

Agenda

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, present and emerging.

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 is being 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**4 APOLOGIES****5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

6 PETITIONS

6.1	PETITION IN RELATION TO THE CAMPASPE RIVER WALK DOG OFF-LEASH ZONE
Officer:	Talysha Dawson, Governance Officer
Council Plan relationship:	Our Performance

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.”

Recommendation**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.**

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

8 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That Council confirms the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting of Macedon Ranges Shire Council held on 25 March 2026, as circulated.

9 MAYOR'S REPORT**9.1 MAYOR'S REPORT****Summary**

This report provides an update from the Mayor on recent Council activities and initiatives of a Shire wide nature.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's report.

Mayor's report

Welcome to the April Mayor's Report.

The Autumn Festival is in full swing, and our Shire looks its absolute best this time of year.

It was great to see the return of the Lost Trades Fair to the Macedon Ranges, at Hanging Rock. I headed along on Sunday, the weather was perfect and I bumped into many Macedon Ranges locals excited that the Fair has returned to our region. Thanks so much to Lisa Rundell, Glen Rundell and their team, Macedon Ranges Shire Council Economic Development and Visitor Economy team, volunteer Ruth from our Visitor Information Centre, Head Ranger Shane and his team, volunteers from Newham Fire Brigade CFA, visiting trades and of course, our local makers, creators, producers and more for making the fair such a special experience. The event saw over 10,000 attendees, including visitors to our region, and I can't wait for the next one already.

I am also pleased to share that I have been appointed as one of 11 mayors across Victoria to the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel. This is an important opportunity to ensure that semi-rural communities like ours are strongly represented in discussions with the new Minister for Local Government, particularly as the sector navigates increasing financial and service delivery pressures. I look forward to contributing practical, on-the-ground perspectives to these conversations.

On the intersection front, Council has secured approval from the Department of Transport and Planning to reduce the speed limit to 80 km/h along a three-kilometre section of Three Chain Road in Newham. The incredibly swift action from DTP and Council, in conjunction with steadfast commitment from the community and Councillors showcases that anything is possible with the right advocacy.

The month-long Edgy Veg Awards are now underway, showcasing the strength and creativity of our local hospitality sector. Initiatives like this play a solid role in supporting local business, allowing vegetables to take centre stage and reinforcing the Macedon Ranges brand as a food and tourism destination.

Self-nominations for the Josh's Rainbow Eggs Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards open on Monday 27 April and close on Friday 10 July 2026. These awards are an opportunity to formally recognise the businesses that are driving innovation, service quality and economic activity across our Shire. I encourage eligible businesses to put themselves forward.

I continue to prioritise direct engagement with residents through weekly Meet the Mayor sessions, held both in person at Kyneton Town Hall and online. These sessions are amazing

way for me to hear directly from the community and to listen to your concerns and ideas. In other Meet the Mayor news, I was recently on ABC Radio's Meet the Mayor, however, it was with Waleed Aly as he was filling in for Rafael Epstein. Thanks to the residents who called in to ask about things such as the soft plastic recycling program, the Shared Trail priority project, Council's tree planting program and more.

Councillors also took part in a video recording for Youth Council. Expression of Interest applications closed on Friday 17 April, and we look forward to working with the Youth Council soon.

Events

Councillors were pleased to be invited to the following events/meetings since the last Scheduled Council Meeting:

- 26 March Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel (LGMAP)
- 26 March Local Government Focus Day
- 26 March VLGA Gender Equality Roundtable Meeting
- 27 March CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee
- 27 March Mayor & Deputy Mayor Media Training
- 27 March Regional Library Board Meeting
- 27 March Bolinda Hall Committee World Class Artists Event
- 28 & 29 March Lost Trades Fair at Hanging Rock
- 29 March Changemakers Sustainable Home Tour: Kyneton Passivhaus
- 30 March Council Meeting Wrap Video: Bullengarook Recreation Reserve
- 30 March Kyneton Dog Obedience Club Meeting
- 30 March *Meet the Mayor* session
- 1 April Mayor Visit to Campaspe Downs
- 1 April Tour of Western Treatment Plant Cocoroc
- 2 April Planning Application Consultation Meeting
- 7 April Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Toastmasters Group 1000th meeting
- 9 April ABC Radio Meet the Mayor Interview
- 9 April Creative Kids Event in the Town Hall
- 9 April Workspace Board Meeting
- 11 April Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Toastmasters Open Day
- 11 April Kabinet Milestone event
- 11 April Kangaroo Community Information Stall at Kyneton Farmers' Market
- 13 April *Meet the Mayor* session
- 14-26 April Mt Macedon Memorial Cross: The Art of Sacrifice Exhibition
- 14 April Visit to Woiworung Cottage New Gisborne
- 16 April Planning Application Consultation Meeting

- 16 April Meeting with Bhutanese Disaster Delegation
- 16 April Urban Rivers and Catchments Program Site Visit
- 17 April Civility Summit 2026
- 19 April Picnic in the Kyneton Botanical Gardens
- 20 April *Meet the Mayor* session
- 20 April Meeting with Kyneton & Malmsbury ANZAC Day Organisers
- 20 April Visit to Kyneton Youth Portable
- 20 April Malmsbury Community Engagement Group
- 22 April LGWGOG Local Government Working Group on Gambling

Have a great month ahead and see you around the Shire!

Mayor Kendall

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

10 RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF**10.1 RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF****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.

Recommendation

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

Record of meetings

Type of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date and time	9:30am Tuesday 24 March 2026
Venue	Gisborne Administration Centre, 40 Robertson St, Gisborne
Present - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kate Kendall (Mayor) • Cr Jennifer Anderson • Cr Rob Guthrie • Cr Alison Joseph • Cr Janet Pearce • Cr Andrew Scanlon • Cr Daniel Young
Apologies - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Cassy Borthwick (Deputy Mayor) • Cr Dominic Bonanno (on leave)
Present - officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer) • Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment) • Adele Drago-Stevens (Director Corporate) • Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations) • Martin Collins (Director Community) • Jessica Clarke-Hong (Manager Governance and Performance) • Rob Ball (Manager Strategic Planning and Environment)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Finlay (Manager Parks, Civil Services & Resource Recovery) • Adele Hayes (Manager Statutory Planning) • Karen Curson (Manager Community Services) • Kylie Tatt (Manager People and Wellbeing) • Jarrod Westwood (Manager Aquatics, Recreation and Facilities) • Samantha Waymouth (Coordinator Early Years Services) • Margaux McKenzie (Coordinator Performance and Assurance) • David Bergin (Consultant Senior Strategic Planner) • Alison Elliott (Senior Performance and Assurance Officer) • Lucy Olson (Senior Governance Officer) • Jack Wiltshire (Strategic Planner) • Sarah Day (Early Years' Service Planner)
Apologies officers	Nil
Presenters	Nil
Items discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Scheme Review - Update and Workshop Outline • Strategic Direction for Kindergarten • Youth Summit Virtual Attendance (Community event outside of briefing) • Service Review Program Review and Update • Planning Matters • March Council Meeting Agenda Review • Other Business
Conflicts of interest declared by Councillors and record of them leaving the meeting when the matter about which they declared the conflict of interest was discussed	<p>Nil</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? N/A</p>
Conflicts of interest declared by officers	<p>Bernie O'Sullivan (CEO) declared a general conflict of interest with item COR.4 on the agenda in the agenda review.</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? Yes from 1:02pm to 1:13pm.</p> <p>Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment) declared a general conflict of interest with items AO.1 and AO.2 on the agenda in the agenda review.</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? Yes from 1:17pm to 1:27pm.</p>

Type of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date and time	9:30am Tuesday 7 April 2026
Venue	Gisborne Administration Centre, 40 Robertson St, Gisborne
Present - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kate Kendall (Mayor) • Cr Cassy Borthwick (Deputy Mayor) • Cr Rob Guthrie • Cr Alison Joseph • Cr Janet Pearce • Cr Daniel Young
Apologies - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Jennifer Anderson • Cr Andrew Scanlon • Cr Dominic Bonanno (on leave)
Present - officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer) • Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment) • Adele Drago-Stevens (Director Corporate) • Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations) • Martin Collins (Director Community) • Lydia Sorensen (Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy) • Rob Ball (Manager Strategic Planning and Environment) • Adele Hayes (Manager Statutory Planning) • Simon Finlay (Manager Parks Civil Service and Resource Recovery) • Kylie Tatt (Manager People and Wellbeing) • Peter O'Brien (Coordinator Statutory Planning and Compliance) • Scott Gilchrist (Coordinator Parks) • Rebecca Pedretti (Coordinator Visitor Economy), • Sian Bloom (Subdivision Landscape Assessment Officer) • Talysha Dawson (Governance Officer)
Apologies officers	Nil
Presenters	Nil
Items discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration to the Anzac Day Commemorative Services Grant Guidelines • Nature Strip Landscaping Policy Review • Risk Management Policy 2026 Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 4 – Budget 2026/27 • Planning Matters • April Council Meeting Agenda Review • Other Business
Conflicts of interest declared by Councillors and record of them leaving the meeting when the matter about which they declared the conflict of interest was discussed	<p>Nil</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? N/A</p>
Conflicts of interest declared by officers	<p>Nil</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? N/A</p>

Type of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Date and time	9:30am Tuesday 14 April 2026
Venue	Gisborne Administration Centre, 40 Robertson St, Gisborne
Present - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kate Kendall (Mayor) • Cr Cassy Borthwick (Deputy Mayor) • Cr Jennifer Anderson • Cr Rob Guthrie • Cr Alison Joseph • Cr Janet Pearce • Cr Daniel Young
Apologies - Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Dominic Bonanno (on leave) • Cr Andrew Scanlon
Present - officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer) • Rebecca Stockfeld (Director Planning and Environment) • Dominic Testoni (Director Assets and Operations) • Adele Drago-Stevens (Director Corporate) • Martin Collins (Director Community) • Margaux McKenzie (Acting Manager Governance and Performance) • Travis Harling (Manager Finance and Reporting) • Kylie Tatt (Manager People and Wellbeing), • Adele Hayes (Manager Statutory Planning) • Kristal Maynard (Manager Safer Communities) • Setina Rockcliff (Coordinator Risk and OHS)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verity Games (Coordinator Statutory Planning and Subdivisions) • Tania MacLeod (Coordinator Environment) • Zuzana Barnett (Coordinator Accounting) • Althea Jalbert (Coordinator Local Laws) • Emma Sodamaco (Community Engagement Lead) • Lucy Olson (Senior Governance Officer) • Zoe Hardiman (Acting Governance Officer)
Apologies officers	Nil
Presenters and Externals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magdalena Williams (Audit and Risk Committee Member) • Pete Gervasoni (Chief Executive Officer and Organisational Resilience Expert of Skefto Innovations).
Items discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Off Leash and Prohibited Areas – Summary of Stage Two Consultation Feedback • Community Local Law Review of Clause 38 – Public Consultation Approach • Workshop 5 – Budget 2026/27 • Risk Appetite Statement – Annual Review & Workshop Overview • Planning Matters • Reports for Noting • Other Business
Conflicts of interest declared by Councillors and record of them leaving the meeting when the matter about which they declared the conflict of interest was discussed	<p>Nil</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? N/A</p>
Conflicts of interest declared by officers	<p>Nil</p> <p>Did they leave the meeting? N/A</p>

11 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

PE.1	PLN/2020/165 - 198 MOUNT GISBORNE ROAD, GISBORNE
Application Details:	Greater Western Water
Officer:	Verity Games, Coordinator Statutory Planning and Subdivisions
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places Our Environment
Attachments:	Planning Permit PLN2020/165 ↓
Triggers for planning permit	a Clause 36.03 (Public Conservation and Resource Zone) – Permit required to construct a building or carry out works.
	Clause 42.03-2 (Significant Landscape Overlay) – Permit required to construct a building or carry out works.
	Clause 52.19-1 (Telecommunications Facility) – Permit is required to construct a building or carry out works for a communication facility.
Zones and Overlays	Public Conservation and Resource Zone Environmental Significance Overlay – Schedule 5 (part) Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 2
No. of objectors	N/A
Trigger for report to Council	Decision on request to extend planning permit requested to be decided on by Council
Key Considerations	What matters can be considered in a request to extend a planning permit? Whether the request to extend the permit is appropriate in light of the Kantor and AMV Homes Pty Ltd tests.
Conclusion	That the planning permit be extended
Date of receipt of application:	3 March 2026

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.

Existing conditions and relevant historySubject land

The subject site is located on the summit of Mount Gisborne. The site is irregularly shaped and is accessed from Woodland Drive which also forms the northern boundary of the site.

In 1987 a 22.5m high telecommunications mast was erected on the summit of Mount Gisborne to relay two-way radio signals. This mast was destroyed in a storm in July 2019. The associated concrete pad and underground conduits were not affected.

There are temporary facilities located on the adjoining property.

Surrounds

The subject site is surrounded by land within the Rural Living Zone and Rural Conservation Zone.

Registered restrictive covenants and/or Section 173 Agreements affecting the site

N/A

Previous planning permit history

Planning permit PLN/2020/165 was approved on 22 December 2021 for:

In accordance with the endorsed plans:

Develop a telecommunications facility

Condition 16 of this permit requires that development be commenced within two years of the permit being issued, being 22 December 2023, unless otherwise a request to extend the time frame was granted.

A two-year extension was granted on 16 February 2024 so that development must commence by 22 December 2025.

Proposal

The application seeks to extend the existing planning permit for a further two years to allow development to commence by 22 December 2027.

The permit expired on 22 December 2025 as the development has not commenced. Whilst development has not commenced by the expiry date, condition 16 of the permit states the following wording:

Before the permit expires, or within six (6) months afterwards, the owner or occupier of the land may make a written request to the responsible authority to extend the expiry date.

This wording is in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and is commonly referred to as the 'grace period' to extend a planning permit.

The request has been made within six months of the expiry date and thus can be considered.

Relevant Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme controlsSection 46AZK of the Planning and Environment Act 1987

Section 46AZK of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires Council as a Responsible Public Entity to not act inconsistently with any provision of the Statement of Planning Policy (SOPP) in exercising decision making powers. The *Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy* is a reference document under Clause 11.03-5S (Distinctive

areas and landscapes) which recognises the importance of distinctive areas and landscapes to the people of Victoria that are to be protected and enhanced.

The proposal is generally consistent with the Statement of Planning Policy and the application will meet the objectives and strategies specified in the policy.

Planning Policy Framework

Clause no.	Clause name
11	Settlement
12	Environmental and Landscape Values
15	Built Environment and Heritage
19	Infrastructure

Zoning

Clause no.	Clause name
36.03	Public Conservation and Resource Zone

Overlay

Clause no.	Clause name
42.03	Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 2

Particular provisions

Clause no.	Clause name
52.19	Telecommunications Facility

Officer assessment

What matters can be considered in a request to extend a planning permit?

Section 69 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) provides the ability to extend the time for a planning permit to start or be completed. More than one extension of time can be granted for a permit.

As the Act itself does not set out specific criteria for assessment of these requests, the relevant considerations, or tests, have been established in case law at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). The most relevant cases being *Kantor v Murrindindi Shire Council* 18 AATR 285; and *AMV Homes Pty Ltd v Moreland CC* (Includes Summary) (Red Dot) [2015] VCAT 1699).

In deciding whether to grant an extension, Council as the responsible authority should reassess the proposal in the present context, taking into account the following considerations:

- whether there have been any changes to relevant planning controls or planning policy
- the likelihood of a permit being granted if a fresh application was made for the proposal
- the total elapsed time, taking into account whether the originally imposed time limit was adequate
- whether the landowner is seeking to 'warehouse' the permit (that is, store the permit without intending to act upon it)
- intervening circumstances, including:

- action taken by the applicant in the context of any legislative and policy uncertainties, including under other jurisdictions
- whether conditions on adjoining land may have changed in a way that would affect the proposal
- the economic burden imposed on the landowner by the permit, including whether the cost of having to comply with the permit conditions was so onerous that the time available for compliance was inadequate.

The above considerations are widely applied and are known as the 'Kantor principles'. They stem from a decision of the Supreme Court in *Kantor v Murrindindi Shire Council* (1997) 18 AATR 285.

This process does not provide the opportunity to conduct a fresh merits based assessment of the proposal against the Planning Scheme, with the scope of consideration limited to the matters outlined above.

