



AGENDA SCHEDULED MEETING

WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL – 4:00PM
Monday 5 October 2026

VENUE:

Reception Room, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool

COUNCILLORS:

Cr. Ben Blain (Mayor)

Cr. Debbie Arnott

Cr. Willy Benter

Cr. Billy Edis

Cr. Vicki Jellie AM

Cr. Matthew Walsh

Cr. Richard Ziegeler

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Andrew Mason
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

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Behaviour At Council Meetings

Thank you all for coming – we really appreciate you being here. These meetings are the place where, we as Councillors, make decisions on a broad range of matters. These can vary greatly in subject, significance and the level of interest or involvement the community has. As part of making these decisions, we are presented with comprehensive information that helps us to form our position – you will find this in the agenda. It should also be remembered that the Council meeting is a “meeting of the Council that is open to the public”, not a “public meeting with the Council.” Each Council is required to have Governance Rules that pertains to meeting procedures. Warrnambool City Council has followed best practice in this regard and its Governance Rules provides regulations and procedures for the governing and conduct of Council meetings. Copies of the Conduct and Behaviour excerpt from Warrnambool City Council's Governance Rules can be obtained online at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au. We thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

Order Of Business

Page No.

1. Opening Prayer & Original Custodians Statement	4
2. Apologies	4
3. Confirmation Of Minutes	4
4. Declaration By Councillors And Officers Of Any Conflict Of Interest In Any Item On The Agenda	4
5. Mayoral Presentation	5
6. Public Question Time	5
7. Reports	5
7.1. Annual Report 2025-2026.....	5
7.2. Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy	10
7.3. Councillor Substitute For MAV State Council Meeting	14
7.4. Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Reappointment.....	16
7.5. Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report Of Activities (January - June 2026).....	20
7.6. Audit and Risk Committee Annual Assessment.....	22
7.7. Contract Award 2027003 - Viaduct Road Rock Revetment	26
7.8. School Crossing Supervisor Program Update	30
7.9. Advisory Committee Report	35
7.10. Informal Meetings Of Council Reports	36
7.11. Mayoral & Chief Executive Officer Council Activities - Summary Report	37
8. Notice Of Motion	39
9. General Business.....	39
10. Urgent Business	39
11. Close Of Meeting	39

1. Opening Prayer & Original Custodians Statement

Almighty God

Grant to this Council

Wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose

For the good governance of this City

Amen.

Original Custodians Statement

Council acknowledges the Peek Whurrong and Kirrae Whurrung Peoples of the Maar Nation, their land, waterways and skies within the Warrnambool municipality. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

2. Apologies

3. Confirmation Of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 7 September 2026 be confirmed.

4. Declaration By Councillors And Officers Of Any Conflict Of Interest In Any Item On The Agenda

Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) (**the Act**) provides that a relevant person must disclose a conflict of interest in respect of a matter and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee meeting and any action in relation to that matter.

Section 126(2) of the Act sets out that a relevant person (Councillor, member of a delegated Committee or member of Council staff) has a conflict of interest if the relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 127 of the Act or a **material conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 128 of the Act.

A relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** in a matter if an impartial, fair minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A relevant person has a **material conflict of interest** in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken. Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

5. Mayoral Presentation

6. Public Question Time

7. Reports

7.1. Annual Report 2025-2026

DIRECTORATE: Corporate Strategies

Purpose:

This report presents the Warrnambool City Council 2025-2026 Annual Report for adoption.

Executive Summary

Council's Annual Report informs the community about the progress made to implement the Council Plan and about Council's financial performance in relation to the annual budget.

The Annual Report comprises three sections: an operations report, financial statements and a performance statement.

Operationally, it was another successful year with key projects delivered including an accessible ramp to the beach from McGennan Car Park, a new roundabout at the busy intersection of Koroit and Ryot Streets, the city's first pump track at the end of Queens Road and 1.7km of path through the West Warrnambool industrial area.

A number of playgrounds were renewed along with sections of footpath in the city centre and a new fish weighing gantry was installed at the Port of Warrnambool.

The Warrnambool City Council Creative Strategy was adopted. The first of its kind for Warrnambool, the strategy will guide the growth of the city's creative enterprise and will be used to prioritise the important work that needs to be done to support the development of a diverse and robust creative sector in our region.

Early in the financial year, Warrnambool was declared Victoria's Top Tourism Town by the Victorian Tourism Industry Council, great recognition of Warrnambool's appeal as a visitor destination and an acknowledgement of all those who contribute to making the city a world-class tourism destination.

In August 2025, Council delivered the largest round of community grants to date, providing \$311,991 to 47 local groups and events.

Twenty-five local clubs, organisations and groups shared \$121,147 through the Community Development Fund, while 22 events received a combined \$190,844 from the Festivals and Events Fund.

Council embarked on numerous strategic planning efforts and sought the community's input on projects including the North Merri Open Space Master Plan, the long-term land use strategy Warrnambool Futures, the Healthy Warrnambool Plan and the kerbside waste collection service.

Council also encouraged residents to have a say on the East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan proposed by the Victorian Government. This is an area in Warrnambool's north-east that will be home to about 12,000 people in years to come.

On the financial front, Council recorded a surplus of \$3.3 million in 2025-2026.

This surplus is lower than the previous year's surplus of \$11.9 million and the budgeted surplus of \$7.5 million.

The operating surplus, \$4.1 million below the adopted budget, was influenced by:

- Additional operating grants of \$5.1 million which included the prepaid portion of the 2026-27 payment from Victoria Local Government Grants Commission \$4.8 million;
- Lower capital grants revenue due to delayed payments for the budgeted grant of \$4.9 million for the Shipwreck Key Worker Housing project. The project was scheduled for delivery over a two-year period. The project is underway, with funding received progressively based on the achievement of project milestones.
- Additional non-monetary contributions received from developers valued at \$4.5 million;
- Increased employee costs of \$864,000 due to Federally funded retention payments for the Childcare sector and additional employee on costs identified through the forecast process;
- Increased depreciation of \$2.8 million due to revaluation of buildings in the prior year and indexation of parks, open space and streetscapes in 2025-26 which included \$500,000 for the \$14 million found assets;
- Increased materials and services costs, primarily due to \$4.5 million in project expenditure being expensed in accordance with accounting standards, rather than capitalised as originally budgeted which included \$2.8 million for the Coastal Connect shared service project. Budget rollovers from 2024-25 into 2025-26 (incorporated through the revised budget) contributed to a further \$1.5 million to the variance;
- Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure includes the unbudgeted net loss of Koroit Street properties of \$1 million and the impact of infrastructure demolitions of \$1.1 million.

