the Distribution, Health and Ecology of Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora* ssp. *pauciflora*) populations in the Macedon Shire, May 2022.

(e) There is associated flora around the Snow Gums on Mount Macedon that is markedly different from other Snow Gum populations due to the area's unique geology and montane climate and includes several rare and threatened understory species. The removal of the Snow Gums will also have a detrimental impact on these species.

(f) While Parks Victoria have some exemptions from permits for removal of native vegetation and thus offset provisions at Clause 52.17 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, the proposal results in a permanent loss of biodiversity which is not planned to be replaced.

2. Requests the CEO and Mayor write to the following:

(a) Parks Victoria, to request them to provide Council with an assessment by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) of what biodiversity/vegetation offset would be required had this project not been determined under the State Project pathway and request that they do provide an offset for the vegetation removal and impact on understory species and that this be within the Macedon Ranges Local government area.

(b) The Minister for Planning to provide and publicly release details of how the application was assessed as complying with clause 52.30-5 (Consultation requirements) and how she has assessed the application as being consistent with the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy.

Procedural Note: Cr Daniel Young moved an amendment to the motion before the chair.

Amendment

Moved: Cr Daniel Young

Seconded: Cr Janet Pearce

That the motion be amended by removing points 1(d) and (e):

1. (d) The approval by the Minister for Planning allows the removal of a number of Snow Gums. The Mount Macedon Snow Gum populations represent the highest altitude stands within the Shire and are documented to be among the largest occurring outside eastern Victoria and the Alpine regions, as noted in the Assessment of the Distribution, Health and Ecology of Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora* ssp. *pauciflora*) populations in the Macedon Shire, May 2022.

(e) There is associated flora around the Snow Gums on Mount Macedon that is markedly different from other Snow Gum populations due to the area's unique geology and montane climate and includes several rare and threatened understory species. The removal of the Snow Gums will also have a detrimental impact on these species.

In Favour: Crs Kate Kendall, Janet Pearce, Andrew Scanlon and Daniel Young

Against: Crs Cassy Borthwick, Jennifer Anderson, Rob Guthrie and Alison Joseph

CARRIED 5/4 BY CASTING VOTE

Resolution 2026/53

Moved: Cr Jennifer Anderson

Seconded: Cr Cassy Borthwick

That Council:

1. **Notes that:**

(a) The Victorian State Minister for Planning, the honourable Sonya Kilkenny MP, has determined to support the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross View Lines Project as a State Project under Clause 52.30-2 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

(b) The Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Planning Delegated Committee refused to grant a permit for the removal of the same vegetation at the same site at its meeting on 12 July 2023.

(c) Council was not notified that the Minister for Planning had received an application from Parks Victoria to consider the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross View Lines Project as a State Project and had no opportunity to provide feedback as part of the Minister's decision.

(d) While Parks Victoria have some exemptions from permits for removal of native vegetation and thus offset provisions at Clause 52.17 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, the proposal results in a permanent loss of biodiversity which is not planned to be replaced.

2. Requests the CEO and Mayor write to the following:

(a) Parks Victoria, to request them to provide Council with an assessment by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) of what biodiversity/vegetation offset would be required had this project not been determined under the State Project pathway and request that they do provide an offset for the vegetation removal and impact on understory species and that this be within the Macedon Ranges Local government area.

(b) The Minister for Planning to provide and publicly release details of how the application was assessed as complying with clause 52.30-5 (Consultation requirements) and how she has assessed the application as being consistent with the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy

CARRIED

17 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

18 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Resolution 2026/54

Moved: Cr Rob Guthrie

Seconded: Cr Jennifer Anderson

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*:

18.1 Community Awards Program 2026 - Recipient Recommendations

CARRIED

Confidential reasons

18.1 Community Awards Program 2026 - Recipient Recommendations

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 9:02pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2026.