Whether the request to extend the permit is appropriate in light of the Kantor and AMV Homes Pty Ltd tests

The request has been considered against the 'Kantor' and 'AMV' principles as follows:

Kantor Test	Assessment
<i>Whether there has been a legislative or policy change since the permit was granted.</i>	<p>Council must consider if the planning policy context has shifted since the permit was issued.</p> <p>In the time since the permit was issued, there has been no legislative or policy changes that are relevant to the consideration of the proposal, nor affect the controls relevant to the site, being the Public Conservation and Resources Zone and Significant Landscape Overlay, Schedule 2.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that Clause 52.19 (Telecommunications Facility) has been amended since the permit was issued (under Amendment VC226). The changes made as part of this amendment consisted of expanding the list of permit exempt telecommunications facilities, increased the list of permit applications that are exempt from the notice and review requirements and removed A Code of Practice for Telecommunications Facilities in Victoria (2004) as an incorporated document in the planning scheme.</p> <p>These changes do not alter the consideration of this particular proposal</p>

	<p>as it would still require a permit, would still require public notice and does not change the design and siting matters that were considered as part of the original assessment. These changes would not have any material effect on the original permit decision making process.</p>
<p><i>Whether the permit holder is seeking to 'warehouse' the permit.</i></p>	<p>It is unlikely that the permit holder is seeking to warehouse the permit. The application material states that the proposal relates to critical infrastructure which Greater Western Water (GWW) relies on in fulfilling its obligations as a Water Corporation. To 'warehouse' a permit for such a development could not provide financial benefit in these circumstances, nor would it be likely to provide any long-term gain.</p> <p>The applicant has stated that directly contrary to any desire to delay or warehouse the permit, these vital communications systems, are currently operating under temporary arrangements and GWW wishes to complete the permanent development as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>The applicant is currently in active negotiations with the neighbouring landowner and with Council to secure the required access and lease arrangements prior to commencing the development.</p> <p>This demonstrates a clear commitment to progressing the project rather than simply warehousing or holding onto the permit without intending to act on it or waiting for a more advantageous time.</p>
<p><i>Has progress been made towards completing the subdivision/ development/use?</i></p>	<p>Plans were endorsed to satisfy conditions of the permit in September 2023. Since that time the applicant has been actively working to resolve access arrangements to be able to act on the permit.</p>
<p><i>Has an excessive amount of time elapsed since the permit was granted?</i></p>	<p>A total of four years have passed since the permit was issued. This is not an excessive amount of time considering the complexities of negotiating a lease</p>

	agreement and access arrangements for what is an environmentally sensitive site.
<i>Was the original time limit reasonable?</i>	<p>The original two year timeframe and two year extension were deemed adequate to commence the development. However, due to unforeseen delays with negotiating the lease agreement and access, it has proved not to be sufficient time.</p> <p>The development of the proposal cannot be commenced until access to the property is facilitated. GWW has been working closely with Council and the adjoining landowner to allow this. It is acknowledged that creating a lease agreement with multiple stakeholders can be a time consuming process.</p>
<i>Would the permit holder experience an economic burden by refusing the request?</i>	<p>It is acknowledged that there would be substantial costs associated with lodging a new application.</p> <p>The applicant has expended significant time and expense to progress this development. Refusing the application would create a significant and unnecessary expense that would hinder the progress of implementing necessary public infrastructure.</p>
<i>Would a permit be granted for the proposal now?</i>	There has been no substantive change to policy affecting the proposal or the site context since the permit was issued. As such, it is likely a permit would be granted should a fresh application be made.

AMV Homes Pty Ltd Test	Assessment
<p><i>An applicant should advance good reasons as to why an extension should be granted</i></p> <p><i>a request should not be approved simply because it has been asked for.</i></p>	The applicant has been actively pursuing the proposal and it is reasonable that there has been delays experienced due to negotiating a lease agreement to gain suitable site access.
<i>There may be other relevant considerations to those articulated in Kantor, including matters of natural justice and equity.</i>	The proposal involves the development of a telecommunications facility that will result in community benefit by improved telecommunications service in the Gisborne area where this is needed.

	Refusing the extension of time would result in a further delay of an important community asset.
<i>That the approved development is now prohibited does not mandate a decision refusing to extend the time to commence a development. However, it is something that would usually be expected to be one factor weighing against an extension of time.</i>	Development of a Telecommunications facility is not prohibited and as discussed previously, a permit would likely be issued if a fresh application were made.
<i>Each case needs to be decided on its own facts and circumstances including whether and how the development in question would undermine or offend the changed policy or planning control regime.</i>	No prohibitive changes have been made to the planning scheme which would affect this permit.

Having regard to the matters outlined in the above tables, it is considered the request to extend the permit satisfies the established principles set out in the relevant case law and as such should be supported.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.



Macedon Ranges
Shire Council

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AMENDED PLANNING PERMIT

PERMIT NUMBER:	PLN/2020/165
PLANNING SCHEME:	Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	Macedon Ranges Shire Council
ADDRESS OF THE LAND:	Reserve on Plan of Subdivision 111376, 198 Mount Gisborne Road GISBORNE
THE PERMIT ALLOWS:	In accordance with the endorsed plans: Develop a telecommunications facility

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO THIS PERMIT:

- 1 Before the development commences, an electronic copy of amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of this permit. The plans must be generally in accordance with the Site Plans prepared by Wayne Mitchell Surveying dated 25.03.2020 but modified to show:
 - (a) A temporary fencing plan for all construction vehicles, consistently with the Site Environmental Management Plan required by Condition 11;
 - (b) Exact location and measurements of the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) and associated tree protection fencing for all trees shown on the plans to be retained as required by Condition 9; and
 - (c) Colours and materials of the proposed telecommunication tower.When approved, these plans will be endorsed and will form part of this permit.
- 2 The development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered unless with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- 3 The nature and colour of building materials employed in the construction of the buildings and works hereby permitted shall be harmonious with the environment and non-reflective, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

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Date Issued: 22 December 2021

Signature of the Responsible Authority:

**AMENDED PLANNING PERMIT**

PLN/2020/165 CONDITIONS CONTINUED:

Environment Conditions**General Conditions**

- 4 All construction and maintenance equipment, earth moving equipment and associated machinery must be made free of soil, seed and plant material before being taken into the Mount Gisborne Reserve and before leaving the site where the telecommunications tower is erected, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, so as to help prevent the spread of noxious weeds listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and prevent the introduction and spread of Cinnamon Fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
- 5 All trees and native vegetation, as they relate to the approved development, are to be retained and protected by a tree protection zone. The following is prohibited within the tree protection zone:
 - (a) vehicular or pedestrian access;
 - (b) trenching or soil excavation;
 - (c) storage or dumping of any soils, materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery or waste products;
 - (d) construction of entry and exit pits for underground services; or
 - (e) any other actions or activities that may result in adverse impacts to retained native vegetation.

On Site Environmental Management

- 6 An Environmental Consultant, approved by the Responsible Authority, is required to educate all associated on ground staff prior to the commencement of works. The consultant must educate all construction staff about the environmental sensitivity of the reserve and the requirement to work within designated areas to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Site Preparation and Reporting

- 7 Prior to the commencement of works, temporary fencing must be installed along the track to the summit, leading up to the construction area in accordance with the Site Environmental Management Plan endorsed pursuant to condition 11 of this permit. MRSC Environment staff are to inspect the fencing and provide approval. Temporary fencing such as orange para-webbing is recommended.
- 8 An Environmental Outcome report must be submitted at the completion of this project to inform the Responsible Authority of the environmental outcomes of this project. If severe impacts result as a consequence of this development, a remedial revegetation and management plan is a requirement and must accompany this report.

Page 2 of 6

Date Issued: 22 December 2021

Signature of the Responsible Authority:

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AMENDED PLANNING PERMIT

PLN/2020/165 CONDITIONS CONTINUED:

Tree Protection Management

- 9 Prior to works commencing, a Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prepared by a suitably qualified Level 5 Arborist must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The TPMP must detail the tree protection measures for trees along the reserve track undertaken for all phases of demolition and construction, and must include, unless otherwise agreed by the Responsible Authority:
- (a) A mitigation plan for all trees along the track with exposed roots and branches that could be affected by equipment, cranes and vehicles associated with the installation of the telecommunications tower.
 - (b) A plan for all trees to be protected with tree protection fencing.
 - (c) Native vegetation No Go Zones.
 - (d) Tree Protection Signage.
 - (e) An inspection timeframe for the micro-siting of tree canopies relating to all crane activity along the reserve track to the summit.
 - (f) Milestone reporting to the Responsible Authority relating to tree protection works at each construction stage.
 - (g) A requirement for a qualified and experienced project arborist on-site through construction to ensure tree roots and tree branches and limbs are protected during construction.
 - (h) A compliance checklist to be completed by the on-site project arborist.
 - (i) Appropriate procedures relating to the use of geofabric material, planks of wood or similar to protect tree protection zones during the ascent and descent of cranes along the track and to assist with traction where required.
 - (j) Tree protection measures for the eucalypt located 30 metres from the entrance gate, in accordance with the Vegetation Impact Assessment Report by Atlas Ecology (dated 3 September 2020).
- 10 Any damage or disturbance to trees' root zones within the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) must be reported to Council. A TPZ is 12 x the diameter of the tree taken at breast height. No digging or excavation can be undertaken within the TPZ as this may affect the future viability of the tree. Damaged tree root zones may deem the tree unviable and offsets may be required.

Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)

- 11 Prior to any works commencing, a Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prepared by a suitably qualified environmental consultant must be submitted to and endorsed by the Responsible Authority. The SEMP must include the following information unless otherwise agreed by the Responsible Authority:

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Date Issued: 22 December 2021

Signature of the Responsible Authority:

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AMENDED PLANNING PERMIT

PLN/2020/165 CONDITIONS CONTINUED:

- (a) Details of access management during construction and operation of the telecommunications facility, consistently with the requirements of the Management Plan: Access to Infrastructure and Mount Gisborne Reserve, Gisborne (Atlas Ecology, July 2018) and Vegetation Impact Assessment Report (Atlas Ecology, 3 September 2020), including:
 - i Specification of cranes to be used during construction, limited to no more than 2.5 metres width.
 - ii The use of geofabric material or similar protective measures during construction, over exposed tree roots and at sections of the access track where tight turns are required.
 - iii Measures for the protection of any tree limbs overhanging the access track including in accordance with the Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP).
 - iv A site plan that illustrates a temporary fencing plan for all vehicles up to the construction site of the summit in accordance with the Vegetation Impact Assessment Report (Atlas Ecology, 3 September 2020), with the priority being the minimum impact to native vegetation.
- (b) Vegetation protection fencing to be erected around 'environmental no go zones'.
- (c) All machinery storage areas must be identified.
- (d) All machinery and equipment must leave the site where the telecommunications tower is erected weed-free. An appropriate wash-down area and/or process must be identified. To prevent the spread of weeds listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and the introduction and spread of Cinnamon Fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, all track construction and maintenance equipment, earth moving equipment and associated machinery, must be made free of soil, seed and plant material before being taken to the Mount Gisborne Reserve and before being leaving the site where the telecommunications tower is erected, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- (e) All spill and excess must be indicated on a designated location on the plan.
- (f) A site plan that details the path for all vehicles to use in high conservation zones.
- (g) Vehicle path must be pegged and flagged with tape and suitable fencing in areas around the summit so a consistent road track is used through the entire course of construction.
- (h) Construction staging relating to all tree management/native vegetation protection.
- (i) Provision for remedial works including supplementary planting and/or weed control should any disturbance to native vegetation occur during construction.

Engineering Conditions

- 12 Prior to the commencement of works, an "Asset Protection Permit" must be obtained from Council for any of the following circumstances:
- (a) Entering a building site by means of a motor vehicle having a gross weight exceeding two tonnes.

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Date Issued: 22 December 2021

Signature of the Responsible Authority:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JF", is written over a horizontal line.

**AMENDED PLANNING PERMIT**

PLN/2020/165 CONDITIONS CONTINUED:

- (b) Occupying a road for works.
 - (c) Connecting any land to a stormwater drain.
 - (d) Opening, altering or repairing a road.
 - (e) Opening, altering or repairing a drain.
 - (f) Accessing a building site from a point other than a crossover.
 - (g) Construct/repair/widen/remove any crossover.
- 13 At least 14 days prior to commencement of works, a Site Management Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The Site Management Plan must contain the following:
- (a) Name and contact details of appointed Civil Contractor and Superintendent.
 - (b) Existing condition survey of all existing assets including private properties.
 - (c) Construction Management Plan.
 - (d) Traffic Management Plan.
 - (e) Site Environmental Management Plan.
 - (f) Occupational Health & Safety and Job Safety Analysis Plans.
 - (g) Council issued Asset Protection Permit.
- All works must be carried out generally in accordance with measures set out in the above documents approved by the Responsible Authority.
- 14 Within three months of the tower being constructed, the existing culvert crossing in Woodland Drive must be reconstructed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
- 15 No polluted and/or sediment laden runoff is to be discharged directly or indirectly into drains or watercourses. Soil erosion control measures must be employed throughout the development works in accordance with Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA 1991) to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Permit Expiry

- 16 This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- (a) The development is not commenced within two (2) years of the date of this permit.
 - (b) The development is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this permit.

Before the permit expires, or within six (6) months afterwards, the owner or occupier of the land may make a written request to the responsible authority to extend the expiry date. If the development commences before the permit expires, within twelve (12) months after the permit expires, the owner or occupier of the land may make a written request to the Responsible Authority to extend the expiry date.

Page 5 of 6**Date Issued:** 22 December 2021**Signature of the Responsible Authority:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JF", is written over a horizontal line.

**AMENDED PLANNING PERMIT**

PLN/2020/165 CONDITIONS CONTINUED:

This planning permit has been issued in accordance with VCAT Order – P916/2021.

THIS PERMIT HAS BEEN AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Description of Amendment	Date of Amendment
Planning Permit PLN/2020/165 is hereby extended for a further period of two (2) year. In light of the above, it is recommended that the permit be extended to allow for the commencement of development by 22 December 2025 and completion by 22 December 2027.	16 February 2024

Page 6 of 6**Date Issued:** 22 December 2021**Signature of the Responsible Authority:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JF", is written over a horizontal line.

WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED?

The Responsible Authority has issued a permit.

WHEN DOES A PERMIT BEGIN?

A permit operates:

- from the date specified in the permit, or
- if no date is specified, from:
 - (i) the date of the decision of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, if the permit was issued at the direction of the tribunal, or
 - (ii) the date on which it was issued, in any other case.

WHEN DOES A PERMIT EXPIRE?

1. A permit for the development of land expires if:
 - the development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit, or
 - the development requires the certification of a plan of subdivision or consolidation under the *Subdivision Act 1988* and the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of the permit, unless the permit contains a different provision; or
 - the development or any stage of it is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit or in the case of a subdivision or consolidation within 5 years of the certification of the plan of subdivision or consolidation under the *Subdivision Act 1988*.
2. A permit for the use of land expires if:
 - the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit, or
 - the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
3. A permit for the development and use of land expires if:
 - the development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit; or
 - the development or any stage of it is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit; or
 - the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the completion of the development, or
 - the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
4. If a permit for the use of land or the development and use of land or relating to any of the circumstances mentioned in Section 6A(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, or to any combination of use, development or any of those circumstances requires the certification of a plan under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, unless the permit contains a different provision:
 - the use or development of any stage is to be taken to have started when the plan is certified; and
 - the permit expires if the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of the permit.
5. The expiry of a permit does not affect the validity of anything done under that permit before the expiry.

WHAT ABOUT APPEALS?

- The person who applied for the permit may appeal against any condition in the permit unless it was granted at the direction of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal where, in such case, no right of appeal exists.
- An appeal must be lodged within 60 days after the permit was issued, unless a Notice of Decision to grant a permit has been issued previously, in which case the appeal must be lodged within 60 days after the giving of that notice.
- An appeal is lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- An appeal must be made on a Notice of Appeal form which can be obtained from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- An appeal must state the grounds upon which it is based.
- An appeal must also be served on the Responsible Authority.
- Details about appeals and fees payable can be obtained from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The address of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal is 55 King Street, Melbourne, 3000. The telephone number is (03) 9628 9777. Internet www.vcat.vic.gov.au.

Planning and Environment Regulations 1987

PE.2	ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES GRANT GUIDELINES
Officer:	Rebecca Stockfeld, Director Planning and Environment
Council Plan relationship:	Our People
Attachments:	Draft Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund 2027 ↓

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.

Recommendation

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

Background

Anzac Day Commemorative Services are significant for local communities as they honour and remember the sacrifices made by Australian and New Zealand service members during times of war.

Prior to 2022, organisations that coordinate Anzac Day services and marches could use volunteers or local Emergency Services to assist with traffic management. This practice is no longer permitted, as the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) requires all traffic management to be designed and conducted by qualified personnel.

Additionally, DTP requires any event adjacent to an arterial road to implement traffic management measures to slow traffic and alert drivers of an event ahead.

Commemorative services are typically held at local cenotaphs, which are often situated next to or on arterial and DTP-managed roads, making professionally prepared and delivered traffic management a requirement.

Unfortunately, not all organisations delivering Anzac Day Services are currently able to cover the cost of traffic management themselves, and they look to Council for support.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16 September 2024 Council resolved to:

- (1) Requests the Chief Executive Officer proceed with integrating an ANZAC Day Traffic Management Support Fund into the community grants program to help fund traffic management costs associated with RSL sub-branch and Mt Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service Inc ANZAC Day Memorial Services from 2026.**
- (2) Requests the Chief Executive Officer bring the guidelines for an integrated funding program back to Council to a future scheduled Council Meeting for endorsement.**

(3) Continues to advocate to the Federal and State government to provide funding support to RSL- sub branches and Mt Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service Inc

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26 March 2025 Council resolved:

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

Discussion

The first round of Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund grants was awarded in 2025. This process highlighted that not all well-established Anzac Day Services were eligible for funding due to a conflict with Council's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy. Specifically, the Kyneton and Malmsbury services were ineligible for council funding because the activity also received funding from a gaming venue.

While Council's overarching Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy outlines Council's commitment to minimising harm from gambling within the Macedon Ranges, implementation of the Policy has prevented Council from supporting all the well-established Anzac Day Commemorative Services held across the Shire, despite the importance of these Services and historical support from Council.

It is proposed to amend the "What won't be funded" section of the Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund Guidelines to read as below, noting the only alteration is bolded in the final dot point:

2.3 What won't be funded

The following list provides advice on what will not be funded through the program.