For 2025-2026, Council has a negative underlying result of \$7.7 million compared to \$4.1 million the previous year.

Council's overall financial position remains sound, with net equity increasing by \$69 million, mainly due to changes in the value of infrastructure assets. These assets are periodically revalued to reflect their current condition and the cost of replacing them, resulting in a net increase in their value of \$66 million.

Outstanding debtor balances have increased by \$362k. The increase in overdue balances has also resulted in a 20% increase in the provision for doubtful debts totaling \$1.7 million, reflecting the assessment of amounts that may not ultimately be recoverable. The trend highlights the ongoing financial pressure on the community and the importance of effective debt management, collection processes, and appropriate hardship support.

Borrowings totalled \$5.3 million at 30 June 2026, with \$1.5 million repaid during this year. With Council maintaining a conservative loan position to ensure appropriate borrowing capacity for important generational infrastructure projects if required.

Unrestricted cash is above the \$5 million threshold and subject to finalisation of rollovers and any associated transfers to Reserves, estimated at \$6.3 million.

Other Committed Reserves decreased by \$4.8 million, mainly due to a net reduction of \$8.9 million in general committed reserves. This reflects the use of reserves for their intended purposes.

The reduction was partly offset by \$4.8 million in Victoria Local Government Grants Commission funding received in advance for 2026–27 service delivery and \$1.2 million in proceeds from the sale of the Koroit Street properties, which are being held for future purposes. Developer Contributions held in reserves have also decreased by a net \$604,000.

Council completed \$13.9 million in capital works. The budgeted \$2.2 million project to relocate high-voltage powerlines at Wollaston Road is nearing completion, with \$1.2 million savings against the approved budget.

The Performance Statement identifies a reduction in Council's asset renewal ratio to 50.51%, below the target of 52.33%. This reflects the lower level of renewal expenditure delivered during 2025–26 compared to the increased depreciation costs. This highlights the continued need to prioritise renewal investment within the forward capital program. Maintaining a strong focus on asset renewal will be important to address the renewal gap and support the long-term sustainability of Council's asset base.

Our Financial and Performance Statements are audited by the Victorian Auditor-General under part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*. These audits are conducted by contractors as agents of the Auditor-General. RSD Audit has been appointed Auditor-General's agent for Warrnambool City Council and conducted the 2025-26 audit.

The Audit and Risk Committee considered the Statements at its meeting held on 1 September 2026. The Financial and Performance Statements in this report were endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at this meeting.

Sections 98-100 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA) and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* deal with statutory procedures that govern the preparation of an Annual Report inclusive of Financial Statements, Performance Statement, Report of Operations, auditor's reports, and adoption by Council.

Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that Council must prepare an Annual Report as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year.

Once considered the Annual Report remains available on Council's website for the community to access. Hard copies of the report are made available at the Civic Centre, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Warrnambool City Council 2025-2026 Annual Report.

Background

At its meeting on 7 September 2026, Council passed a motion which gave in-principle approval for the Performance Statement and Financial Statements to be provided to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

The Financial and Performance Statements have now received a final sign-off from the Victorian Auditor General and combined with the Operations Report to create the comprehensive Annual Report for 2025-2026.

The Annual Report must contain:

- a) a report of operations of the Council;
- b) an audited Performance Statement;
- c) audited Financial Statements;
- d) a copy of the auditor's report on the Performance Statement;
- e) a copy of the auditor's report on the Financial Statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*;
- f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Once considered the Annual Report will be made available on Council's website for the community to access. Hard copies of the report are made available at the Civic Centre, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool.

Financial Impact

The Annual Report contains comprehensive financial statements that provide a record of Council's financial performance over 2025-2026. The report was prepared using in-house resources.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 City Leadership

5.3 Our City is a leader in the South West region.

5.4 Our City manages financial resources sustainably.

5.7 Our City is committed to sound governance, transparent decision-making and operating with integrity.

Timing

Council must adopt an Annual Report comprising an Operations Report, Performance Statement and Financial Statements by 31 October 2026.

Community Impact / Consultation

The Annual Report 2025-2026 fulfills legislative requirements and in providing a comprehensive record of Council activities and financial position the presentation of the Annual Report delivers on a commitment in the Council Plan to provide sound governance, transparent decision-making and to operate with integrity.

Legal Risk / Impact

It is a legislated requirement that Council adopts an Annual Report by 31 October each year.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Collaborative Procurement

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Council is in a position to consider and adopt the Annual Report before the 31 October 2026 deadline, to upload the report to Council's website and to make available on request printed copies of the report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Annual Report 2025-2026 [7.1.1 - 156 pages]

7.2. Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy

DIRECTORATE: Corporate Strategies

Purpose:

This report provides presents a revised Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy for adoption.

Executive Summary

This Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy has been revised to guide Council when considering requests from community groups to act as a guarantor for a loan. The policy is due for review.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Revoke the Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy 2023.
 2. Adopt the Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy 2026.
 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor administrative and editorial amendments to the Policy that do not materially alter its intent or operation.
-

Background

Council has a history of supporting community groups by acting as a guarantor for loans for community projects. This Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy has been created to guide Council and officers when considering requests from community groups to act as a guarantor for a loan.

The Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy aims to provide guidance to enable sound and consistent decision making in the assessment of these types of community requests going forward.

The Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy sets out the guidelines to be used to assist Council in considering requests to act as guarantor for loans to local community groups. These guidelines are being established to ensure that Council can support community groups whilst ensuring any risk exposure to Council is kept to a minimum.

The policy sets out a reasonable level of governance and controls in the process of being appointed as a loan guarantor and institutes these safeguards to ensure that financial sustainability of Council is not compromised.