- ANZAC Day Commemorative Services that have no established history of being held.
- ANZAC Day Commemorative Services staged outside of Macedon Ranges Shire.
- ANZAC Day Commemorative Services that are not broadly accessible to the local community.
- ANZAC Day Commemorative Services on private land that have not determined potential restrictions and permit requirements with Council's Planning Department.
- Applications that do not include a formal quote for traffic management controls.
- Applications that are not received by the application closure date.
- Applicants that have failed to acquit previous funding agreements.
- Applications that are incomplete or fail to meet criteria.
- Capital expenditure (the purchase of land, buildings, vehicles or building on privately owned land).
- Rental or lease of office space (event venue costs may be considered at the discretion of Macedon Ranges Shire Council).
- ANZAC Day Commemorative Services that are not held on 25 April 2026.
- Applications which are contrary to any other endorsed Council policies, strategies, plans, guidelines **(with the exception of the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy)**.

While the Guidelines are subservient to the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy, amending the Guidelines provides a timely mechanism to address this matter and enables funding decisions to be made in time for the 2027 Anzac Day Services. Amending the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy would require a more extensive process, including external stakeholder engagement, which would take a significantly longer period to complete. This approach would likely result in the existing Anzac Day Guidelines continuing to guide the assessment of applications for the 2027 Anzac Day Services.

The specific matter that would need amending in the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy is Item 4 under Policy:

4. Not provide Council financial support or provision of grants for a specific activity that also receives sponsorships from gaming venues, online betting companies or other gambling providers for that same activity in that financial year. [This policy position is to become effective from 1 July 2025 to allow community groups time to transition]

Amending the Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund Guidelines is not a step of convenience where a policy outcome does not suit. In this instance, policy implementation is having an adverse outcome. Two towns that provide a local Anzac Day Service as part of the gazetted national day of commemoration in Australia (as declared in the *Anzac Day Act 1995 (Cth)*) are ineligible for Council funding to assist with traffic management for the Services held. This is because the provider of the Services is one of them many Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) Clubs that are, in part, funded by gaming. For Council not to be able to support a logistical part of the National Day of Commemoration is not the intention of Council's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy.

The Anzac Services and the funding for traffic management are well separated from gaming on the day of the Service. The local services are sombre, reflective services held outdoors and in front of local war memorials that remember the significant role Central Victoria played in World War I, which was a major hub for recruitment. The Services across the Shire are not associated with gaming.

The concerns with reconsidering the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy have been mentioned earlier (timeliness). In addition, point 4 of the policy may well be appropriate for other event and community funding programs that Council operates; this can be tested when the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy is reviewed as part of the 4-year nominated review period. It is appropriate to amend the specific Anzac Day Funding Guidelines rather than the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy, which can continue to apply to other programs.

Consultation and engagement

Council officers work closely with groups delivering Anzac Day Commemorative Services each year to ensure they have the support needed to deliver a safe and compliant event for the community. Feedback was received following the initial 2025 awards that have led to this recommended change.

Collaboration

Collaboration occurred when the Anzac Day Commemorative Services Fund was established.

Innovation and continuous improvement

Implementing the formal funding program was a process of continuous improvement by ensuring transparency and equity in how support is allocated.

Relevant law

The relevant law has been considered in the amendment to the Guidelines.

As with the establishment of the current Guidelines, in accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report.

While RSL membership comprises a narrow demographic, it reaches a broad and diverse community audience. Barriers for this group include limited computer literacy and a preference for direct, personal communication. To address these needs, the following actions will be undertaken:

- Impacted groups will receive both a letter and a phone call outlining the introduction of a formal application process for support with traffic management costs.
- Impacted groups will be invited to meet with the Event and Filming Officer for assistance in understanding the required application documentation.

The application form will include questions on how the event will be made an accessible and inclusive event.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) requires events impacting state-managed roads to comply with formal traffic management requirements. Event organisers must submit a Traffic Management Plan prepared by a DTP-authorized traffic control company as part of their application to secure a Memorandum of Authorisation permit from DTP.

Relevant Council plans and policies**Community Grants Policy**

The Community Grants Policy provides a framework for Council to grant public funds consistently and transparently through its externally facing grant programs.

In accordance with the Council Plan 2021-2031, this policy supports Council in demonstrating the qualities of good governance, including a clear vision and culture, transparency, respect, consistency, accountability and responsiveness.

All new external facing Council grant programs are subject to this policy.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

A grant process enables Council to consider climate impacts when evaluating event delivery.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services?

Council will gain better insight into the measures organising groups are taking to reduce climate-related risks. This visibility creates opportunities to provide feedback for ongoing improvements.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?

When Council provides funding, it can incorporate climate considerations and community preparedness into agreements, contracts and shared information.

Financial viability

The Grant Program is part of Council's budget.

Sustainability implications

Anzac Day Commemorative Services are highly valued by the community, and without support to meet traffic management requirements, these important events are at risk of being cancelled.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.



Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund 2027



[OBJ]

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, present and emerging.

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.



Figure 1. Artwork by Taungurung artist Maddi Moser (used with permission).

The artwork featured on this page was created by Maddi Moser; a Taungurung artist, designer and secondary school teacher. Maddi currently works as a teacher and runs her own design and photography business. She now resides in Townsville but has lived the majority of her life in Swan Hill and Albury Wodonga, both towns having close ties to the Murray River, a theme reflected in her artworks.

Maddi uses her background in design to create art in a modern and unique style that helps to continue and celebrate her cultural heritage.

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Overview

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is proud to support Anzac Day Commemorative Services through the Anzac Day Traffic Management Support Fund.

Anzac Day Commemorative Services are significant for local communities as they honour and remember the sacrifices made by Australian and New Zealand service members during times of war.

The support fund is available to community groups that have historically organised Anzac Day Commemorative Services and require assistance with traffic management costs to ensure safe event delivery.

Program objectives

The objectives of the Anzac Day Traffic Management Support Fund align with the priorities of Shaping the Ranges 2025 - 2035:

- **Our Places:** Connected and active places and spaces for everyone; and,
- **Our Economy:** Our local businesses and tourism sectors thrive and provide opportunities for everyone.

Preference will be given to applicants delivering an Anzac Day Commemorative Service who:

- Can demonstrate the services established legacy in the community.
- Provide quotes for professional traffic management controls.
- Foster community development and contribute to health and wellbeing.
- Demonstrate a plan to deliver a service that is accessible and inclusive for participants.
- Demonstrate plans to minimise impact on the environment and surrounding community.
- Lack alternative income streams that could be directed toward supporting the service's delivery.

Timeline

Applications open	TBA
Applications close	TBA
Applications assessed by the panel	TBA
Recommendations to Council	TB
Grant recipients announced	TBA
The event takes place	25 April 2027
Grants acquitted	Within 8 weeks of event completion

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Anzac Day Commemorative Services within the Macedon Ranges Shire that are required to implement traffic management controls to ensure a safe and compliant event are eligible for funding.

Applications will generally be considered from:

- Community organisations that deliver an established Anzac Day Commemorative Service.
- Not for profit organisations that:
 - Are an incorporated body, cooperative or association.
 - Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or can provide written advice from the Australian Taxation Office that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

Please note: If your group is not incorporated, you can still apply if you have an auspicing body.

What will be funded?

- Professional-provided traffic management services required to deliver a safe and compliant Anzac Day Commemorative Service; or
- Traffic management controls that help ensure the safety of participants, such as shuttles, buses, and way-finding signage.

What won't be funded?

The following list provides advice on what will not be funded through the program.

- Anzac Day Commemorative Services that are new with no history of being held in the community.
- Anzac Day Commemorative Services staged outside of Macedon Ranges Shire.
- Anzac Day Commemorative Services that are not broadly accessible to the local community.

- Anzac Day Commemorative Services on private land that have not determined potential restrictions and permit requirements with Council's Planning Department.
- Applications that do not include a formal quote for traffic management controls.
- Applications that are not submitted by the application closure date.
- Applicants that have failed to acquit previous funding agreements. Applications that are incomplete or fail to meet criteria.
- Capital expenditure (the purchase of land, buildings, vehicles or building on privately owned land).
- Rental or lease of office space (event venue costs may be considered at the discretion of Macedon Ranges Shire Council).
- Anzac Day Commemorative Services that are not held on 25 April 2027.
- Applications which are contrary to any other endorsed Council policies, strategies, plans, guidelines (with the exception of the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy).

Macedon Ranges Shire Council reserves the right to exercise judgment on the appropriateness of funding eligibility criteria in respect to contentious, topical or contemporary issues or where the event may be perceived to conflict with Council objectives, plans, or the wider wellbeing of its residents.

Council support

Funding Support

Applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 to cover professional traffic management services or traffic management controls, such as shuttle buses and way-finding signage, that help ensure the safety of participants.

In-kind support

In-kind support is available to all eligible applicants. In-kind support allows for community groups to gain access to the following services that would normally come at a cost.

- Waiver of activity on a road permit fee.

Where in-kind support is sought, an Anzac Day Traffic Management Support Fund application must be submitted. Requests for retrospective in-kind support will not be considered.

Application

Application process

The application process consists of two parts:

1. Contact the Event and Filming Officer to determine eligibility for the program

Event and Filming Officer

T: (03) 5422 0333

eventsandfilming@mrsc.vic.gov.au

2. Submission of an application

Submission requirements

To be considered for funding, applicants must submit information on the service and address all assessment criteria.

- Details of the service, including description, date and location.
- Provide a description of how the funding will be used.
- Quotes for traffic management services or traffic management controls.
- Annual Information Statement (AIS) detailing total income and expenditure.
- Attendance details.
- Plans to minimise the impact on the environment and surrounding community.
- Planning documentation demonstrating the organisation's ability to provide a successful and safe service for the community.

Assessment criteria

Historical Significance	Demonstrate an established history of an ANZAC Day Commemorative Service within the community (new services without prior history of being held at the proposed location will not be eligible for funding).
Management	Demonstrated ability to deliver a successful and safe service within the timeframe.
Accessible and inclusive	Demonstration of measures taken to provide an accessible and inclusive event.
Environmental sustainability	Demonstration of measures put in place to minimise environmental impact.
Financial sustainability	Demonstrate a strong need for financial support to deliver the event.

*To assess the applicant's level of event planning and consideration to deliver a successful event.
(Please see section on Supporting Documentation.)*

Assessment process

Eligible applications will be assessed against the criteria and supporting documentation provided. Applications that do not adequately address the criteria will not be considered.

The following process will be undertaken once the panel has completed the assessment.

1. The panel will provide assessment recommendations to Council.
2. Recommendations will be considered for adoption by Councillors at a Scheduled Council Meeting.
3. Adopted recommendations will be made publicly available on the Council website.

Successful applicants will receive a letter of offer advising that a grant has been offered; upon acceptance of the offer, a funding agreement will be provided.

Assessment matrix

The Assessment matrix provides advice on how applications are scored against the criteria:

1. Evaluate the project against the criteria and score.
2. Add all values for the total score.

Score between 30-45	Recommended for funding.
Score between 15-30	Possibly recommended for funding.
Score below 15	Not recommended for funding.

Criteria	Scoring Values	EXAMPLE SERVICE
Delivery		Score
Historical Significance	<p><u>0</u> Limited evidence of historical significance (service is new and has not been held more than five times)</p> <p><u>3</u> Minimal evidence of historical significance (service has been held 5-10 times before)</p> <p><u>6</u> Reasonable evidence of historical significance (service been held consecutively for more than 15 years)</p> <p><u>9</u> Strong evidence of historical significance (service been held consecutively for more than 25 years)</p>	9
Management	<p><u>0</u> No considered planning undertaken.</p> <p><u>3</u> Limited planning undertaken.</p> <p><u>6</u> Draft event plans provided.</p> <p><u>9</u> Final event plans provided and demonstrated capacity to deliver event.</p>	8
Accessible & Inclusive	<p><u>0</u> No measures demonstrated to deliver accessible and inclusive event.</p> <p><u>3</u> Limited measures demonstrated to deliver accessible and inclusive event.</p> <p><u>6</u> High level planning demonstrating accessible and inclusive event delivery.</p> <p><u>9</u> Proactive / goes above ordinary expectations to deliver an accessible and inclusive event.</p>	6
Environment sustainability	<p><u>0</u> No demonstration of plans to reduce environmental impact and educate participants.</p> <p><u>3</u> Minimal demonstration of plans to reduce environmental impact and educate participants.</p> <p><u>6</u> Plans provided to reduce environmental impact and educate participants, which demonstrates how the event will achieve goals.</p> <p><u>9</u> Environmentally focused event with innovative plans around reducing impact and environmental education.</p>	6

Financial sustainability	<u>0-1</u> Strong profit demonstrated; funding from Council is not essential to deliver the event.	8
	<u>2-7</u> Profit demonstrated; partial funding required from Council to deliver the event.	
	<u>8-9</u> No additional or minimal income streams; the event could not proceed without Council support.	
TOTAL SCORE		37

Agreements

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Macedon Ranges Shire Council to receive their grant. The funding agreement will include:

- Funding obligations and conditions.
- Acknowledgement conditions to recognise funding partners.
- Purpose for which the funding must be used.
- Reporting requirements that must be met by the funding recipient.

Conflict of interest

All applicants will be required to declare any interests of which they are aware, which could reasonably raise an expectation of a conflict of interest or material interference with an application.

These include financial or other interests that:

- Have been held
- Are currently held, or
- Will accrue.

Examples of financial or other interest include being a principal or key employee of a material professional adviser supplying services; and/or interests in contracts, trusts or other business arrangements.

Conflicts of interest can be actual, potential or perceived, and should be declared to ensure that any risks are managed. Detailed guidance can be found on the Victorian Public Sector Commission website in its Conflict of Interest Policy Framework – www.vpsc.vic.gov.au and in its eLearning guide on Conflicts of Interest.

Evaluation and reporting

Successful applicants will be required to undertake a post-event evaluation; Council will provide this template with the funding agreement.

Post-event evaluations will be required within eight weeks of the conclusion of the event.

Funding

Advance payments will be made in stages as long as:

- The funding agreement has been signed by both parties.
- Grant recipients provide reports as required or otherwise demonstrate that the event is progressing as expected.
- Other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.
- A valid tax invoice is received by Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Privacy

Any personal information about applicants or a third party in an application will be collected by Macedon Ranges Shire Council. This information may be provided to Victorian Government bodies for the purpose of assessing your application. If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure they are aware of the contents of the privacy statement. Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and other applicable laws.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find Macedon Ranges Shire Council Privacy Policy online at www.mrsc.vic.gov.au. Enquiries about access to information about you held by Macedon Ranges Shire Council should be directed to the Customer Service department of Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Code of conduct for child safe standards

If your event provides services or facilities specifically for children, you will be required to meet Child Safe Standards.

The standards require organisations to have a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.

For information about the Child Safe Standards contact the [Department of Families, Fairness and Housing](#).

Important information

Applicants must not assume they will be successful, or enter into commitments based on that assumption, before receiving formal notification of the outcome of their funding application.

Applicants should not assume that initial success guarantees future success. All applicants are encouraged to plan for contingencies and consider other funding sources and options should their application be unsuccessful.

Links

Victoria Visitor Economy Strategy

https://djpr.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1340979/Visitor_Economy_Strategy.pdf

Macedon Ranges Visitor Economy Strategy

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/live-amp-work/business-amp-economy/strategies-amp-plans-business/macedon-ranges-visitor-economy-strategy-2019-2029.pdf>

Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events

[Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events – 2018](#)

Macedon Ranges Events Strategy

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/live-amp-work/business-amp-economy/strategies-amp-plans-business/strategy-final-macedon-ranges-events-strategy-2021-25-2021-04-29.pdf>

Grant skills and resources webinars

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Find-A-Grant/Grants-Skills>

Event planning resources and webinars

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Events/Running-An-Event/Event-planning-resources-and-webinars>

Victorian Government guidelines for making your documents, events and communications with disability groups as accessible as possible

<https://www.vic.gov.au/accessibility-guidelines-government-communications>

Planning Safe and inclusive events

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/sitecollectiondocuments/planning-safe-and-inclusive-events.pdf>

Zero Waste Event Guide

https://resources.reduce-recycle.com.au/bswwrrg/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/06001919/20633_BSWWRRG_ZeroWaste_Guide9-FINAL.pdf

Contact information

Events and Filming Officer

eventsandfilming@mrsc.vic.gov.au

T: (03) 5422 0333

Council contacts for events

Macedon Ranges Shire Council officers can assist event and festival organisers with a range of services all year round. Fees may apply to some aspects of support.

All officers can be contacted by calling 5422 0333.