Council's existing policy is due for review.

Status of current guarantees provided as at 30 June 2026:

Total guarantees reduced from \$3.569m in 2020 to \$2.313m in 2026, a \$1.256m (35.2%) decline. RSL remains the dominant exposure at \$2.023m, representing 87.5% of the 2026 balance. WFNC recorded the largest active-loan reduction in percentage terms since 2020, falling by \$0.468m (69.8%).

	Original loan	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Warrnambool Returned Services Club	2,091	2,726	2,705	2,176	2,236	2,187	2,116	2,023
Warrnambool Football Netball Club	322	670	643	556	474	389	299	202
Old Collegians Football Netball Club	100	96	95	90	86	82	77	72
Dennington Football Netball Club	49	44	40	35	31	26	21	16
City Memorial Bowls Club [Discharged]	2,000	2	-					
Dennington Bowls Club [Discharged]	100	31	1	8	-	-		
TOTAL	4,662	3,569	3,484	2,865	2,827	2,684	2,513	2,313

Issues**Guarantee arrangements established prior to the current Policy**

This policy is unable to be applied retrospectively to existing community guarantee arrangements established prior to the initial policy adoption.

Definition – significant

Reference has been removed as all applications are treated consistently regardless of the amount of guarantee.

Principles

The policy principles have been broadened to provide a more comprehensive framework for assessing loan guarantee proposals. The revised principles consider the long-term social, economic and environmental benefits for current and future generations, alignment with Council's Plan and sustainable community outcomes, and the diverse needs, access and inclusion of the wider community.

The principles also strengthen consideration of financial and contingent liability risk, including Council's risk appetite, prudential obligations, long-term financial plan and capacity to absorb potential liabilities.

Further requirements reinforce transparency, consistency, probity and conflict-of-interest management, together with confirmation that the applicant, proposal and any associated works comply with relevant legislative, regulatory, planning, land tenure, governance, financial and occupational health and safety requirements before a guarantee is considered.

Essential criteria

Essential criteria will be considered in the assessment of an application with criteria expanded to include:

- Alignment to policy principles;
- The applicant to provide signed declaration of compliance
- The proposed loan guarantee, including the proposed loan terms and amount, does not breach any legislation, the policy principles, eligibility requirements or applicable policy thresholds.

- Applicant organisation to provide sufficient financial analyses regarding capacity to pay which extends to liquidity and liquid assets to meet its obligations
- The applicant organisation agrees to provide an annual declaration from its governing body confirming that the organisation has adequate liquidity and financial capacity to meet its obligations and continues to comply with the requirements of the Loan Guarantee Policy.

Council limits

The current policy considers the following threshold as part of the assessment:

- The application must not result in the total value of loans whereby Council is acting as guarantor to exceed 10% of rates.

Current loan guarantees totaling \$2.3m and represent approximately 6.27% of Council's rate revenue.

A guarantee represents a contingent liability and, in the event of a default, Council may need to fund the obligation, potentially requiring additional borrowing. This contingent liability is an element that is considered in Council's Borrowing capacity. Council has indicated in its long-term financial plan a need for significant future borrowing capacity for key projects;

Ongoing obligations

The proposed changes include acknowledgement of an on-going obligation to notify Council of any changes to the approved loan guarantee or information provided. Council approval is required prior to any changes made to an existing guarantee including terms or the guaranteed amount.

Post support review

The proposed changes seek to include loan statements in financial information with defined period reporting based on the loan amount or if the organisation is experiencing financial difficulty.

Guarantee Amount	Periodical Period
<\$100,000	Annual
>\$100,000	Six Monthly
Financial difficulty	Quarterly

Financial Impact

No community group that has been a beneficiary of a Council loan guarantee has defaulted in the past. The policy outlines what would happen in the case of a default on a guaranteed loan.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 City Leadership

5.4 Our City manages financial resources sustainably.

5.7 Our City is committed to sound governance, transparent decision-making and operating with integrity.

Local Government Act 2020 – Part 4 provides the relevant legislation for financial management and borrowings.

Timing

The policy will be considered by Council at a scheduled Council meeting with a proposed four year review term.

Community Impact / Consultation

The report ostensibly is an internal governance control and has not proceeded to broader community consultation.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

No officers involved in the creation of this policy have declared a conflict of interest.

Conclusion

The Community Group Loan Guarantee Policy provides guidelines to assist Council in considering requests to act as guarantor. Officers recommend that this policy be adopted by Council to ensure a consistent approach is used to assess any future community group applications.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Group Loan Guarantee Council Policy 2026 - Draft (Tracked Changes) [7.2.1 - 9 pages]
2. Community Group Loan Guarantee Council Policy 2023 [7.2.2 - 8 pages]

7.3. Councillor Substitute For MAV State Council Meeting

DIRECTORATE : Executive Services

Purpose:

This report provides for the appointment of a Council substitute representative to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting.

Executive Summary

The MAV conducts a State Council meeting twice a year. The State Council is the governing body of the MAV. It comprises delegates from each member council and its powers include determining the Rules of the Association, electing the president and Board Directors, and determining the strategic direction.

Council appoints a delegate and a substitute delegate to the MAV annually. Cr Vicki Jellie is the current Council delegate with Cr Debbie Arnott the substitute delegate.

The next State Council meeting is scheduled for Friday 23 October 2026. As both Cr Jellie and Cr Arnott are unable to attend this State Council meeting, it is necessary for Council to appoint a substitute representative.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor, Cr Ben Blain, be appointed as the Council substitute representative to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting to be held on 23 October 2026.

Background

The MAV conducts a State Council meeting twice a year. The State Council is the governing body of the MAV. It comprises delegates from each member council and its powers include determining the Rules of the Association, electing the president and Board Directors, and determining the strategic direction.

The next State Council meeting is scheduled for Friday 23 October 2026. As the Council appointed delegate and substitute delegate are unable to attend the State Council meeting, it is necessary for Council to appoint a substitute representative.

Financial Impact

N/A

Officers' Declaration of Interest

None.

Conclusion

That Council appoint the Mayor, Cr Ben Blain to attend the MAV State Council meeting on 23 October 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.4. Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Reappointment

DIRECTORATE : Corporate Strategies

Purpose:

This report is seeking Council approval to reappoint Mr Richard Ainio and Mr Kevin Leddin as independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025.

Executive Summary

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to establish an Audit and Risk Committee as an independent advisory committee. The Committee's role is to assist Council by monitoring compliance with governance requirements, overseeing financial and performance reporting, monitoring risk management and fraud prevention systems, and overseeing internal and external audit functions.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter requires the Committee to comprise five members, including an independent Chairperson, two independent members and two Councillor members. The Council is responsible for appointing Committee members by resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Reappoint Mr Richard Ainio as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a further term commencing 8 November 2026 and concluding on 7 November 2030, in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025.
 2. Reappoint Mr Kevin Leddin as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a further term commencing 7 March 2027 and concluding on 6 March 2031, in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025.
 3. Reappoint Mr Kevin Leddin as Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee for a further term commencing 7 March 2027 and concluding on 6 March 2031, in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025.
-

Background / Previous Reporting

The Audit and Risk Committee currently includes two independent members, Mr Richard Ainio and Mr Kevin Leddin, whose appointments support the Committee in fulfilling its governance, risk management, financial reporting and audit oversight responsibilities. Mr Ainio was appointed on 7 November 2022 and his current term concludes on 7 November 2026. Mr Leddin was appointed on 6 March 2023 and his current term concludes on 6 March 2027.

In accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the Committee's independent membership is required to collectively possess expertise in financial management and risk, public sector management, policy development and oversight, audit and audit programs, and financial and other reporting requirements.

Mr Ainio brings a diverse professional background, holding degrees in Engineering and Arts. He is a qualified Lead Auditor across quality, environmental, occupational health and safety, and information security management systems, and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD). His expertise provides valuable insight into governance, risk assurance and compliance frameworks.

Mr Leddin holds a degree in Business and has extensive experience in local government finance and corporate services. His professional expertise encompasses budgeting, financial reporting, auditing, corporate services and organisational management, contributing significant financial and operational knowledge to the Committee.

Both members have made a substantial contribution to the effectiveness of the Audit and Risk Committee, providing continuity, independent oversight and specialised expertise across governance, risk management, financial reporting and audit functions. Their ongoing involvement has supported the Committee in maintaining strong governance practices and meeting its obligations under the Charter.

Issues

Section 5.2(a) of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter provides that independent members may be appointed for a term of no greater than four years and that Council may extend an independent member's term for a further period of up to four years at its discretion.

The proposed reappointments would utilise the extension provision within the Charter and support continuity of independent expertise on the Committee. The Charter also notes that, where possible, external member terms should be arranged to ensure an orderly rotation of membership and overlap between appointments. The reappointment of Mr Richard Ainio and Mr Kevin Leddin is consistent with this objective and will assist the Committee in maintaining its effectiveness and knowledge.

Financial Impact

The reappointment of independent members will continue to attract remuneration in accordance with Council's adopted arrangements for Audit and Risk Committee independent members as outlined in the Charter. Provision for these costs exists within the approved budget.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 City Leadership

5.7 Our City is committed to sound governance, transparent decision-making and operating with integrity.

5.9 Our City considers strategic risk in its decision making and is committed to providing safe environments where people can thrive.

- Sections 53 and 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*; and
- Sections 4 and 5.2 of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025 relating to Committee membership, appointment and terms of office.

Timing

The current terms of the two independent members expire as follows:

- Mr Richard Ainio: 7 November 2026.
- Mr Kevin Leddin: 6 March 2027.

While the current appointments do not expire until these dates, it is considered good governance to determine the reappointments in advance to ensure continuity of membership and avoid any vacancy in the Committee's independent membership. Early confirmation of appointments provides certainty for Council, the Committee and its members and supports effective succession planning.

The members have provided significant insight and experience into the operations of the committee.

Internal / External Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Chief Executive Officer and relevant officers responsible for governance and risk management regarding the proposed reappointments.

The current independent members, Mr Richard Ainio and Mr Kevin Leddin, have been consulted and have indicated their willingness to continue serving on the Audit and Risk Committee for a further term if reappointed by Council.

In considering the proposed reappointments, consideration has been given to the skills, experience and contribution of both members, as well as the Committee's ongoing requirement to maintain an appropriate balance of expertise. The proposed reappointments support continuity of knowledge and experience and are consistent with the membership requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025.

No external stakeholder consultation was required, as the appointment of Audit and Risk Committee members is a matter for Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025.

Legal Risk / Impact

Failure to maintain appropriately qualified and experienced independent membership may impact the Committee's ability to effectively fulfil its governance, audit and risk oversight responsibilities. Reappointing Mr Richard Ainio and Mr Kevin Leddin mitigates this risk by maintaining continuity and preserving specialist expertise on the Committee.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Conclusion

The reappointment of Mr Richard Ainio and Mr Kevin Leddin as independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, and Mr Kevin Leddin as Chairperson, is consistent with the requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025 and supports the continued effective operation of the Committee. Council is therefore requested to approve their reappointment for a further four year term in accordance with the Charter.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.5. Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report Of Activities (January - June 2026)

DIRECTORATE: *Executive Services*

Purpose:

This report presents the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report to Council, summarising the key activities and oversight undertaken by the Committee for the period January to June 2026, as detailed in the attached report.

Executive Summary

A requirement within the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Workplan is to present a report on the activities of the Committee to the Council on a twice-yearly basis. The Audit and Risk Committee is a committee required to be established by legislation and requires membership of a majority of independent members with an independent chair. At Warrnambool there are three independent members including an independent chair. Councillor Blain and Councillor Walsh are Council representatives on this committee. The committee is also serviced by our independent internal audit and risk advisor, Crowe.

The report outlines the key activities undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee for the reporting period January to June 2026 as part of the annual working plan.

The Audit and Risk Committee has fulfilled its obligations under its charter to assist Council with independent reviews of financial, risk and system controls that facilitate good corporate governance.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report of Activities – January to June 2026 be received.