Council department and contact	Assistance available
Economic Development and Visitor Economy	Events and Filming Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Permit application process • Events & Festivals Grant Program • Event planning • Filming Tourism and Marketing Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting tourism-focused events or festivals on the official tourism website and social media for the Macedon Ranges • Liaising with Destination Central Victoria regarding promotional opportunities • Promote event or festival at the Macedon Ranges Visitor Information Centres Hanging Rock Senior Ranger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanging Rock event enquiries and liaison
Community Strengthening	Cultural Development Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiovisual and technical equipment hire or advice (small not-for-profit events and festivals only)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for inclusion in a monthly poster run to promote community events and festivals <p>Technical Supervisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book a Council-managed hall (not parks, reserves and gardens) <p>Coordinator Emergency Management and Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice on Emergency Management Plans Advice on potential emergency-related risks of events and festivals
Parks, Recreation and Depot Operations	<p>Sports Club Liaison Officer / Recreation Development Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book a Council-managed park, reserve, garden and/or sports ovals <p>Business Support Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring of signage for the implementation of traffic management plans Council maintained parks and gardens (mowing schedules, maintenance schedules) Tree inspections for public parks and reserves
Civil Services and Resource Recovery	<p>Team Leader Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event bin bookings/waste requirements
Safer Communities	<p>Municipal Building Surveyor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits or advice for Temporary structures such as seating stands, marquees and stages. An Occupancy Permit for a Place of Public Entertainment (also known as a POPE)

	<p>Coordinator Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Traders permit, temporary or mobile food stall registration • Council's smoke-free policy <p>Coordinator Local Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community signage (community events and festivals only) • Advice on ways to reduce the impact of noise generated by the event and festival • Parking arrangements • Raffle tickets • Fireworks
Engineering and Asset Services	<p>Technical Engineering Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Management Plan approval • Assess Traffic Management Plans to ensure they comply with legislation
Facilities and Aquatics	<p>Facility Services Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requesting additional cleaning of public toilets
Statutory Planning	<p>Statutory Planning and Building Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place of Assembly Permits (may apply to events and festivals on private land) • Information on Liquor Licence applications
People and Wellbeing	<p>Risk and OHS Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on risk management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public liability insurance
Communications and Advocacy	Digital Communications Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local promotion of community events and festivals

Supporting documentation

To assess the applicant's ability to deliver a successful and safe event, the panel will examine event documentation. Please see **Criteria for Assessment** under 'Delivery'.

Below are some examples of documentation that can be provided to demonstrate the ability to deliver the event.

Management

- Event permit application
- Public Liability Insurance
- Evidence of the status of approvals, permissions, notifications, permits, etc
- Event Management Plan, which includes:
 - Event details
 - Aims and outcomes
 - Contacts
 - Key tasks
 - Production schedule/timelines/run sheets
 - Consultation and notification plans
 - Budget
 - Venue and site plans

- Traffic, transport and parking plans
- Event program
- Permits, permissions, licences
- Emergency Management Plan, which includes:
 - Emergency management structure & communication plan
 - Evacuation procedure
 - First aid medical plan
 - Crowd control & security
 - Weather monitoring & response
 - Gas Safety Plan
 - Event contingency or postponement plan
 - Emergency contact lists
- Risk Management Plan
 - Faulty electrical equipment (stalls, hall, food, vendors)
 - Slips, trips and falls
 - Manual Handling
 - Separation of pedestrians and vehicles
 - Unattended bags
 - Lost children
 - Loud music/noise
 - Inclement weather

Accessible and inclusive

- Accessible event checklist (Example - Disability Access Consultants [Accessibility in Public Events and Concerts Checklist](#))
- Site plan demonstrating:
 - Ease of access and movement
 - Sufficient bathroom facilities, including access and gender-neutral bathrooms; and
 - Signage
- Various ticket pricing, including discounted tickets for children, seniors and concession holders, free tickets for registered carers
- Code of conduct demonstrating that the event will provide a safe, harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender and gender identity, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, or religion

Environment

- Waste Management – Recycle, Reduce and Re-use Strategy
 - Minimise single-use plastic (plastic bags, bottles, cups, plastic straws, etc.)
 - Set up recycle and compost stations
 - Set up wash stations
 - Promote your commitment to environmental sustainability
 - Provide reusable cutlery and crockery
 - Choose biodegradable tableware and decorations
 - Use digital media such as social media to promote an event or festival
- Green travel options
 - Encourage public transport, car-pooling and shuttle buses

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
Officer:	Bernie O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places Our People
Attachments:	Community consultation feedback ↓

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.

Recommendation**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:**
 - o The family of the late Christine Walker;**
 - o All respondents to the consultation process; and**
 - o Council’s website and social media channels.**

Background

At its meeting on 26 November 2025 Council resolved to undertake community consultation on the proposal to rename the Clarke Street footbridge to “Christine Walker Footbridge”. The consultation period ran from 9 February 2026 to 10 March 2026, inviting feedback via online submissions, email, telephone and written correspondence.

The proposal aims to recognise Christine Walker’s significant contributions to the Macedon Ranges community during her tenure as South Ward Councillor.

Discussion

The proposal to rename the Clarke Street footbridge to “Christine Walker Footbridge” has undergone community consultation in accordance with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria.

Council must now determine whether to proceed with submitting the naming request to the Registrar of Geographic Names for formal approval.

Consultation and engagement

Community consultation was conducted in accordance with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria and Council’s Community Engagement Policy.

A summary of feedback is provided in the attachment, noting that 34 submissions were received. Of those, 30 submissions were supportive of the proposal, and 4 submitters opposed.

If Council resolves to proceed, an officer will submit the naming request to the Registrar of Geographic Names for formal consideration.

The family of the late Christine Walker and respondents to the consultation process will be advised of the outcome following the Registrar’s decision. The details will also be placed on Council’s website and social media channels.

Collaboration

This process has involved collaboration between Council officers, Geographic Names Victoria and the local community. Engagement activities included:

- Liaison with the family of the late Christine Walker;
- Liaison with Geographic Names Victoria;
- Public notices and invitations for feedback via the local newspaper, Council offices and Council’s website and social media channels;
- Public notice at the Clarke Street footbridge site;
- Public notice via community noticeboards and newsletters; and
- Correspondence to Melbourne Water.

Ongoing collaboration will continue with the Registrar of Geographic Names should Council resolve to proceed, ensuring compliance and transparency throughout the naming process.

Innovation and continuous improvement

This naming proposal and consultation process reflects Council’s commitment to continuous improvement in community engagement and how it recognises and honours community leadership and legacy.

This proposal demonstrates a thoughtful and inclusive approach to commemorating the contributions of a former serving Councillor, while also enhancing civic identity and community connection to public infrastructure.

Relevant law

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report.

The Victorian Government has however identified the under-representation of women in commemorative place naming across the state and has established several policy commitments to address this imbalance.

In 2022, the *Geographic Names Victoria Naming Rules for Places in Victoria* were updated to include a requirement that naming authorities consider gender equality when assessing commemorative naming proposals, which forms part of the statutory framework governing place naming in Victoria.

In 2023, the Victorian Government released *Our Equal State: Victoria's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2027*, which includes a target for 70% of new commemorative place names to honour women by 2027. To support councils and naming authorities in progressing this target, Geographic Names Victoria partnered with Gender Equity Victoria to deliver the *Put Her Name On It* campaign, aimed at increasing the visibility and recognition of women in Victorian place names.

Recent Ministerial advice to councils highlighted the Victorian Government's ongoing focus on improving gender representation in commemorative naming and encouraged councils to contribute to this work by considering opportunities to name places after women as part of annual place-naming activity.

The proposal to name the Clarke Street footbridge in honour of the late South Ward Councillor, Christine Walker aligns with these Victorian Government policy objectives to improve representation of women in public place naming.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

The proposed renaming of the footbridge aligns with several key regional, state and national frameworks that support commemorative naming and community recognition. In particular, the proposal has been guided by the *Geographic Names Victoria Naming Rules for Places in Victoria* which was developed under the Geographic Place Names Act. These rules are mandatory for all naming authorities, including local government, and provide a consistent framework for naming roads, features and localities across Victoria.

Relevant Council plans and policies

The subject matter of this report is in alignment with the Council Plan strategic objectives, *Our Places and Our People*.

Climate Impact Assessment

A climate impact assessment was not required in preparation for this report.

Financial viability

It is proposed that the costs of the bridge renaming and future maintenance be funded as part of Council's Capital Works Program.

Sustainability implications

There are no known sustainability implications as a result of the preparation of this report.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for editing or quality improvement only, for example grammar, readability or formatting.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

Proposed renaming of the Clarke Street Footbridge in Mount Macedon in remembrance of the late Christine Walker – Community consultation feedback

Submission	Date received	Submission details (e.g. individual, family, business, community group)	Submission method	Position	Comments/feedback
1	9 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I absolutely support the proposal. Christine was a fabulous advocate for the region, a tireless and energetic contributor to the community and a great friend to many.
2	9 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	This is a great proposal. I fully support it. Christine was a great contributor and this is a fitting memorial. Thank you to Council for the proposal.
3	9 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	This is a lovely gesture to rename the Clarke Street footbridge in Mount Macedon to the Christine Walker Footbridge.
4	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	Yes please. A great tribute and memory.
5	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	This is a wonderful suggestion and I support it 100%.
6	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I fully support this. It is a wonderful tribute to Christine.
7	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	Christine was a much loved and respected friend of mine. Renaming the bridge in honour of her has my vote of support .

8	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I give my full support to the MRSC for its proposal to honour the memory of Christine Walker by renaming the bridge after her. I knew Christine for approximately 10 years and saw evidence of her enormous support for various community groups. This would be a great tribute to her.
9	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I think that would be a perfect name for the footbridge. Christine was an amazing person that had a passion for enriching the community. Every conversation seemed to give her an idea on how she could help the community. She was the most amazing person that I have ever met
10	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I strongly agree with renaming the bridge the Christine Walker Footbridge. Christine: - worked hard to get this bridge in place - was a councillor at Macedon - tragically passed away suddenly and this would be an appropriate memorial to remember her services to the community.
11	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	Yes do it! Christine Walker worked hard for this and effectively represented her community professionally. A beautiful way to remember a smart, funny talented woman.
12	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I support the proposal to rename the Clarke Street footbridge to the Christine Walker. It is a fitting way to honour and remember Christine's commitment to the Mount Macedon community and significant contribution to her role as Councillor.
13	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	This is wonderful. Christine Walker was a force of nature and her passion project of the Clarke Street footbridge is a perfect way to celebrate her remarkable life.

14	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I strongly support naming the Clarke Street Pedestrian Bridge in honour of the late Christine Walker. It was through her support, guidance and determination that the Clarke Street Bridge repairs were progressed. Christine was the only council member I have known who genuinely listened to the community, particularly in relation to Stanley Park, and who actively supported its protection as a shared space where children could play safely. Naming the bridge after Christine Walker would be a fitting recognition of her lasting contribution to our community.
15	10 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I totally support the proposal to rename this bridge in honour of the late councillor Christine Walker. Christine was not only a fabulous councillor but a wonderful person ready to assist all who sought her assistance and gave generously to her friends and community. She is greatly missed and it is very fitting that that her name and memory will be so marked by council and the community.

16	11 February 2026	Individual	Email	Oppose	<p>With due respect and on principle, I strongly oppose this proposal.</p> <p>I wish to make it clear that I understand, admire and respect the commitment and personal sacrifice made by councillors in fulfilling their role.</p> <p>A tragic and early death of a public official can be memorialised. I question whether the naming of a bridge in memoriam is appropriate.</p> <p>Christine Walker footbridge. Whilst it may offer comfort to family and associates in the short term, the brutal truth is the relevance of the name is unlikely to withstand the passage of time.</p> <p>There are other ways to remember the commitment of a councillor which are more long lasting.</p> <p>In principle I am wary of administrators by name, being rewarded or in this case, sadly, being memorialised, for what the common man says is "doing their job".</p> <p>There is a different perspective should a public official have perished "on duty" or had endured a lifetime commitment to their role.</p> <p>Australia is a nation of unsung volunteers and quiet achievers. Whilst I am not privy to the trials and tribulations of the lobbying for the funding of this particular bridge, I am certain that numerous locals would have made a case which was amplified and supported by the councillor, as is expected in that role.</p> <p>Why should the naming be associated with the councillor? and not with a geographical or cultural associations? or locals who developed the area 150 years ago?</p> <p>By all means install a memorial plaque, but naming a bridge is in these circumstances, perhaps driven by strong personal feelings, is overstepping the mark of good governance.</p>
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17	11 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	It's a great idea and strongly support it - Christine was exceptionally committed to her local community and it will be lovely to have her recognised .
18	11 February 2026	Individual	Email	Support	Please add my name in support of the renaming of Clarke Footbridge to Christime Walker Footbridge. I think in veiw of Christine's advocacy and community work the nemaming is an appropriately respectful and meaningful thing to do.
19	12 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	Excellent idea that I fully support. Christine was wonderful for the community and it would be great to see the bridge named in her honour provided her family are ok with it.
20	12 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I cannot be more supportive of this recommendation to rename the bridge. Christine was a wonderful and kind woman and a great Councillor. It is only fitting that her community and family gets to remember here in perpetuity with the bridge.
21	12 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I think this is a fabulous idea.
22	12 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I think this is a fabulous idea
23	13 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	100% support this idea. Great initiative by the council - well done.
24	14 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	Good idea, do it. :)
25	14 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	Agreed. I knew Christine, a passionate advocate.not just for the footbridge. However, in general for our border Macedon Rangers Community
26	15 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I think that this would be an excellent idea to recognise Christine who was a wonderful person and contributed so much to the area with her involvement in local organizations and with the Council. She was taken too soon and is sorely missed.

27	18 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I fully support this proposal. It would be a joy to have Christine. Remember this way you'll make me smile every time I walk over the bridge.
28	20 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I would like to show my support in renaming the current bridge to Christine's name. She was personally a huge advocate & supporter in the process of the timing & replacing of the bridge. It was a connection of community that wasn't acknowledged until it was gone. In naming the bridge it honours her legacy that she has left in the Macedon Ranges.
29	21 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	I think an excellent proposal. Christine loved and cared deeply about the area, and identified an obvious need for this footbridge
30	22 February 2026	Individual	Online Form	Support	Great idea!
31	23 February 2026	Individual	Email	Support	I fully support the idea of the Christine Walker Footbridge in Clarke St Mount Macedon. Christine advocated for the bridge and is much missed in the area.
32	5 March 2026	Individual	Online Form	Oppose	While renaming the footbridge might be a nice gesture for Ms Walker's family, I don't believe it is warranted or justified in the circumstances. Such honours should be limited to important historical figures or people who have provided a significant and important contribution to the Shire and/or local communities. With respect, and without downplaying her contribution as a councillor, I'm not sure Ms Walker fits into the category of having provided a significant contribution to the Shire and/or local communities, especially not over and above what many other others also contribute in the Macedon Ranges.

33	6 March 2026	Individual	Email	Oppose	<p>As per your invitation for feedback re the naming of footbridge over our local creek (Willimigongong) the Christine Walker Footbridge:</p> <p>I strongly believe it would be preferable to simply have a sign saying Willimigongong Creek. This would provide one of the very few links in our area to its first inhabitants, and I think would be much more meaningful than naming yet another piece of infrastructure after a deceased European - a name which will be meaningless to almost all locals in a few years time.</p>
34	10 March 2026	Individual	Email	Oppose	<p>I wish to make the following comments regarding the above "Have your say".</p> <p>Firstly, I do not agree with this proposal, to name the Clarke Street footbridge after the former councillor, Cr Christine Walker. I feel it would be more appropriate to name the bridge, if it is to have a name at all, with a traditional owner name, a Wurundjeri name, and a name that the Wurundjeri have chosen, after all it is a named waterway with a traditional owner name, the Willimagongon Creek.</p> <p>On looking at the presented map of the site, it is very disappointing that council has failed to include the named waterway which this new bridge crosses, it is the Willimagongon creek, a traditional owner named waterway. Council names the surrounding roads on this map, yet have excluded the waterway on the map and the name of the creek.</p> <p>Did council consult Aboriginal Affairs Victoria with this proposed project. In recent years, with all of my associations with named waterways, I have always had to consult AAV, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria with regards to any works within 200 metres of a named water.</p> <p>It is unfortunate and sad that Cr Christine Walkers life was cut short, however she was a councillor for just a short time. I feel that memories should be kept within her family and close friends and to not go ahead with the naming of the bridge after her.</p>

13 CORPORATE REPORTS

COR.1	BUDGET 2026/27 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Officer:	Travis Harling, Manager Finance and Reporting
Council Plan relationship:	Our Performance
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Council Meeting - 2026-04-22- COR.1 - Attachment 1 -Your Say Summary 26-27_Submissions_General ↓ Council Meeting - 2026-04-22- COR.1 -Attachment 2 -Your Say Summary 26-27_Submissions_Projects ↓

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.

Recommendation**That Council:**

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

Background

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to develop and adopt a budget that supports delivery of the Council Plan and strategic objectives. During October to December 2025, community members were invited to submit proposals for consideration and inclusion in the 2026/27 Budget. Submissions closed on 11 December 2025, with submitters who elected to speak to their submission presented to the Submitters Delegated Committee during February 2026.

Feedback received through this process, along with Council's strategies and officer input, informed the development of the draft budget to date.

Officers are proposing a final period of targeted engagement with the community on key information and proposals included in a snapshot document of the proposed Budget 2026/27, to further inform the final Budget proposal.