Background

The Audit and Risk Committee plays an important role in Council operations. The Audit and Risk Committee is an independent advisory committee established under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Its key function is to assist Council by monitoring compliance with governance and legislative requirements, reviewing financial and performance reporting, advising on risk management and fraud prevention systems, and overseeing internal and external audit functions.

The Committee prepares a biannual Audit and Risk report that describes the activities of the Committee and includes its findings and recommendations and provide a copy of the report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

Financial Impact

Financial sustainability is a key focus of the committee and feedback to the organisation on audit outcomes and financial reporting remains a core function of the committee.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

This committee of Council is a legislated requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Committee's functions and responsibilities, as dictated by section 54(2) of the Act, are to:

- Monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with
 - a. The overarching governance principles; and
 - b. The Act and the regulations, and any Ministerial directions
- Monitor Council financial and performance reporting;
- Monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls;
- Oversee internal and external audit functions.

Timing

The report is to be received by Council on a biannual basis. The Committee Chairperson will attend a briefing meeting of Councillors annually.

Community Impact / Consultation

The Audit and Risk Committee deals primarily with internal audits and reviews the details of reports presented to the Committee. The Budget is subject to extensive community consultation.

Legal Risk / Impact

This committee is established to give independent oversight of Council's management of key strategic financial, governance and legal risks.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared in the preparation of this report.

Conclusion

This report presents the biannual report on the operations of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period January to June 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Audit & Risk Committee Biannual Report: January - June 2026 [7.5.1 - 6 pages]

7.6. Audit and Risk Committee Annual Assessment

DIRECTORATE : Executive Services

Purpose:

This report tables the Audit and Risk Committee's annual assessment as required by the Local Government Act 2020.

Executive Summary

The Audit and Risk Committee completed its 2026 self-assessment which indicated that the Committee continues to operate effectively and provides meaningful assurance to Council regarding governance, risk management, and financial controls. The overall score of 83.4% represents a slight improvement from 82.6% in 2025 and is consistent with the strong results achieved in previous years.

Members expressed a high level of confidence in the Committee's governance arrangements, meeting processes, management support, committee composition, and oversight of internal and external audit activities. Several key measures showed improvement during the year, particularly in relation to understanding Council's risk profile, management support, and meeting administration.

While performance remains strong overall, opportunities exist to further strengthen member development and training, and to enhance briefings on changing business and regulatory environments. These areas received comparatively lower scores than other survey categories.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives a copy of the Audit and Risk Committee's annual assessment, tabled as required by section 54(4)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Background

Council has established and maintains an Audit and Risk Committee as required by the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The current Audit and Risk Committee is made up of two Councillors – being Cr Ben Blain and Cr Matthew Walsh – and three independent external members appointed for their expertise in financial management and risk; and their experience in public sector management.

The Audit and Risk Committee has several requirements under the Act, including that the committee undertake an annual assessment of its own performance against its charter. The committee must provide a copy of this annual assessment to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

Issues

The 2026 annual self-assessment of the Audit and Risk Committee was completed in the form of an online survey with the results of the self-assessment considered by the committee on 1 September 2026.

Key Strengths

The survey identified several notable strengths:

- Strong understanding of Council's risk profile and governance responsibilities.
- Effective meeting administration, documentation and Committee operations.
- Positive working relationship with management.
- Appropriate Committee composition with a strong mix of skills and experience.
- Effective oversight of internal and external audit activities.
- Continued improvement in overall Committee effectiveness, increasing from 82.6% to 83.4%.

Improvement Opportunities

While results remain strong, the following opportunities were identified:

1. Member Development and Training
 - Explore additional training and professional development opportunities for Committee members.
 - Consider annual briefings on emerging governance, audit, risk and local government issues.
2. Regulatory and Business Environment Briefings
 - Increase updates regarding changes to legislation, regulatory requirements and emerging sector risks.
3. Strategic Risk Oversight
 - Continue to enhance discussions about Council's strategic risks, risk appetite and tolerance settings to maintain strong risk governance.

New Questions Introduced in 2026

The 2026 self-assessment survey included several new questions relating to Risk Management and Governance, expanding the scope of the Committee's annual evaluation to better reflect the Committee's obligations under its charter. As these measures were introduced for the first time, no comparative results are available from prior years. Accordingly, the 2026 scores should be considered baseline results against which future performance and trends can be assessed.

Overall Results

1. Audit and Risk Committee Charter

- Survey responses indicate strong support for the Committee Charter and its effectiveness in defining roles, responsibilities and authority.
- Members did not identify any significant concerns regarding the Charter, with comments indicating that current arrangements are operating effectively.

2. Skills and Experience

- The Committee continues to benefit from an appropriate mix of skills and experience, achieving one of its strongest scores in recent years.
- The lowest score in this category related to access to training and professional development opportunities. One member specifically suggested additional training opportunities for Committee members.

3. Understanding the Business

- Results demonstrate that members have a sound understanding of Council's risk management, internal control, financial reporting and compliance obligations.
- The lowest result in this section related to briefings on changes in the business and regulatory environment (3.6), indicating an opportunity to provide additional strategic updates on emerging regulatory and sector developments.

4. Meeting Administration and Conduct

- Survey responses confirmed a high degree of satisfaction with meeting management and administration.
- Members commented positively on meeting conduct, noting that meetings are run efficiently and within scheduled timeframes.

5. Communications with Council

- Communication between the Committee and Council continues to be viewed positively.
- Members indicated that communication arrangements are appropriate and sufficient to support the Committee's responsibilities.

6. Management Commitment and Support

- Results demonstrate a strong and positive relationship between the Committee and management.
- This category reflects continued confidence in management's commitment to supporting the Committee's work.

7. Risk Management

- The Committee reported confidence in Council's risk management processes and oversight arrangements.
- While overall results remain positive, members may benefit from more detailed discussion of risk appetite, tolerances and strategic risks to further enhance oversight.

8. Governance

- Governance oversight remains effective, particularly in relation to financial reporting and compliance obligations.

- No significant concerns or improvement opportunities were identified by respondents in this area.

9. Internal Audit

- The Committee continues to provide effective oversight of the internal audit function.
- Performance remains consistent with previous years and indicates confidence in internal audit processes and outcomes.

10. External Audit

- Committee members reported continued satisfaction with the external audit process.
- Responses indicate that external audit activities continue to provide effective independent assurance.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Conclusion

The Audit & Risk Committee annual assessment confirms that the Committee continues to operate effectively and provides Council with a high level of assurance across governance, risk management, financial reporting, and internal control responsibilities.

This year's survey introduced an expanded assessment framework, incorporating new measures relating to Risk Management and Governance. While these areas do not yet allow for year-on-year comparison, the results establish a strong baseline and indicate positive performance, providing a valuable foundation for monitoring and enhancing the Committee's effectiveness in future years.

With an overall effectiveness score of 83.4%, the Committee demonstrates the characteristics of a mature and high-performing governance body. The survey identified only limited opportunities for improvement, primarily relating to ongoing member development and maintaining awareness of emerging risks and regulatory changes.

Overall, the results indicate that the Committee is well positioned to continue fulfilling its statutory responsibilities and supporting sound governance, accountability, and organisational performance across Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Audit & Risk Committee - Self Assessment Survey 2026 [7.6.1 - 2 pages]

7.7. Contract Award 2027003 - Viaduct Road Rock Revetment

DIRECTORATE: Sustainability & Development

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide information on Tender 2027003 – Viaduct Road Rock Revetment Construction and recommend a contract award to Dirt Rock Civil Pty Ltd.

Executive Summary

On 14 August 2026, a tender to remove existing sandbag revetment and replace with Rock Armory, replenish existing Rock Armory along Viaduct Road, was released. The tender was open for submissions for a period of three (3) weeks.

Guided by DEECA's approved coastal engineer, the invitation was limited to four (4) suitable tenderers selected based on their specialist experience, technical capability and suitability to undertake the Viaduct Road rock revetment works.

A tender evaluation was completed by the Tender Assessment Panel and determined that Dirt Rock Civil Pty Ltd is the recommended tenderer to be awarded the Contract as they presented the best value for money submission and had the highest weighted score.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Award Contract No. 2027003 to Dirt Rock Civil Pty Ltd, for the tendered amount of \$786,491.24 excluding GST, with a total delegated award value of \$865,140.36 including GST.
 2. Authorise the CEO to sign and vary the contract as required within the budget as per the funding agreement.
-

Background

The August–September 2024 severe weather event caused significant damage across Victoria's coast and public land estate, including erosion and loss of foreshore along the shoreline of Viaduct Road, Warrnambool.

Initial works to remediate the site were undertaken in 2024, including installation of a temporary sandbag revetment to maintain safe beach access and protect the road asset. Following these works, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) entered into a funding agreement with Council to support removal of the sandbags and delivery of a longer-term coastal protection solution, such as rock revetment works. Council did not apply for this funding; however, the executed funding agreement sets out the basis on which funds were received.

A detailed design for the long-term coastal protection works has been completed by a DEECA-approved coastal engineering consultant. This design informed the scope of the tender and provides for the installation of rock revetment works to replace the temporary sandbag treatment and improve protection of the Viaduct Road foreshore.

Due to the specialty nature of the coastal protection works being procured, a selective quotation process was undertaken, and 4 suppliers were invited to tender. Council released the tender for a period of three weeks, from 14 August to 4 September, and received two (2) submissions.

A tender evaluation panel was convened and completed assessments of the tenders received, with Dirt Rock Civil Pty Ltd being determined by the tender evaluation panel to be best value for money as they received the highest weighted score.

Issues

The proposed works are to occur in the lead up to Christmas holidays in a well utilised area of the Warrnambool foreshore; the project program will be managed closely by WCC's Project Managers.

With work planned along Viaduct Road; traffic management will be in place, as required, and with no detours available, delays to the public are unavoidable.

The current end date of the funding agreement is 26 March 2027. Pausing the construction period beyond the 2026 calendar year is an option, however, would require a renegotiation with Dirt Rock Civil.

Financial Impact

This anticipated project funding is expected to come from the following sources:

FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT (EX. GST)
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action - Funding Grant	\$1,615,000
<u>TOTAL FUNDING</u>	\$1,615,000

The anticipated award value for the contract is \$786,491.24 (EX GST).

Through the tender evaluation process, Dirt Rock Civil Pty Ltd was determined to represent the best value for money. The Evaluation Panel found the submission to be favourable in both price and proposed delivery schedule, and it scored well against all tender evaluation criteria.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

2 City Infrastructure

2.8 Our City will continue to improve pedestrian, cycling and vehicle movement.

Timing

The contract's construction phase will take place in the period between October and mid-December (18 December), weather permitting, and pending finalisation of DEECA's Marine and Coastal Act (MACA) consent and Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) consent.

Internal / External Consultation

The project has been identified as a priority by DEECA. As part of the project requirements, Council has been directed to engage a DEECA-approved coastal engineer to prepare the design package. Given the limited impact of the proposed works on project outcomes and the broader community, formal community consultation has not been considered necessary at this stage.

The following agencies have been engaged during the project approvals phase:

- DEECA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)
- Parks Victoria
- GORCAPA (Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority)
- Cultural Heritage Advisor
- Heritage Victoria
- Warrnambool City Council Planning Team

Targeted engagement will be undertaken with directly affected businesses in advance of the works, supported by a letter drop to nearby residents. Additional communication activities are planned prior to construction, including project updates through Council's social media channels, website FAQs, and public notices in local newspapers to inform the wider community of the upcoming works.

Legal Risk / Impact

A comprehensive risk assessment was undertaken for the Viaduct Road Rock Revetment Construction project, identifying risks across planning, procurement, design, construction and operational phases. Key risks related to environmental impacts, procurement methodology, design quality, construction safety, traffic management and stakeholder interface were assessed as medium to high prior to controls.