Discussion

Building on the 'concise budget' presented last year, Council officers have proposed an easy-to-read snapshot of the draft budget 2026/27, focusing on the key financial components and elements, including:

The draft cash position, being a cash surplus of \$15,497,998 from operations:

- Sources of Operating Funding (revenue)

Operating Revenue source	Share	Value
Rates and charges	65%	\$71.64M
Statutory Fees and fines	3%	\$3.59M
User Fees	8%	\$8.97M
Grants - Operating	19%	\$20.42M
Contributions - Monetary	2%	\$2.16M
Other Income	3%	\$3.55M
Total	100%	\$110.33M

- Operating Costs (expenditure)

Spend category	Share	Amount
Employee Costs	55%	\$51.73M
Materials and Services	41%	\$38.93M
Borrowing Costs	1%	\$682k
Leases	0%	\$41k
Other Expenses	3%	\$3.44M
Total	100%	\$94.83M

- Capital Works expenditure details

Spend category	Amount
Roads	\$8.67M
Footpaths - renewal	\$660K

Buildings	\$2.28M
Recreation	\$518K
Drainage	\$540K
Bridges	\$500K
ICT	\$1,130M
Waste	\$403K
Fleet	\$1.5M
Total	\$16.23M

- Services and costs – including Net Costs
- Initiatives and Projects to be included
- Borrowings:

New Borrowing	Amount
Digital Enhancements	\$500,000
Software Systems Upgrade	\$250,000
Kyneton Showgrounds Grandstand	\$250,000
Total	\$1,000,000

- External Influences on the Budget
- Internal changes considered when setting the Budget
- Rates and Levies

Rates are proposed to increase in line with the cap set by the Minister for Local Government at 2.75%. The recommended rate for the cap each year is set based on the forecast Consumer Price Index (CPI) and advice from the Essential Services Commission. This proposed increase reflects the ongoing increases in costs for the delivery of Council services, including expenditure on capital, wages and salary costs.

The proposed list of Fees and Charges will also be included with the Budget Consultation material, including the current and future proposed charges across Council services, highlighting key changes.

The Proposed projects and initiatives recommended in the draft 2026/27 budget consultation material include:

- Investing in Malmsbury Botanic Gardens drainage works.
- Investing in Digital Enhancements and Solutions to improve efficiency and services
- Extending the number of 'Free Green Waste Weeks' for residents to eight, plus increasing Free Green Waste Drop-Off vouchers for residents.

- Investing in critical Capital renewals across Roads, Buildings, Drainage, Bridges, Recreation, Footpaths.
- Reducing the price of Hanging Rock Reserve Family passes
- 'Freezing fees for local businesses to fix them at 2025/26 rates for ancillary furniture and movable signs, reducing 'cost creep'.
- Contingency for fuel and contract shocks related to volatility in the market.

Included investments relating to community submissions are outlined below.

Consultation and engagement

Under Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, community consultation on the draft Budget 2026/27 was undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. This included public consultation and feedback during October – December 2025, seeking community submissions, and the proposed further period of engagement will include targeted questions, to be made available to the community during April – May 2026.

Community Submissions

Council invited community submissions and proposals to contribute to the 2026/27 Budget over a four-week period from 30 October to 11 December 2025. Submissions could be made via Council's 'Your Say' online engagement hub or submitted in writing through mail or in person at Council's customer service centres.

Community members were encouraged to seek support from Council officers when preparing their ideas to ensure well-informed submissions. Submitters also had the opportunity to present their proposals at the Submitters Delegated Committee meeting on 4 February 2026.

A total of 89 submissions were received. A summary of these is included in Attachments 1 and 2 to this report.

Following a review of submissions, the following additional investments are recommended for inclusion in the draft budget:

- The Macedon Ranges Thriving Villages Project, being a grassroots initiative that supports businesses, residents, landowners and local government to work together to create meaningful change and ensure the future prosperity of their town centres via Town Centre Action Plan Workshops to deliver individual Town Centre Action Plans for nine towns of the Macedon Ranges.
- Increasing annual funding to Neighbourhood Houses for the year to support the increasing work undertaken for emergency relief, food security, and local economic participation.

Details on these proposals are included in the consultation material for consideration of the community.

Targeted Engagement

The proposed period of consultation of four weeks, enables targeted feedback, guided by set questions, and will be delivered through Council's 'Your Say' online engagement platform. It provides for consideration of the key elements that make up the foundation of Council's 2026/27 Budget, without the formality of the full "model" budget, including accounting standards and notes, that are sometimes difficult to interpret for the community and do not always enable effective engagement.

Submissions received responding to the targeted questions will be provided to Councillors in full, and a summary of these submissions will be presented, together with the Draft Budget 2026/27, when it is presented in full at the June 2026 meeting of Council, for consideration.

Responses to all submissions will also be provided together with the Draft Budget 2026/27 to the June meeting.

Collaboration

The draft Budget 2026/27 has been prepared by officers with input from Councillors through a series of Councillor Briefings and Workshops, including the input from the community during October – December 2025.

Benchmarking and other data have also been sought from neighbouring municipalities when considering service costs, fees and charges.

Innovation and continuous improvement

The draft Budget 2026/27 is an important part of Council's integrated strategic planning framework; and the process to draft, develop, refine and endorse the budget is reviewed each year with Councillors and officers, to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the process.

Officers also reference and share information with other municipalities in Victoria and across Australia to identify opportunities for improving the development and adoption of Council's annual budget. Local Government Victoria also provides a range of planning and reporting guides and templates to assist councils with planning, budgeting and reporting, and we use these resources to help Council meet its legislative obligations to plan and report on their performance over the short, medium and long term.

Relevant law

Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils in Victoria to prepare a budget for each financial year. *The Local Government (Performance Reporting and Accountability) Act 2014* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* specify the requirement for a budget to include major initiatives, and the Regulations prescribe the relevant information disclosure requirements.

Individual programs, projects and initiatives will undertake Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs) in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* as part of their implementation during 2026/27, if not already completed.

These assessments form a fundamental consideration for the Budget, as they:

- provide for Council operations that include services, assets, facilities, programs and activities to the community.
- incorporate the major initiatives identified by the Council as priorities in the Council Plan, to be undertaken during the next financial year.

Completion of GIAs highlights the importance of continued reflection on available data, and consultation processes to ensure the best outcomes for the whole community.

For the implementation of the Draft Budget, Council has undertaken a GIA on the consultation and engagement processes proposed in line with our Community Engagement Policy, which was found to be Gender Neutral.

Council implements a range consultation approaches and methods, including written, verbal and online forums, that have been used over the course of the development of the budget, to ensure that all community members have access to engage with and contribute to the development of the Draft Budget 2026/27.

Two consultation periods are being undertaken during the preparation of this draft budget to increase the time available for contributions from the community.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Nil

Relevant Council plans and policies

The preparation of the budget supports Council's priority of strong and reliable government. The Budget 2026/27 includes funding for the services outlined in the Council Plan.

Proposed Borrowings, Investments and Reserve Transfers are in line with Council's Borrowing Policy, Investment Policy and Financial Reserve Policy, respectively.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? See below.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? See below.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?

Councils' budget is the vehicle through which our Counting-Down-to-Zero and Climate Emergency Plan actions are funded. The ability to fund Council's programs to mitigate climate risk and help to prepare the community for future climate risk are driven by the proposals funded through the Budget.

Financial viability

The draft Budget 2026/27 includes all currently known financial and resourcing requirements for Council in 2026/27 and proposes a financially sustainable mix of income and expenditure within known limits.

Sustainability implications

Council's Budget prioritisation includes consideration of Climate Impact as part of Council's business case process, requiring officers to state the implications that proposed programs and projects may have on Council's greenhouse gas emissions, as well as assessing if and how the proposals support the community to adapt to climate change. This informs the initial prioritisation of initiatives recommended in the Budget.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for editing or quality improvement only, for example grammar, readability or formatting.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect conflict of interest in this matter.

It should be noted that a range of Council officers are ratepayers of Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Community Submissions
General Feedback

Budget 2026/27
Community Submissions
General Input and Comments

Number	Please provide detail about your general input on services or priorities.	Township Area
C1	Fully Demolish, and Brand-New Build of the Woodend Campase Park/Five-Mile Creek Toilets (Male & Female) Blocks, thats been their since the Early 1960's/1970's, Better/More, Lighting within the Park with more or better Upgraded BBQ's and to Seal/Ashphealte the Road within and around and, out of the Woodend Campaspe Park instead of it being a Dirt and Pot-Hole all the time	Woodend
C2	I've been waiting for an opportunity to express how much we would love to see a bike track connecting some of the country roads into Lancefield. We live on Ashworth Road We around the area would love to see a safe bike track connecting some of the country roads into Lancefield. We live on Ashworth Road, and like many local families, we'd love a way to ride into town safely. A path along Burke and Wills Track or Three Chain Road would be ideal. With new business park developments planned on Three Chain Road, a bike track would fit perfectly and improve safety for cyclists and walkers. Right now, riding on the roadside is far too dangerous, especially for kids. A proper bike track would make a huge difference for families and the whole community.	Lancefield
C3	I just want to share my perspective on the role of Council and what my rates should and shouldn't cover. My top priority is those things that other community groups (particularly activist groups) don't cover. Ie. Roads, rubbish, council amenities and maintenance. My lowest priority is activist areas like climate change, environment newsletters, and indigenous politics that are the domain of other levels of government, or other community organisations, eg. Landcare. Whilst these issues are important, there are community-focused groups that work well in those areas, and council need not duplicate or fund them, particularly as extra levies are then contemplated to cover the resultant shortfall for basics like roads and rubbish.	Woodend
C4	Build a swimming pool and gym facilities in either Romsey or Lancefield due to rise of people in the community	Lancefield
C5	We have no footpaths on the west (quarry) end of Tylden. It is impossible to push a pram over the open drains, overgrown grass and creeks. There are planned paths in the latest Macedon Ranges footpath plan. It would make a huge difference to the community. Especially families walking to school each day. It would also open these areas up for casual walkers and dog walkers in the town. Any type of path will do. I would love sealed paths but anything would be better than the mud we walk though now. Thanks for your help.	Tylden
C6	As a ratepayer for over 45 years (now retired), I would like to express my disappointment regarding the recent removal of one of the small budget items, being the receipt of a free pass for parking at Hanging Rock when you have a meal at the cafe there. I feel that whilst there would be some saving in the parking costs, this would be more than offset by ratepayers like me and my wife ceasing to use the cafe, including us bringing our friends and relatives. I am aware that visitors to the area can obtain such a free parking pass and this disappoints me more, as I believe ratepayers should be prioritized to receive such a benefit. One possible part-concession could be to allow the free pass for ratepayers who hold a Seniors Card? Your consideration of this suggestion would be greatly appreciated.	Gisborne
C7	I would to like to shine a light on the ridiculous speeds being travelled down McGeorge road in the Willow estate in Gisborne. I live on McGeorge Road near Brooking road and what is evident is not a single car travels at the required 50km speed, unfortunately to make things worse cars are accelerating hard after the roundabout which has led to unreasonable vehicle sound levels within my home despite double glazed windows and insulation. It is also becoming increasingly dangerous to enter and exit my short driveway as it is impossible to judge the car speed around me. I fear for my wife and kids and the people and children that wait at the bus stop nearby. This has been raised several times with council and police with no luck as I have been advised it's somehow not council problem despite speed calming measures or initiatives sitting with council. As a local resident I am fed up at the lack of care shown to address what I believe is a serious problem.	Gisborne
C8	Redesdale Rd between Kyneton Resource Recovery Facility and Rollinson Reserve entrance has a very bumpy section of road...in our ute and truck particularly. The problem is mostly when you head north on that side of the road. Would it be possible to redo that bit of road? Thanks for doing the edges of the road too it has made a big difference when it rains.	Edgecombe
C9	The highest priority for the 2026/27 Budget should be the full funding and expedited completion of the Woodend-Riddells Creek Shared Trail. As Gisborne residents who enjoy running and cycle long distances, we view this trail as the critical "spine" of active transport in the Macedon Ranges. We urge Council to ensure there are no delays in the staged construction of this project. Secondly, we ask Council to invest in the Daylesford to Hanging Rock Rail Trail (feasibility and design). Our goal is to see a continuous off-road network exceeding 50km. By completing the Woodend-Riddells Creek trail and linking it to the Daylesford corridor, the Council would create a nationally significant asset. This scale is required to support local endurance athletes and attracts high-yield cycle tourism, similar to the success of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Please prioritise the completion of the Woodend-Riddells Creek Shared Trail above all else.	New Gisborne
C10	I live quite close to Ross Watt reserve and I look at all that wonderful space that could be transformed to benefit the local community. In Gisborne/New Gisborne we have an abundance of organised sporting activities but not much for casual activities. Ross Watt would be perfect to put in facilities for casual recreational activities. A half basketball court for shooting practice, soccer nets for goal practice, a BMX track or skate park, a handball court. When I walk around the area I see so many basketball nets in the front gardens of houses. How good would it be if the kids could gather together and practice their shots. Ross Watt is so close to New Gisborne primary school, so there are so many young people in the area that would benefit from casual physical activity. These facilities would not be too expensive and would be wonderful for the area.	New Gisborne
C11	More spots at Kyneton Kindergarten. Our 3 year old missed out on a spot at Kyneton Kindergarten next year which would have been a short walk from our home. We will now need to drive to Woodend to pick him up and drop him off from the Kindergarten there.	Kyneton

Community Submissions
General Feedback

Number	Please provide detail about your general input on services or priorities.	Township Area
C12	Hi, I would like to request a left hand passing lane on the corner of Saunders Rd and Colman CRT New Gisborne. I was nearly involved in an accident turning right into Colman CRT when a large truck with a trailer came up very fast behind me and was unable to stop. The truck had to swerve off the road to the left on to the verge to avoid a collision.	Gisborne
C13	Our smaller towns and villages have fallen under a single "small towns" strategy plan since 1999. Whilst some of them have grown only marginally in that time, others have doubled or even tripled in population. Within the next budget can the strategic planning department please allocate funds to updating and rezoning (where appropriate) each of these small towns growth strategies within the next 12 months. I would really appreciate a focus on Tylden and providing a plan for infrastructure and growth in coming decades.	Tylden
C14	I have contacted MRSC a number of times of the state of the Lions Park in Romsey. The public toilets are old and needs updating. The adjoining undercover seating area is dark even during daylight hours and uninviting. Theses facilities are constantly used by the public travelling through Romsey and in my opinion doesn't reflect well on our facilities. Skylights or similar will improve lighting and more native shrubs, plants and trees will enhance the park. It seems as though this doesn't receive the same upkeep and maintenance as the Skate Park facilities or the All Abilities Park.	Romsey - Lions Park next to the 1860 Hotel
C15	Should provide funding to town centre activation plan projects	Romsey
C16	Climate change is causing more frequent and severe bushfire, therefore we need to change our approach to fuel reduction. Large scale burn off affects wildlife, plant diversity and can be dangerous to our communities eg Cobaw State Forrest burn off 2015. Cool or prescribed burns is a light burn that maintains fuel reduction and reduces fire intensity. "Bushfire Front" has an article "The science behind prescribed burning " which supports this idea. In New South Wales cultural burning has been carried out by traditional owners, ecologists, Local Land Care and the Rural Fire brigade with success. If indigenous people were involved it would help form cross-cultural partnerships and I'm sure that grants could be sought to help pay for this project. Please consider this idea as we need to look after our land for future generations.	Macedon
C17	Progress the Woodend Community Centre/Library redevelopment	
C18	The Lions Club accommodation rebuild/refurbishment in Dundas st, Lancefield needs to move to the top of the Council priority list of funded projects. The small units which have been in constant use and demand have been dismantled for use for 2 or more years. There is an increasing and urgent need for accommodation for older single people in Lancefield and it is negligent to leave this project in the state it is in.	Lancefield
C19	U3A Kyneton utilises the Studio for Table Tennis at the Aquatic Centre twice a week during term times. This activity aligns with the MRSC's Aged Care policy and greatly benefits the community, However, the lift in the building has not been working for at least the past 18 months. Due to this inconvenience, some members are unable to participate in Table Tennis. It also means that U3A is unable to move to an alternative venue as the table tennis tables cannot be relocated safely. This matter is also a work health and safety issue. Fixing the lift in the Aquatic Centre is urgently needed. J. Taubman, President, U3A Kyneton (u3akyneton@gmail.com)	Kyneton
C20	grants to support export marketing for Macedon Ranges businesses into SE Asia.	NEW GISBORNE
C21	Thank you for the opportunity to submit an idea. The children's school crossing in Gisborne on Aitken St, between Howey and Fisher Streets desperately requires an improvement. I lobbied the office of Mary-Anne Thomas several times over the last 18 months and have been told that the crossing is on the list for further works, yet nothing has been done. The crossing services children for both St Brigids and Gisborne Primary. Safety concerns have been raised by multiple crossing attendants internally for several years.' Again no improvement has been forthcoming. It would be terribly unfortunate should there be a death or injury at this crossing when it has been flagged by so many and reported regularly as a danger to the community.	Gisborne
C22	A round about corner of High St & Lancefield Rd before a fatality occurs there.	Lancefield & Benloch
C23	The tennis courts in New Gisborne need to be updated. They are old and outdated. Also the clubrooms are very old compared to other tennis clubs in the macedon rangers. Many kids and adults in the community use these courts. It is a great use of the money as tennis is a very community driven sport. I hope you take this into serious consideration.	New Gisborne
C24	Please spend some time and money to upgrade the Lancefield Park Precinct. I am a part of the Junior Football Netball Club and also a player in the womens football team for Lancefield. An upgrade to the change rooms to make them more user friendly for all players, young and old. Also the fencing around the ground is currently unstable and unsafe for players and community. Please support the growing community of Lancefield to continue to provide suitable and safe facilities to all	Lancefield
C25	Listen to your community. Don't bow to minority groups all the time. Look after majority groups too. Less woke and red tape.	Lancefield
C26	Urgently replace the existing lift at the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre. It has been faulty for approximately two years and out of action since early this year. The Studio area is used by a number of community groups and those with a disability or mobility issues are unable to access this area.	KYNETON