Mitigation measures and controls were applied in accordance with Warrnambool City Council policies, relevant legislation and industry standards. Following the implementation of these controls, the majority of identified risks were reduced to low or medium residual risk, indicating an acceptable risk profile for project delivery. Risk ownership was clearly allocated between Council and contractors, with ongoing monitoring embedded through regular reporting, audits, inspections, and review processes.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Collaborative Procurement

Project specific procurement - collaborative procurement not applicable.

Conclusion

A full procurement process has been undertaken for tender 2027003 – Viaduct Road Rock Revetment Construction. After completion of tender assessments of the submissions by the Tender Assessment Panel, it is determined that the tender represents best value for Council, and the panel recommends that Council award the contract to Dirt Rock Civil Pty Ltd.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.8. School Crossing Supervisor Program Update

DIRECTORATE : Sustainability & Development

Purpose:

This report provides an update on recent changes to the Victorian Government School Crossing Supervisor Program funding arrangements and seeks Council direction regarding the continued operation of two school crossing supervisor sites that no longer receive State Government funding.

Executive Summary

The Victorian Government's School Crossing Supervisor Program (SCSP) currently provides a 50 per cent contribution toward the operation of school crossing supervisors across 31 sites. Recent changes to funding eligibility criteria have resulted in the withdrawal of State Government funding support for two Warrnambool school crossing supervisor locations, being Bromfield Street and Queens Road, due to the presence of wombat crossings. The annual funding reduction associated with these sites is \$16,628.

Council is requested to determine whether it wishes to continue funding the operation of the two affected school crossing supervisor locations following the withdrawal of Victorian Government funding from the commencement of the 2027 school year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note that Victorian Government funding has been withdrawn for the following school crossing supervisor locations:
 - a. Bromfield Street (Donovans Road - Barbers Lane); and
 - b. Queens Road (Carmell Drive - Botanic Road).

The annual funding reduction associated with these sites is \$16,628.

2. Continue to advocate to the Victorian Government for the retention and reinstatement of SCSP funding.
 3. Commit Council funding to maintain the operation of the Bromfield Street and Queens Road school crossing supervisor sites following the withdrawal of Victorian Government funding.
-

Background / Previous Reporting

Under the *Road Management Act 2004* and the *Transport Integration Act 2010*, road and pedestrian safety around schools is designated as a joint responsibility between state and local governments. Local councils often manage the road network (Council roads only), and operate the crossing supervisor program delivery, while the state provides program subsidies, infrastructure upgrades on state managed roads, along with support via the Department of Education sites (public schools).

The SCSP operates under procedures established by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), with funding jointly provided to local Councils. The program has been providing supervisors to the local community since 1975. The Victorian Government publicly commits a 50 percent state contribution model for the program.

DTP introduced the School Crossing Risk Assessment Framework (SCRAF) in 2019 to better evaluate site safety and tailor treatments and remains in development. The introduction of the state government's School Crossing Supervisor Subsidy Interim Guidelines (June 2024), as a way of further site assessment, has resulted in a reduction of state funding at two sites, with future reductions anticipated.

Issues

Precedent and cost-shifting

The withdrawal of State Government funding for the Bromfield Street and Queens Road crossings represents a broader trend of cost shifting from State Government to local government. While Council may choose to fund the two currently affected sites, doing so may establish a precedent for Council assuming financial responsibility for crossings where State Government subsidies are withdrawn in the future.

Community Safety

School crossing supervisors provide an important road safety function by assisting children and other vulnerable pedestrians to safely navigate traffic movements during peak school periods.

The two affected crossings continue to service school-aged pedestrians and cyclists. Recent usage counts identified:

- Queens Road
 - 177 crossing users in the morning period (137 pedestrians and 40 cyclists)
 - 140 crossing users in the afternoon period (107 pedestrians and 33 cyclists)
- Bromfield Street
 - 41 crossing users in the morning period (25 pedestrians and 16 cyclists)
 - 71 crossing users in the afternoon period (60 pedestrians and 11 cyclists)

Officers note that Queens Road experiences substantially higher pedestrian and cyclist volumes than Bromfield Street and may be considered independently should Council wish to examine site-specific responses in future.

While the installation of wombat crossings provides a recognised engineering safety treatment, particularly given the full-day use of the Russells Creek Trail by pedestrians and cyclists, the benefits of these treatments extend well beyond the relatively short school arrival and departure periods serviced by crossing supervisors. The crossings provide safety improvements throughout the day for recreational users, commuters and other trail users and have significantly improved overall pedestrian crossing safety at these locations. However, the removal of crossing supervision may still result in community concerns regarding student safety and driver compliance during peak school travel periods.

Infrastructure and Changing Eligibility Requirements

The revised State Government assessment criteria place greater emphasis on road safety infrastructure when determining funding eligibility. As a result, crossings that have received infrastructure upgrades, such as wombat crossings, traffic signals or pedestrian-operated signals, may no longer qualify for SCSP funding despite continuing to experience significant pedestrian activity.

The increased emphasis on permanent engineering treatments over staffed crossings is also broadly consistent with approaches adopted in several other Australian jurisdictions, where infrastructure-based risk treatments are increasingly relied upon to manage pedestrian safety in school environments.

Service Continuity and Expectations

The School Crossing Supervisor Program has operated within the municipality for many years and is a highly visible public safety service.

Any reduction or removal of supervised school crossings is likely to attract interest from school communities, parents and carers. Council may receive requests to maintain existing service levels regardless of funding arrangements. Conversely, continued Council funding of sites that are no longer supported by the State may influence expectations regarding future Council responses to funding withdrawals at other locations.

Council's decision therefore extends beyond the two current crossings and may inform future consideration of similar requests.

Advocacy

The withdrawal of funding at the Bromfield Street and Queens Road crossings reflects a broader policy issue affecting local government across Victoria.

Regardless of Council's decision on funding the two sites, there is an opportunity to continue advocating to the Victorian Government for the retention and reinstatement of SCSP funding. Such advocacy would support the principle that school crossing supervision remains a jointly funded road safety initiative and seek to minimise future cost shifting to local government.

Advocacy could be pursued directly with the Victorian Government and through established local government advocacy channels, including the South West Victoria Alliance and Regional Cities Victoria, to highlight the broader implications of subsidy reductions for regional councils and school communities.