Community Submissions
General Feedback

Number	Please provide detail about your general input on services or priorities.	Township Area
C27	<p>As a committee member of U3A Kyneton I am submitting this priority on behalf of our 350+ members. U3A is the primary user of the Red Brick Hall (heritage listed as the Congregational Kindergarten) In Yalwyn St West Kyneton. U3A has recently accepted a proposal from Council that will see the venue hire increase by some 11K over the next few years. However, U3A's requests for urgent and appropriate building maintenance goes unheeded.</p> <p>This heritage listed building is rapidly deteriorating. Appended photos show that the fret work and timber facias are in urgent need of restoration and repair. There is a broken pane in a window on the western side wall (noted by both Council and Heritage Victoria on a recent inspection) and the metal grilles that run horizontally between the upper and lower panes on all windows on that side have corroded to the extent that they are non existent allowing easy access and poor temperature control . The roofing slates also require maintenance.</p>	Kyneton
C28	<p>The residents of Grahams Road Lancefield seek 50kmh speed restrictions, as requested in our letter to council in October 2025. This initiative will reduce the current high volume traffic using this road as a short cut between Kilmore and Romsey. For a minimal cost, the consequence of erecting these signs, will see the current costs of road maintenance reduced significantly. Council's regular grading and general road maintenance costs will reduce, saving rate payers thousands of dollars annually. We ask that this regular road maintenance program be costed by council officers then put up for budget 2026 consideration. This may be the only request for a reduction in Council financial outlays in this 'Have Your Say' for Budget 2026! Save money and have a safer Grahams Road which means saving lives.</p>	Lancefield
C29	<p>The Transport Action Group of Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) proposes that Council should develop an Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) for the Shire in 2026. Please see the pdf attached for more details.</p>	Shire-wide
C30	<p>I would like to suggest an allocation in the budget to relocate, expand or redevelop the Kyneton library. The facilities are grossly inadequate for the current population, let alone to cater for the increase in population that is currently occurring and expected to continue. The library also services the surrounding smaller towns such as Malmsbury. Other libraries in the Goldfields library group (not all Macedon Ranges) are much bigger and well set up. Castlemaine has new soundproof booths, a meeting room and different zones. K'Flat has been relocated and purpose built new and Bendigo had significant upgrades. Woodend library is much better amd bigger and spacious. And although not in the Goldfields region Sunbury library was also purpose built new. I havent been to the Gisborne library yet. The one single tiny room at Kyneton is not really adequate and desperately needs an upgrade. Is there space in the old Primary School location just next to it?</p>	Malmsbury and Kyneton
C31	<p>Romsey Neighbourhood House (RNH) is a central pillar of community wellbeing, resilience, economic participation and social inclusion in the Macedon Ranges. It delivers a broad range of essential services that directly align with the Shire's strategic objectives. Yet the Shire contributes only \$5,000 annually, an amount that is dramatically disproportionate to both the scale of work undertaken and the measurable community value created.</p> <p>Romsey Neighbourhood House delivers more than \$6.3 million in community value every year, fulfilling core civic functions in health, wellbeing, inclusion, emergency relief, food security, youth development, volunteering and local economic participation.</p> <p>To ensure that Romsey remains connected, safe, resilient and inclusive — and to meet its own strategic objectives — we request the Shire review their annual funding for RNH.</p> <p>We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this submission.</p>	Romsey

Community Submissions
Projects

Budget 2026/27 Community Submissions Projects							
Number	Proposal name / title	Where is your project located?	Please enter the township/area:	Describe your idea in 100 words or less:	What issue or opportunity does your proposal address?	Who will benefit from your proposal?	Which Council Plan Objective does your idea align with?
P1	More footpath access to new development areas out of town	A specific township:	Kyneton	The newer/ slightly out of town housing estate developments have no safe footpath access into town. Areas such as Tylwinda and the new development past the Piper St bridge. It would be awesome if there was a wide path with a low divider to stop kids from running in to the 80- 100kmph traffic.	Walkable town access, reducing car use and increasing physical health of people living here. Increased local buying as people can walk into to town to a Cafe and pop into other shops while wandering past.	Everyone. If the path is nice and wide, then it can be for bikes too, creating a good recreational area for longer bike/scooter/roller-skate etc rides. If it is a decent path then the whole town can go on walks in a direction they probably haven't before.	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)
P2	Main Road Romsey pedestrian crossing	East Ward (Baynton, Darraweit Guim, Kerrie, Lancefield, Newham, Riddells Creek and Romsey)	Romsey	The pedestrian crossing on Main Road Romsey is very dangerous due the the road is much lower than the crossing and it is impossible to cross with a wheelchair or any other aids use by anyone with a disability. I live in 1 Stawell Street and go to the doctors quite frequently and I can't use the crossing and have witnessed others like myself that are in electric wheelchairs or cart and they too have to cross the road incorrectly and I feel one day soon someone will become a victim of not being able to cross the main road correctly due to a bad design for a pedestrian crossing.	Saving lives or major injury	Anyone who has no other choice but to cross the road incorrectly at their on risk.	4 - Our People (Our community is safe, healthy and well)
P3	Riddells Creek Geese	East Ward (Baynton, Darraweit Guim, Kerrie, Lancefield, Newham, Riddells Creek and Romsey)	Riddells Creek	Riddells Creek has an icon for the town. The local geese are what people love to see when visiting or passing through the town. We need to protect these geese but also make it safe for the public & traffic. We need adequate signage, reduced speed limits & detertants to also protect the wildlife.	This will allow safe areas for visitors to park and enjoy time with the animals. It will allow people to shop at the local shops, allocate proper feed for people to buy to feed the geese in allocated areas only (just a suggestion). Encourages the geese to frequent certain areas. A safe place all round.	Riddells Creek residents, visitors & the local Geese & wildlife.	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)
P4	Improve Bicycle access to the train station	West Ward (Carlsruhe, Kyneton, Malmsbury, Tylden and Woodend)	Kyneton	Improving independent bicycle access to the train station is focus on safety for cyclists and the public. The current bridge linking Kyneton town to the train station is narrow and lacks road shoulders. This is dangerous, especially when the weather is poor and at night. Separating vehicles from cyclists and pedestrians is a tremendous public safety improvement!	Safety for cyclist and pedestrians	Public will benift from having a independent pathway to the train station	4 - Our People (Our community is safe, healthy and well)
P5	Footpath to the Ecotherapy Park	East Ward (Baynton, Darraweit Guim, Kerrie, Lancefield, Newham, Riddells Creek and Romsey)	Romsey	To construct a footpath alongside the unmade road in William St, ROMSEY, from Murphy St to the Ecotherapy Park southern entrance. This safe access should have been provided as part of the Ecotherapy Park development.	To get pedestrians off the gravel road which although not very long has been recorded by council as having about 75 vehicles a day use it. Nearly all of these vehicles are through traffic or park visitors, as there are only 3 properties on this part of William St. I believe there is a safety issue here as the park has become very popular with families in particular.	Parents and children who utilise the park. I see many children with and without supervision accessing the park from William St via the Murphy St end. Some will be walking, some in pushers, some on scooters, and some on bikes. When a vehicle comes along the road they have to be aware and get off the road sometimes quite quickly. I have seen anxious parents with multiple children shouting and hurrying to make sure their charges are aware of the approaching vehicle. I feel it is only a matter of time before an accident happens.	4 - Our People (Our community is safe, healthy and well)

Community Submissions
Projects

	Proposal name / title	Where is your project located?	Please enter the township/area:	Describe your idea in 100 words or less:	What issue or opportunity does your proposal address?	Who will benefit from your proposal?	Which Council Plan Objective does your idea align with?
Number							
P6	Barkly Square Pavillion Project	West Ward (Carlsruhe, Kyneton, Malmsbury, Tylden and Woodend)	Kyneton	Our project is a joint submission from Kyneton District Soccer Club and Kyneton Obedience Dog Club for the provision of a new shared pavillion facility to replace the existing outdated buildings. This would enable both clubs the opportunity to attract and retain members as well as offering a suitable place for other groups to access in the future. The growth of both clubs relies on providing accessible facilities.	The need to have a facility that offers both clubs a space to meet and hold functions without having excessive hire costs would enable both clubs to increase revenue to put back into suppling neccessary equipment for members.	Members from both the Obedience Dog Club and the Soccer Club would benefit. The Obedience Dog Club would have use of better facilities, kitchen, meeting space, access to toilet facilities which they currently don't have in their exisiting building, making it a better enviroment for their members. The inclusion of Female Friendly changerooms would be a significant benefit for the female participants at the soccer club allowing them a space where they feel safer.	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)
P7	Riddells Creek Skate park	East Ward (Baynton, Darraweit Guim, Kerrie, Lancefield, Newham, Riddells Creek and Romsey)	Riddells Creek	i have lived in riddells creek for almost 10 years, i moved here with my family when i was 10 years old, and well, now im almost 19 years old and the skatepark in riddells creek has looked exactly the same as it did when i was a child, i would love for it to get a makeover with more ramps and rails to skate on, as i would like to develop a passion for skateboarding but have to travel to lance field or gisborne to practice. I think the community would love to see it improved. Thanks	it provides an opportunity for our community members to bond and learn vital motorskills to use for the rest of their lives! Even adding a BBQ area would allow people who cant skate still enjoy a nice bbq right by the skatepark, watching their relatives and friends skate.	mostly the younger community, although all ages can learn how to skate.	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)
P8	Magnolia Drive Footpath Extension	East Ward (Baynton, Darraweit Guim, Kerrie, Lancefield, Newham, Riddells Creek and Romsey)	Romsey	Footpath extension for Magnolia Drive, Romsey	Currently the footpath does not connect on Magnolia Drive from the corner of Silverdale Drive through to Digby Drive, leading to people walking on the road along the northern end of Magnolia Drive causing significant safety issues. Furthermore, there is a bus stop on the northern section of Magnolia Drive which means that school children are walking on the road to get to the bus stop.	Romsey community but particularly the residents of Magnolia Drive and surrounding streets.	4 - Our People (Our community is safe, healthy and well)
P9	Secure off lead dog park	West Ward (Carlsruhe, Kyneton, Malmsbury, Tylden and Woodend)	Woodend	20% of Woodend population is aged 65 plus. I am 68, my partner 66. We walk our dog daily. We meet many people of our age and older who have companion dogs and love to get them out and about. Having a pet has been proven to help people age healthier and happier. As we age it is difficult to let our dogs free in the designated off leash area as big dogs not controlled, also getting them back if they run off. Off leash dog park will help aging people to keep their dogs longer, healthier and social whilst still getting out and about themselves and continuuing socialise with like minded people.	Lack of safe contained area for dog owners to let their dogs free and let them socialise with other dogs.	All dog owners in the Woodend and wider area. Particularly aging people who love to get their dog out but would also like them to socialise and play with other dogs.	4 - Our People (Our community is safe, healthy and well)
P10	Macedon Ranges Indoor AFL Hub	South Ward (Bullengarook, Gisborne, Macedon, Mount Macedon and New Gisborne)		So many local junior and senior clubs struggle for training grounds during bad weather, so this would be amazing! And what an awesome place to hold birthday parties and indoor footy competitions for all ages!	Indoor training facilities, more sport options and a great place for social gatherings and parties.	The whole Macedon Ranges community and surrounds!	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)
P11	Greenhills Estate/ Robert crt Playground	South Ward (Bullengarook, Gisborne, Macedon, Mount Macedon and New Gisborne)	Gisborne	Upgrade the greenhills estate/ Robert crt playground and park. The playground is highly used due to the significant amount of families living nearby. Desperately needs new and more equipment as well as native planting in area where there is nothing but weeds.	Under-utilised space that is in high demand. Expand native planting will reduce ongoing mowing requirements.	All of the shire, Gisborne residents and those that live within walking distance to this great park.	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)

Community Submissions
Projects

	Proposal name / title	Where is your project located?	Please enter the township/area:	Describe your idea in 100 words or less:	What issue or opportunity does your proposal address?	Who will benefit from your proposal?	Which Council Plan Objective does your idea align with?
Number							
P12	Community Pocket Play Development	South Ward (Bullengarook, Gisborne, Macedon, Mount Macedon and New Gisborne)	Gisborne	Residents of Morrow Road, Slattery Cres and surrounds currently lack access to nearby park facilities without crossing major roads, creating accessibility barriers. This proposal recommends transforming an unused parcel of land (26 Morrow Rd) into a small community pocket park to address this gap. The park would include native landscaping and a small play area, providing a safe, walkable green space for all ages. Developing the site would enhance neighbourhood wellbeing, support social connection, and improve the visual appeal of the area whilst reducing weed and grass maintenance problems.	This proposal addresses several key issues, including the lack of safe, walkable access to park facilities for residents of Morrow Road and Saunders Road, who currently must cross major roads to reach green spaces, and the ongoing weed management problems associated with the site's current underuse. At the same time, it presents significant opportunities to create a safe and accessible community space that supports recreation, social connection, and wellbeing. By transforming the neglected land into a landscaped pocket park, the project enhances neighbourhood appearance, promotes environmental benefits such as cooling and biodiversity, and converts an unused area into a valuable community asset.	Residents of Morrow Road and Slattery Crescent will benefit most, particularly families with young children, older adults, and people with mobility needs who require safe, walkable access to green spaces. Local community members around Black Avenue, McKim Road and the vastly developing area will gain a welcoming place for recreation, relaxation, and social connection. New residents will have an accessible space to meet neighbours and feel part of the community. Environmental benefits such as reduced weeds, and improved biodiversity will positively impact the broader neighbourhood.	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)
P13	All-access Drinking Fountains in Macedon Ranges Libraries	Whole of Macedon Ranges shire		Libraries are welcoming, inclusive spaces serving diverse community needs, and Macedon Ranges library branches attract over 20,000 visitors each month. Access to potable, sustainable drinking water is essential to the health and wellbeing of our users and is currently lacking. This project aims to install drinking fountains in each library. The initiative supports health and wellbeing, reduces single-use plastics and encourages refilling, particularly important as extreme heat days increase. The project enhances wellbeing, safety and environmental responsibility across our library network.	Access to drinking water in Macedon Ranges libraries is limited, creating health, equity and environmental challenges. Some branches have outdated, unhygienic coolers or no public access at all, reducing comfort, increasing plastic waste and limiting heatwave preparedness. Installing high-quality, filtered, accessible drinking fountains in all four Macedon Ranges libraries presents a strong opportunity to improve community wellbeing, environmental sustainability and climate resilience. The modern, all-abilities units will provide inclusive access for children, older adults and wheelchair users, supporting library patrons who study or work for extended periods. This initiative reduces waste, promotes reusable bottles and strengthens libraries as trusted, health-promoting public spaces. It aligns with Library and Council sustainability goals and the Climate Change and Health Framework, reflecting leadership in environmental stewardship and equity-focused heat health planning.	The project benefits all library users by providing safe, accessible drinking water and reducing single-use plastics. Children will learn healthy hydration habits through Storytime and water-themed activities, supporting lifelong wellbeing. Regular patrons, students, families, older adults and people with disabilities will enjoy improved comfort and inclusiveness, particularly during long visits or extreme heat. By positioning libraries as welcoming, climate-controlled cool spaces, the project also supports community resilience and cost-of-living relief. Alongside environmental gains, it strengthens community connection and pride through engagement activities like choosing fountain colours, promoting health, sustainability and learning across the Macedon Ranges.	4 - Our People (Our community is safe, healthy and well)
P14	Upgrade to Kyneton Social Club at Kyneton Showgrounds	West Ward (Carlsruhe, Kyneton, Malmsbury, Tylden and Woodend)	Kyneton	The existing Social Club is no longer fit for purpose or compliant and needs an upgrade to servive the hundreds of users of the Social Club. The upgrade involves - upgrade to toilets, upgrade for diabled compliance, upgrade to kitchen and bar, extra social club useable ara (approx 100m2), upgrade for more user friendly access, upgrade for better viewing from the Club to the oval. a Concept Plan has been undertaken, along with renders, and is attached in the supporting documents	The existing Social Club is no longer fit for purpose or compliant and needs an upgrade to better servive the hundreds of users of the Social Club. An upgrade of the Social Club was foreshadowed in Coucil's Showgrounds Masterplan	The Kyneton and surrounding community, there are many user groups who use the Social Club - football , netball, cricket, agricultural society, athletics. Hundreds of users , and families and supporters, across all ages . the upgrade will also facilitate use for business functions and private functions (wakes, 21sts etc) , which is an area that is currently underserved in Kyenton	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)