Alternative Risk Mitigation Measures

Should Council elect not to fund the two affected crossings, officers propose implementing targeted road safety education and awareness activities with affected school communities utilising the existing City Safety operational budgets allocated to the two crossings for the remainder of the 26/27 financial year.

These activities may include:

- Student road safety education programs.
- Promotion of safe travel routes to and from school.
- Road safety messaging focused on pedestrian, cyclist and driver behaviour around school precincts.

While these initiatives would not provide the same level of control as a staffed school crossing, they would assist in maintaining community awareness and support safer road user behaviour around affected schools.

Financial Impact

The current value of 50:50 funding received via the SCSP is \$274,362 for the 26/27 financial year, to support the operation of 29 sites, via 33 supervisors.

Two crossings now remain uncontributed to, highlighted below;

Funding Reduction Sites

<u>Sites</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>	<u>26/27 Value</u>
Bromfield Street	Donovans Rd – Barbers Ln Rd – Barbers Ln	Wombat Crossing	\$ 8,314 pa
Queens Road	Carmell Dr – Botanic Rd	Wombat Crossing	\$ 8,314 pa
<u>FY26/27 Reduction</u>			<u>\$ 16,628.00</u>

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

1 City Futures

1.2 Our City puts public health and safety as a priority

2 City Infrastructure

2.1 Our City will prioritise maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure.

2.4 Our City neighbourhoods will have a well-connected network of footpaths.

Timing

The confirmed reduction relates to the 26/27 financial year only, with the reduction likely to be carried to all future financial years of the program.

Internal / External Consultation

Council officers have not yet consulted with nearby schools regarding the crossings identified in this report.

Subject to Council's direction, officers will undertake appropriate communication and engagement with affected schools and stakeholders regarding the future operation of the crossings, avenues for advocacy and any other associated road safety initiatives.

Legal Risk / Impact

There is no legislative obligation requiring Council to independently fund school crossing supervisors where State Government subsidies are withdrawn. However, closure of supervised crossings may increase community concern regarding pedestrian safety around schools and may result in reputational impacts for Council.

Conversely, funding crossings following withdrawal of State Government support may establish an expectation that Council will continue to absorb future funding reductions, creating an ongoing financial risk and potential cost-shifting arrangement.

Continued advocacy and targeted road safety education activities would assist in mitigating these risks.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Collaborative Procurement

Not Applicable

Conclusion

The withdrawal of Victorian Government funding for the Bromfield Street and Queens Road school crossing supervisor locations requires Council to determine whether it wishes to continue the operation of these sites using Council funding. The annual funding shortfall associated with the two crossings is \$16,628.

In considering this matter, Council should have regard to the road safety benefits provided by school crossing supervisors, community expectations regarding service continuity, and the potential precedent associated with Council assuming responsibility for funding crossings where State Government subsidies are withdrawn.

Regardless of Council's decision regarding the two affected crossings, officers propose continued advocacy to the Victorian Government for the retention and reinstatement of School Crossing Supervisor Program funding. Should Council elect not to fund the affected crossings, targeted road safety education and awareness activities can be delivered through existing City Safety operational budgets.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.9. Advisory Committee Report

DIRECTORATE : Executive Services

Purpose

This report contains the record of one Advisory Committee meeting.

Report

Minutes of Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 September 2026 – refer **Attachment 1**.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 September 2026, be received.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Advisory Committee Minutes - 8 September 2026 [**7.9.1** - 9 pages]

7.10. Informal Meetings Of Council Reports

DIRECTORATE : Executive Services

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with records of Informal Meetings of Council (previously known as "Assembly of Councillor Records") as previously required under section 80A(2) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Background Information

Section 80A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989* required the record of an Assembly of Councillors to be reported at an ordinary Council meeting.

Assembly of Councillor Records are no longer a requirement in the Local Government Act 2020 as of 24 October 2020. However, under Council's Governance Rules, a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting is required to be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

Report

The record of the following Informal Meetings of Council are enclosed:-

1. Monday 14 September 2026 – Refer **Attachment 1.**
2. Monday 21 September 2026 – Refer **Attachment 2.**
3. Monday 28 September 2026 – Refer **Attachment 3.**

RECOMMENDATION

That the record of the Informal Meetings of Council held on 14, 21 and 28 September 2026 be received.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors Record 14 September 2026 **[7.10.1 - 1 page]**
2. Assembly of Councillors Record 21 September 2026 **[7.10.2 - 2 pages]**
3. Assembly of Councillors Record 28 September 2026 **[7.10.3 - 2 pages]**

7.11. Mayoral & Chief Executive Officer Council Activities - Summary Report

DIRECTORATE : Executive Services

Purpose

This report summarises Mayoral and Chief Executive Officer Council activities since the last Ordinary Meeting which particularly relate to key social, economic and environmental issues of direct relevance to the Warrnambool community.

Report

Date	Location	Function
9 September 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Director Corporate Strategies – Met with Australian Greens candidate for South West Coast, Silver Rose.
10 September 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Met with Labor candidate for South West Coast, Andrew Govanstone.
14 September 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor – Met with students from Merri River School.
17 September 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Attended the official opening of the South West Tech School.
	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Met with the Hon. Gayle Tierney, MP, Member for Western Victoria Region.
19 September 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor – Attended the Hampden Football Netball League Grand Final sponsors day.
28 September 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Met with One Nation candidate for South West Coast, Richard Hughes.
29 September 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Director Wellbeing & Economy – Met with South West Coast Victorian Socialists candidate, Hera Sheppard.
30 September 2026	Virtual	Chief Executive Officer – Attended the Great South Coast Regional Partnership meeting.
1 October 2026	Geelong	Chief Executive Officer – Attended the Regional Development Australia Barwon South West meeting.

Date	Location	Function
2 October 2026	Warrnambool	Cr Richard Ziegeler – Represented the Mayor and officially opened the 2026 Warrnambool Seniors Festival.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral & Chief Executive Officer Council Activities – Summary Report be received.

8. Notice Of Motion

No Notices of Motion have been received.

9. General Business

10. Urgent Business

11. Close Of Meeting