Community Submissions
Projects

	Proposal name / title	Where is your project located?	Please enter the township/area:	Describe your idea in 100 words or less:	What issue or opportunity does your proposal address?	Who will benefit from your proposal?	Which Council Plan Objective does your idea align with?
Number							
P15	Hesket Primary School - Additional Access to Alleviate COngestion on Bowens Road	East Ward (Baynton, Darraweit Guim, Kerrie, Lancefield, Newham, Riddells Creek and Romsey)	Hesket	We are seeking Council's support to complete works on Bowens lane that would enable Hesket Primary to install a second access point to the school. Once complete, the school would then self-fund an internal road that would significantly reduces traffic and congestion on Bowens Road, creating traffic flow that Council and Hesket PS agree is a significant on ongoing safety concerns.	Hesket Primary School only has one carpark attached to the school that houses 13 carparks. Bowens Road narrows to one lane and even with mitigations such as road safety education and staggered afternoon pickups, there are up to 40 cars double parked, attempting to turn around and reverse, all while children are walking through and hopping in and out of cars. Stantec was comissioned by Macedon Ranges Council to conduct a safety audit and found that car parking spaces available west of Bowens Road were found to be almost full at 3pm, parents were then observed to start parking east of Bowens Road, which reduced the access aisle width for the 90-degree car parking spaces and Bowens Road has a narrow carriageway width, and performing a three-point turn is difficult. There has been a submission of the form Submit your idea through your Your Say Macedon Ranges website. This congestion has caused a number of small accidents, all while children and families and crossing through the space.	This proposal will remove the number of cars parking illegally on the eastern side of Bowens road, the number if cars doing three-point turns and the need for students to cross the road. It will stop cars from turning around in driveways on Bowens road and create a flow of traffic through the school that will allow us to build a 'kiss and drop' zone that the current road layout does not. Ultimately, this will have a significantly reduce the residual risk for community members, most of all the 75 students that attend Hesket Primary School.	4 - Our People (Our community is safe, healthy and well)
P16	Gisborne Community Food Plan	South Ward (Bullengarook, Gisborne, Macedon, Mount Macedon and New Gisborne)	Gisborne	The Gisborne Food Community Mapping Project, led by Gisborne Town Teams, is a foundational initiative to map and understand the food connections between residents, workers, and visitors in the 3437 postcode. Data is collected via a Community Food Sourcing Survey to identify sourcing habits and gaps in the local supply chain. The primary outcome is the Gisborne Food Plan (V1.0), which will provide data-driven recommendations to strengthen local "Connections through Food in Gisborne" and guide future community action.	The project addresses the fundamental lack of a clear, community-led understanding of Gisborne's current food system. The core issue is the unknown extent of local food supply chain gaps—identifying which food products are being sourced from outside the 3437 postcode and the reasons why (e.g., availability, price, or preference), resulting in a loss to the local economy. This presents the opportunity to create the Gisborne Food Plan V1.0. This plan, built on community data, will offer strategic recommendations to strengthen local food connections, guide interventions, and ensure the community's food system continuously adapts to serve the diverse and evolving needs of its residents, workers, and visitors.	The Gisborne Food Community Mapping Project will benefit several key groups within the community and region: Gisborne Community (Residents, Workers, and Visitors): They will benefit from a stronger, more resilient local food system. The project will lead to data-driven recommendations in the Gisborne Food Plan V1.0 that aim to strengthen local Connections through Food in Gisborne, potentially leading to better availability, quality, and access to local food options. Local Food Producers and Businesses: They will gain a clearer understanding of local sourcing habits and identified gaps in the supply chain. This mapping of gaps and opportunities will help them identify areas for growth or intervention, directing local spending back into the local economy. Community Group Leaders and Advocacy Groups: The project's findings will provide an objective, data-driven foundation to guide future community action, enabling these groups to advocate for and implement targeted, effective food system initiatives. Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Government Representatives: They will receive a final report and database outlining the current state of food sourcing. This information is crucial for strategic planning and assisting in deciding what's next for Gisborne regarding its food system and economic development.	3 - Our Economy (Our local businesses and tourism sectors thrive and provide opportunities for everyone)
P17	Bike/walking trail Gisborne to Bullengarook	South Ward (Bullengarook, Gisborne, Macedon, Mount Macedon and New Gisborne)	Gisborne	A bike/walking trail between Gisborne and Bullengarook in land along Bacchus Marsh Rd.	This will improve safety for school children accessing bus pick up and drop off points walking from their home locations as well as safe access for all Bullengarook residents who want to access Gisborne by bike. There is not enough safe space at road edge for bike riding not even a gravel verge and for most of year grass is very high.	All residents of Bullengarook and Gisborne also has to be beneficial to vehicles using Bacchus Marsh Rd. Also recreational exercise users.	1 - Our Places (Connected and active places and spaces for everyone)

COR.2	INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION
Officer:	Zoe Hardiman, Governance Officer
Council Plan relationship:	Our Performance
Attachments:	Nil

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.

Background

The appointment of Authorised Officers allows certain Council officers to act on behalf of Council in the administration and enforcement of various Acts, regulations, or local laws in accordance with the powers granted to them. Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Local Government Act 2020* officers represent the Council in enforcing the provisions of these Acts.

Discussion

The Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation for the following four (4) officers are to be revoked, as they are no longer employed by Council or have transferred departments and do not require authorisation:

- Amy McKenzie (Swan), Project Officer (3 October 2025)
- Declan Hunter, Statutory Planning Subdivisions Officer (5 December 2025)
- Sky Chen, Statutory Planning Officer (19 December 2025)
- Rees May, Coordinator Strategic Planning and Compliance (19 March 2026)

Consultation and engagement

Not applicable.

Collaboration

Not applicable.

Innovation and continuous improvement

Not applicable.

Relevant law

This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The implications of this report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon the human rights detailed on the Victorian Government's *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Not applicable.

Relevant Council plans and policies

Accountability and continual improvement.

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

The recommendation will not impact Council's energy usage or greenhouse emissions.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services?

Not applicable.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?
Not applicable.

Financial viability

Not applicable.

Sustainability implications

Not applicable.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- No AI tools were used in the preparation of this report.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

COR.3	RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
Officer:	Setina Rockliff, Coordinator Risk and OHS
Council Plan relationship:	Our Performance
Attachments:	Risk Management Policy 2026 ↓

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.

Background

The Risk Management Policy is a core component of Council's Risk Management Framework. It articulates Council's commitment to effective risk management and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities that support its implementation.

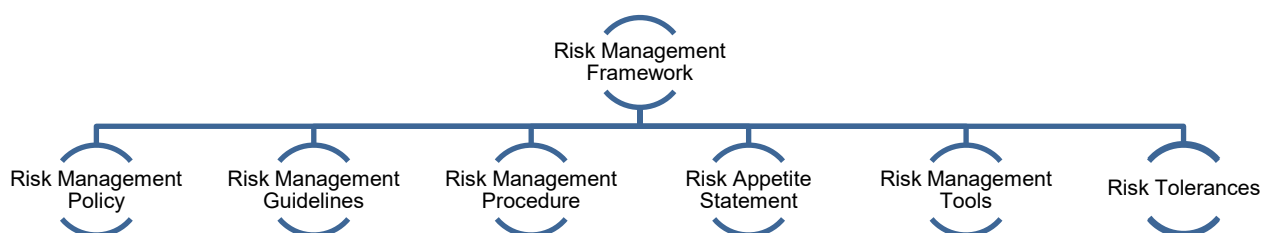


Figure 1: Macedon Ranges Shire Council Risk Management Framework key documents

The policy aligns with both the:

- The AS/ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Guidelines; and
- The Victorian Government Risk Management Framework.

This ensures Council's approach to risk management is consistent with recognised best-practice principles and statewide public sector expectations.

By aligning with these frameworks, the policy promotes a structured and proactive approach to identifying and managing risks across all areas of Council operations. This alignment also supports stronger governance, improved decision-making and greater accountability, ensuring Council fulfils its obligations to the community, regulators and other stakeholders.

Discussion

Council last endorsed the policy in August 2023. At the request of Council, the policy is being presented within the new term of Council.

Continual Improvement

Minor edits have been made to the policy, including:

- (1) Improvements to grammar and plain english wording.
- (2) Update responsibility for defining risk tolerances to senior leadership, which is consistent with good practice and the overall roles and responsibilities in the framework.
- (3) Explicit inclusion of a requirement for staff to report matters that may give rise to a claim to the Risk and OHS team.
- (4) Clarification that the Risk and OHS Unit is responsible for reporting relevant matters to the insurer.
- (5) Incorporation of an overview of the Risk Management Framework and its key documents.

The policy has been reviewed and consulted with internal and external Committees, with feedback incorporated into subsequent versions.

Consultation and engagement

The updated Risk Management Policy was reviewed collaboratively with Council's Executive, Senior Officers, the internal Risk Management Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee, with feedback integrated into the Policy.

Collaboration

Collaboration with other parties was not required in relation to this report.

Innovation and continuous improvement

Reviewing the Risk Management Policy on a predetermined cycle supports continuous improvement by ensuring the framework evolves alongside the organisation. Regular review also provides greater clarity around Council's commitment to risk management and clearly defines roles and responsibilities, creating a shared understanding that enables informed decision-making and fosters innovation within an appropriate and well-understood risk framework.

Relevant law

Under the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*, councils have an obligation to exercise sound governance, accountability and stewardship, which includes the effective management of risk.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

Victorian Government Risk Management Framework.

Relevant Council plans and policies

- Shaping the Ranges 2025-2035

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? The Risk Management Policy will have minimal to no direct impact on Council's energy usage or greenhouse emissions profile.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? The Risk Management Policy will help mitigate the risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services by strengthening how climate-related risks are identified, assessed, and managed across Council.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? The Risk Management Policy helps prepare the community for future climate scenarios by strengthening Council's ability to understand, plan for and respond to climate-related risks that affect residents, infrastructure and local services.

Financial viability

Not applicable.

Sustainability implications

Not applicable.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report:

- AI tools were used for editing or quality improvement only, for example grammar, readability or formatting.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

Policy



Risk Management Policy

Date of Adoption	23 April 2025		
Adoption Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> CEO	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)
CEO Signature			Date
Responsible Officer and Unit	Coordinator Risk and OHS, People and Wellbeing		
Nominated Review Period	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>) Every four years and within the first year of Councillor term.	
Last Endorsement Date	23 August 2023		
Next Endorsement Date	23 April 2029		

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, present, and emerging. 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.

DOCUMENT HISTORY	Version	Date	Author
Initial Draft	3	2/3/25	Coordinator Risk and OHS
Second Draft	3.1	1/9/25	ELT
	3.2	10/9/25	ARC
	3.3	7/4/26	Councillor Briefing
Final Draft	3.4	22/4/26	Council
Approval	3.4	23/4/26	Council

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Purpose

The purpose of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Risk Management Policy is to:

- Ensure everyone who is engaged with Council understands their roles and responsibilities in relation to risk management.
- Recognise that risk management is an integral part of good governance and leadership.
- Recognise that risk management contributes to the continuous improvement cycle.
- Recognise that managing risk is an iterative process that assists Council in setting strategy, achieving objectives and making informed decisions.

Scope

This Policy applies to Councillors, Audit and Risk Committee members, Council employees, volunteers, contractors and service providers who undertake activities on behalf of Council.

Policy Statement

To support Council, achieve its objectives, Council will:

- Implement a Risk Management Framework consistent with AS ISO 31000:2018, ensuring an annual review.
- Ensure that risks are managed in a consistent and comprehensive manner.
- Ensure staff receive education and support to fulfil their risk management responsibilities.
- Integrate risk management process into Council decision making processes.
- Work in partnership to support the identification and management of shared and state significant risks.
- Maintain and regularly review its strategic and operational risk profile against Council plan and operational objectives.
- Promote and support Council to demonstrate a positive, risk-aware culture.

Commitment

Council is committed to implementing consistent and comprehensive risk management practices across all activities and functions to increase the likelihood of achieving its objectives, whilst encouraging a high level of accountability and management at all levels. Risk management is integrated into business activities and decision making across Council.

Council manages risks and reviews its performance in accordance with the risk management framework, risk management principles are applied throughout all Council policies, and risk management is inclusive of the management of opportunities.

Council acknowledges that risk management supports decision making through a better understanding of risk exposure. Effective risk management safeguards Council's reputation, assets, staff and public welfare whilst also creating a supportive work environment for staff that reduces high staff turnover.

Council will endeavour to provide adequate resources to ensure risks can be managed effectively. Council periodically monitors and reviews its risk management framework for accuracy and relevance. Council manages conflicts of interest in line with its risk management framework.

Positive Risk Culture

Council's positive risk culture supports everyone engaged with Council at every level to appropriately manage risk as an intrinsic part of everyday activities. Council supports open discussions about uncertainties and opportunities and encourages the application of the risk escalation process. Council's leadership team works with staff to control risks and continuously seek out new opportunities to enhance innovation.

Risk Management Framework

The Risk Management Framework consists of the following key documents:

- Risk Management Policy (this document): articulates Council's commitment to managing risk and outlines roles and responsibilities.
- Risk Management Procedure: provides guidance on how Council manages risk and includes risk criteria's.
- Risk Management Guidelines: explains how Council reviews its Risk Management Framework and embeds risk into processes.
- Risk Appetite Statement: articulates how much Risk Council is willing to pursue to achieve objectives.
- Risk Tolerances: Establish measurable boundaries for each risk category, reflecting Council's internal and external operating context.
- Risk Management Tools: are designed to support staff carry out the Risk Management procedure and include, but are not limited to, risk registers and risk assessments.

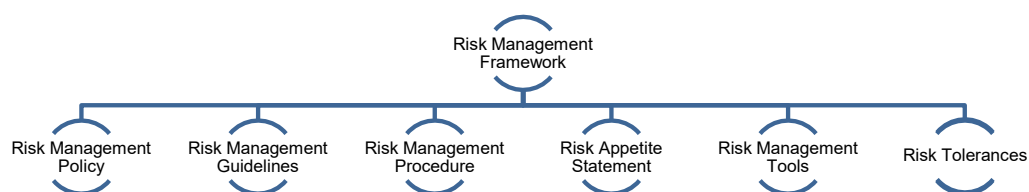


Figure 1. Macedon Ranges Shire Council Risk Management Framework key documents

Roles and Responsibilities

Councillors, in their role as Council

- Ensure that an appropriate risk management framework is in place and authorises the risk management policy.
- Ensure that a positive risk culture is in place.
- Define Council's risk appetite.
- Direct strategy and review strategic risks.
- Contribute to the identification and management of shared and state-significant risks.
- Ensure that risks of significance (as defined by Council officers) and state-significant risks are reported to the appropriate Minister, department or authority.

Audit and Risk Committee

- Provide oversight on significant strategic and operational risk exposures and control issues, including fraud and corruption risks, governance issues, and other matters needed or requested by Council.
- Monitor the effectiveness of Council's risk management framework and assess the impact on its control environment and insurance arrangements.
- Monitor Council's risk appetite, risk culture and the degree of alignment with Council's risk profile.
- Monitor Council's treatment plans for significant risks, including the timeliness of mitigating actions and progress against those plans.
- Review Council's Quarterly Risk Management Reports.
- Monitor Council's approach to business continuity planning arrangements, including whether business continuity and disaster recovery plans have been regularly updated and tested.

Risk Management Committee

- Monitors the effectiveness of the risk management framework and recommends improvements to internal processes. Provides expertise and advice for Council's operational and strategic risks.
- Champions Council's positive risk culture.
- Monitors the management of the internal audit program and identifies areas of risk from the strategic and operational risk management processes to recommend for audit

Internal Auditor

- Reports to the Audit and Risk Committee on the effectiveness of internal controls and risk management processes.
- Reports to the Audit and Risk Committee on the effectiveness of management of strategic risks.
- Supports the positive risk culture.

Chief Executive Officer

- Leads the development, implementation and review of the organisation's risk management framework and compliance obligations.
- Endorses key policies and procedures for Council.
- Ensures the management of risk is adequately resourced.
- Monitors the organisation's internal and external contexts and contributes to the identification and management for new, changing or emerging risks.
- Monitors Council's operational and strategic risk profiles.
- Ensures risk management is embedded in strategic and operational planning and reporting.

- Ensures that the executive team, and the rest of the organisation, understand their responsibilities to managing risk.
- Champions Council's positive risk culture.
- Provide leadership and stakeholder engagement in relation to the identification and management of significant shared and state significant risks, by building relationships with other agencies, and engaging with stakeholders to manage shared risk effectively.
- In the event of a conflict of interest, the CEO will designate the appropriate Risk Owner.
- Ensure adequate claims management capability, resources and structured processes are in place.

Senior Leadership Team

- Champions Council's commitment to managing risk and supports the risk management framework and policy.
- Ensure staff within their area attend scheduled risk management training.
- Contributes to the identification and management of new, emerging, shared and state significant risks.
- Defines Council's risk tolerances.
- Participates in the development, testing and embedding of the organisation's risk management framework.
- Assist staff to treat risks by immediate local action, appropriate strategies and collaborative practice between work areas.
- Monitors strategic and operational risk profiles and uses them as a source of risk management insights.
- Assesses the organisation's key risk indicators for changes in the likelihood or consequences of risks.
- Monitors Council's internal and external context for new risks.
- Identifies risk owners for new risks to ensure appropriate management of risks.
- Ensures that risk owners have the knowledge, authority and resources to manage risk effectively.
- Communicates risk information across Council.
- Advises responsible bodies of new risks and changes to strategic risks.
- Report any matters that may give rise to a claim to the Risk and OHS team immediately.
- Allocates appropriate resources to managing risk.
- Demonstrate a positive risk culture across Council.

Risk and OHS Unit

- Coordinates the periodic review of the risk management policy and other elements of the risk management framework.
- Designs processes for managing risk and support implementation across Council.
- Informs the Audit and Risk Committee and Council management of risks and issues.

- Support staff to understand their roles and responsibilities with respect to risk management.
- Analyses key risk indicators and the risk register and provide insights on risk.
- Assesses the internal and external context for new risk.
- Prepares reports to the Audit and Risk Committee and Executive Leadership Team.
- Demonstrates a positive risk culture across Council.
- Provide advice, training and support on risk management techniques.
- Actively seek out a broad range of risk assessment techniques and tools to support risk management.
- Report any matters that may give rise to a claim to our insurer.
- Maintains a register of all insurance and indemnities and manage insurance claims processes.

All Staff, Volunteers and Contractors

- Understand and support Council's risk management framework.
- Participate in risk training.
- Demonstrate Council's positive risk culture.
- Assesses new risks and monitor changes in known risks.
- Contributes to the continuous improvement of risk management frameworks, processes and culture.
- Manages risk within their area of responsibility.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020, a Gender Impact Assessment was not required in relation to the subject matter of this policy.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Audit and Risk Committee	<p>The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is a committee established by Council in accordance with section 53 and 54 of the Local Government Act 2020 (LGA).</p> <p>The Committee is not a delegated committee of Council and does not have executive powers nor authority to implement actions in areas over which Council management (management) has responsibility, nor any delegated financial responsibility. The Committee does not have any management functions and is therefore independent of management. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter, outlining the responsibilities and function of the Committee are here: https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/council/our-council/audit-risk-committee-charter-2022.pdf</p>
Consequence	Outcome of an event.

Term	Definition
	A consequence can be certain or uncertain and can have positive or negative or direct or indirect effects on objectives.
Control	Measure that maintains and / or modifies risk. Controls include, but are not limited to, any process, policy, device, practice, or other conditions and / or actions which maintain and / or modify risk.
Event	Occurrence or change of a particular set of circumstances. An event can have one or more occurrences and can have several causes and several consequences.
Executive Leadership Team (ELT)	A management team that comprises the Chief Executive Officer and Directors.
Likelihood	Chance of something happening. In risk management, 'likelihood' is used to refer to the change of something happening, whether defined, measure or determined objectively or subjectively, qualitatively or quantitatively, and described using general terms or mathematically.
Opportunity Risk	An opportunity risk is defined as an uncertainty that if it occurs would have a positive effect on achievement of objectives.
Risk	Effect of uncertainty on objectives. An effect is a deviation from the expected. It can be positive, negative or both, and can address, create or result in opportunities and threats. Objectives can have different aspects and categories and be applied at different levels.
Risk Assessment	The overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation.
Risk Analysis	Process to understand the nature of the risk and to determine the level of risk.
Risk Appetite	The types and amounts of risk that an organisation is willing to accept in the pursuit of its strategic and business objectives.
Risk Criteria	Terms of reference against which the significance of risk is evaluated. Based on organisational objectives and internal and external contexts. Risk criteria can be derived from standards, laws, policies and other requirements.
Risk Culture	Refers to the system of beliefs, values and behaviours throughout an organisation that shapes the collective approach to managing risk and making decisions. A positive risk culture is one where every person in the agency believes that thinking about and managing risk is part of their job.


Term	Definition
Risk Management	Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisations decision about risk.
Risk Management Framework	Set of components that provide the foundations and organisational arrangements for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and continually improving risk management throughout the organisation.
Risk Management Policy	Statement of overall intentions and direction of an organisation related to risk management
Risk Maturity	The benchmarking of an agency's risk management framework relative to leading practice
Risk Owner	Person or unit with the accountability and authority to manage risk.
Risk Profile	Is a description of any set of risks. The set of risks can contain those that relate to the whole organisation or part of the organisation
Risk Register	Record of information about identified risks.
Risk Source	Element which alone or in combination has potential to give risk to risk.
Risk Tolerance	The organisations readiness to bear the risk and risk treatment in order to achieve objectives. Risk tolerances are based on the maximum level of acceptable risk and may be expressed in various ways depending on the nature of the risk.
Risk Treatment	Process to modify risk, it can involve avoiding the risk by deciding not to start or continue with the activity that gives rise to the risk, taking or increasing the risk in order to pursue an opportunity, and/or removing the risk source.
Senior Leadership Team (SLT)	A management team that comprises the Chief Executive Officer, Directors and Managers.
Senior Management Team (SMT)	A management team that comprises all Managers.
Stakeholder	Person or organisation that can affect or perceive themselves to be affected by a decision or activity.

References

- > AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 – Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines
- > Victorian Government Risk Management Framework

Related Policies

- > Risk Management Guidelines
- > Risk Management Procedure

- 
- > Risk Appetite Statement
 - > Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Related Legislation

- > *Local Government Act 2020*

14 COMMUNITY REPORTS

COM.1	SMALL PROJECT GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS
Officer:	Bianca Cutajar, Community Projects Officer
Council Plan relationship:	Our People
Attachments:	Nil

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.

Recommendation**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.

Background

Council supports local community groups to deliver programs and initiatives that benefit residents of the Macedon Ranges and help achieve Council Plan goals. This is achieved through the Small Project Grants program, offering up to \$3,000 per project. The allocated budget in the 2025-26 financial year for the Small Project Grants program is \$30,000.

Applications are reviewed against eligibility and scoring criteria. A detailed list of requirements are available in the Small Project Grants Guidelines [located on Council's website](#).

All applications are assessed by a panel of Council officers (including subject matter experts, depending on the nature of the application) and assessed in accordance with Council's [Community Grants Policy](#).

Applications are assessed on four broad criteria, inclusive of:

- Evidence of need;
- Alignment to Council priorities;
- Community benefit;
- Ability to deliver project.

Discussion

Between 1 January and 28 February 2026, 11 applications were received and evaluated against the eligibility criteria outlined in the Small Project Grants Guidelines. Nine (9) applications were deemed eligible and proceeded to assessment in March 2026, seeking a combined funding request of \$20,836. This request exceeded the available budget by \$6,379.70.

The number of applications represents the highest volume for any funding round financial year to date, with 45% received in this period alone. This increase follows an underspend of \$7,988 in the 2024/25 financial year, demonstrating an increase in community need and awareness.

Details of all nine (9) applications and recommendations are listed below. Three (3) applications are recommended for full funding. Four (4) projects are recommended for partial funding, allowing these projects to continue and achieve stated objectives, whilst ensuring as wide a set of projects as possible can be delivered. Two (2) projects have been recommended for no funding, however officers will support the applicants to revisit their applications for suggested submission to this year's Community Funding Scheme.

- **Application 1: Woodend Neighbourhood House for ‘Infant life-saving skills for informal carers’**

Training provided to carers with the skills needed to respond to medical emergencies involving babies/infants.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is recommended for full funding (\$840).
- **Application 2: Newham Mechanics Institute Inc. for ‘Replacement Glasswasher’**

Replacement of Newham Mechanics Institute Inc.’s 13-year-old glasswasher.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is recommended for full funding (\$3,000).
- **Application 3: Macedon Ranges Filipino Community for ‘Handa at Matatag (Ready and resilient)’**

Organise local initiatives to strengthen leadership capacity of Filipino community members in the shire and promote social cohesion, reduce isolation, and enhance emergency preparedness.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is recommended for partial funding (\$1,870.30, reduced from \$2,870).
- **Application 4: Kyneton Croquet Club for ‘Kyneton Croquet Club 150th Anniversary’**

A luncheon to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Kyneton Croquet Club involving participating community members, Croquet Victoria representatives and local and state dignitaries.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is recommended for partial funding (\$2,600, reduced from \$3,000).
- **Application 5: Gisborne & District Adult Riding Club Inc for ‘Inclusive Equestrian Confidence and Wellbeing Program’**

An educational, inclusive equestrian confidence program delivered at IR Robertson Reserve, designed to support riders of all ages, genders, abilities and experience levels.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is recommended for partial funding (\$2,600, reduced from \$3,000).
- **Application 6: Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) for ‘Engaging Men Through Lived Experience Storytelling’**

Engagement of a lived experience speaker to deliver a community mental health education session promoting men’s wellbeing, reducing stigma, and encouraging open conversations and help-seeking within the local community.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is recommended for partial funding (\$1,500, reduced from \$2,850).
- **Application 7: Woodend Bowling Club Inc for ‘Bowls for children, elderly & disabled’**

Purchase sets of smaller, lighter bowls that are easier to handle for children, elderly and disabled people.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is recommended for full funding (\$2,046).

- **Application 8: Macedon Ranges Bowling Club Inc for 'Sun Protection Shelter'**

Increase the amount of safe shade from the sun for bowlers and visitors playing on the bowling green, through the purchase of one portable shelter.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is not recommended for funding (\$2,800). The Club is encouraged to reapply for the Community Funding Scheme (Small Infrastructure Grant) for multiple shelters, increasing budget and overall community benefit.

- **Application 9: Kyneton District Business & Tourism Association for 'Kyneton Town Christmas Decorations'**

Design and purchase Christmas banners, flags and decorations to liven the main shopping precinct of Kyneton and create a festive atmosphere for shoppers and retailers.

This project has been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and assessed by a panel of Council officers. This project is not recommended for funding (\$3,000). The panel suggest that the application should be revisited and resubmitted to the upcoming Community Funding Scheme to increase the scale of the project and extend beyond High Street, Kyneton.

Consultation and engagement

Where, appropriate, a Subject Matter Expert from the relevant division within Council was consulted in relation to the applications, and their contributions were considered as part of the assessment process.

Council's Small Project Grants program is reviewed annually to ensure that the program is in alignment with the Community Grants Policy and Council Plan. Additionally, feedback from grant applicants and internal stakeholders is taken into consideration as part of the review process.

Collaboration

Collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies was not required in relation to this report.

Innovation and continuous improvement

Council is committed to innovation and continuous improvement in relation to the Small Project Grants program. Officers regularly review the program for equitable uptake and work to promote the program, with the aim of encouraging new and diverse community groups to access the program, as well as supporting groups to make high quality applications.

Relevant law

The proposed projects have been assessed against access, inclusion and equity considerations under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report. All Council grants programs under the Community Grants Policy are subject to a review and Gender Impact Assessment, to

ensure gender equality. As part of the most recent policy review, as endorsed at the 28 May 2025 Scheduled Council Meeting, additional measures were identified and included in the Community Grants Policy in the interest of delivering inclusive and accessible funded community projects for the Macedon Ranges.

The grant applications in this report were assessed for gender impact by a panel of Council officers.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

- [Aging Well Action Plan](#)
- [National Men's Health Strategy – 2020](#)
- [Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2023–2027](#)

Relevant Council plans and policies

- [Shaping the Ranges 2025 - 2035 - Macedon Ranges Shire Council](#)

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile? Not applicable

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? Not applicable

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios? Council's Small Projects Grants support activities and projects that strengthen community connections and contribute to community resilience and recovery capability.

Financial viability

At the 17 December Scheduled Meeting of Council, Council endorsed the movement of \$1,250 of surplus funds from the Australia Day Grants Program to the Small Project Grants Program. This brings the total available funds for 2025-26 to \$31,250.

If all recommended projects listed in this report are approved for funding, the Small Project Grants Program budget for 2025-26 will have been fully expended.

Number of applications allocated to date for 2025-2026	Funding allocated to date for 2025-2026	Remaining grant budget for 2025-2026	Number of recommended applications in this report	Funding recommended in this report	2025-2026 grant budget remaining (if approved)
8	\$16,793.70	\$14,456.30	7	\$14,456.30	\$0.00

Applications within this report which were not recommended for funding, as well as applications received in February and March, will be encouraged to reapply for funding through the Community Funding Scheme, due to open in April 2026.

Sustainability implications

Small Projects Grant applicants must address sustainability implications for their projects and provide mitigation strategies for potential impacts. The recommended projects have been assessed for sustainability implications according to the grant guidelines and criteria.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

15 ASSETS AND OPERATIONS REPORTS

AO.1	THREE CHAIN ROAD, NEWHAM - INTERSECTION UPDATE
Officer:	Dominic Testoni, Director Assets and Operations
Council Plan relationship:	Our Places
Attachments:	Nil

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.**

Background

A fatal crash occurred at the intersection of Three Chain Road and Dons Road, Newham on 3 February 2026. The incident resulted in significant community concern regarding the safety of the intersection, particularly in relation to vehicle speeds, sight distances and school bus movements.

Following the incident, Council received substantial community feedback, including a petition signed by approximately 800 signatories requesting a reduction in the speed limit and improved safety treatments at the intersection.

The intersection has previously been subject to safety improvement works over the past decade on both the Dons Road and Egans Lane approaches.

In response to the incident and community concerns, Council commissioned an independent Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit undertaken by Trafficworks Pty Ltd.

Discussion

The Road Safety Audit identified a number of safety issues associated with the intersection, including restricted sight lines caused by the crest on Three Chain Road, sun glare impacts at certain times of day and concerns relating to the speed environment.

The audit identified several potential treatments, including:

- possible physical changes to the intersection layout;
- speed reduction measures;
- warning signage;
- vegetation management and line marking improvements.

The audit findings are advisory and form part of Council's broader assessment process rather than being predetermined actions.

Following review of the audit findings, officers have formally submitted a request to DTP to reduce the speed limit from 100 km/h to 80 km/h on the section of Three Chain Road surrounding the Egans Lane and Dons Road intersection.

In addition, recently collected traffic count and speed data from the site is currently being assessed to support further consideration of any interim or longer-term safety treatments.

Linemarking maintenance works, signage renewal and vegetation maintenance are planned to be undertaken in the coming weeks through Councils operational maintenance.

Consultation and engagement

Extensive community engagement has occurred following the February 2026 incident.

This has included:

- direct correspondence from local residents;
- a community petition with approximately 800 signatures;
- councillor engagement and briefing;
- continued resident advocacy regarding school bus safety and intersection conditions.

This feedback has directly informed Council's decision to commission the independent Road Safety Audit and progress the speed reduction submission to DTP.

Further communication with residents will occur following Council consideration of this report and as outcomes from DTP and officer assessments become available.

Collaboration

Collaboration has occurred with:

- Trafficworks Pty Ltd as independent road safety auditors;
- Victoria Police, who have expressed support for the proposed speed reduction;
- Department of Transport and Planning, as the approval authority for speed zoning changes.

Further collaboration with DTP will continue as the speed reduction request is assessed.

Innovation and continuous improvement

Council's response has been informed by independent expert advice through a formal Road Safety Audit process undertaken in accordance with Austroads and Safe System principles.

The use of current traffic counter data and speed analysis supports an evidence-based and best-practice approach to road safety decision-making.

Relevant law

Relevant legislation and policy considerations include:

- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Road Safety Act 1986*
- DTP Speed Zoning Guidelines

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been conducted in relation to the subject matter of this report.

The recommendation relates to road safety measures and traffic speed management at a public intersection and is intended to improve safety outcomes for all road users, including drivers, passengers, pedestrians, cyclists and school bus users.

At this stage, no specific differential impacts on persons of different genders have been identified. The proposed actions are expected to provide an overall positive community safety outcome.

Should any future infrastructure works, access changes or community engagement processes be progressed as a result of further assessments, gender impacts will continue to be considered as part of the project planning and decision-making process.

Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies

This report aligns with:

- Victorian Government Safe System road safety principles
- DTP Speed Zoning Guidelines
- relevant Austroads road safety audit standards.

Relevant Council plans and policies

This matter aligns with the Council Plan objectives relating to:

- **Our Places** – safe and well-maintained transport infrastructure
- **Our People** – community safety and wellbeing

Climate Impact Assessment

How will the recommendation impact on Council's energy usage and greenhouse emissions profile?

The recommendation is not expected to have any material impact on Council's energy usage or greenhouse gas emissions profile.

How will the recommendations mitigate risks posed by climate change to Council operations and services? No direct climate risk mitigation implications arise from the recommendation.

How will the recommendation help to prepare the community for future climate scenarios?

The recommendation supports community resilience through improved road safety outcomes.

Financial viability

Current officer work associated with traffic analysis, audit review and DTP liaison is being undertaken within existing operational resources.

Any future capital or operational works arising from further safety treatments will be subject to separate assessment and budget consideration.

Sustainability implications

The primary social consideration is community safety, particularly for local families, school bus users and other vulnerable road users.

Improved safety outcomes at this location remain the principal focus of officer actions.

No material environmental impacts have been identified at this stage.

AI use disclosure

Council officers are required to disclose any use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of this report. All content remains the responsibility of Council officers and has been reviewed for accuracy, relevance, bias and compliance with Council policies and legislative obligations. For this report

- AI tools were used for drafting assistance, for example generating initial text, summaries or alternative wording. All content was reviewed, edited and approved by Council officers.

Declaration – Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)

All judgements, decisions, and recommendations contained in this report were made by a human decision-maker. Any use of artificial intelligence tools was advisory only and did not replace human judgement. The final content and recommendations have been reviewed and approved by a Council officer in accordance with Council's AI policy, and governance, risk and accountability frameworks.

Officer declaration of conflicts of interest

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

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:

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.
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No. 17/2025-26: NOTICE OF MOTION - MOUNT MACEDON MEMORIAL CROSS VIEW LINES PROJECT

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

That Council:

1. Notes that:

- (a) The Victorian State Minister for Planning, the honourable Sonya Kilkenney 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; and**
- (b) The Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Planning Delegated Committee Refused to Grant a Permit for the removal of vegetation on the same land at its Meeting on 12 July 2023; and**
- (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**
- (d) While Parks Victoria are exempt from the native vegetation provisions at Clause 52.17 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, the proposal results in a permanent loss of biodiversity as there is no offset requirement to compensate the loss of biodiversity from the native vegetation removal.**

2. Writes to the Honourable Sonya Kilkenney MP requesting:

- (a) An explanation as to why Council was not notified of the application by Parks Victoria and requesting a briefing on the assessment process and decision to declare the project a State Project; and**
- (b) That the Minister directs Parks Victoria, despite the exemption noted in point 1(d) to provide an assessment of what biodiversity/vegetation offset would be required for this project had Parks Victoria not had an offset exemption and request that this offset for the vegetation removal and impact on understory species be provided within the Macedon Ranges Local government area.**

17 URGENT BUSINESS

18 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**Recommendation**

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

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.

