

AGENDA
SCHEDULED MEETING

WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL – 4:00PM
Monday 2 November 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 EXECITIVE 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.

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1. Opening Prayer

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 5 October 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. Revocation of the Occupancy Of Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

DIRECTORATE : Wellbeing & Economy

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to revoke the Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy (2023) following the adoption of the Leases and Licenses Policy (2025).

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to revoke the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* (2023) following the adoption of the *Leases and Licences Policy* (2025).

The Leases and Licences Policy now provides Council's overarching framework for the management, allocation, occupancy and administration of Council-owned and managed land and buildings, including sport and recreation facilities. Retaining both policies creates duplication, potential inconsistency, and unnecessary administrative complexity.

While the Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy includes several sport-specific operational provisions, such as seasonal allocations, pre-season training access, ground sharing arrangements, change room allocations, sportsground usage requirements and reporting obligations, these matters have been reviewed and incorporated into Council's updated Seasonal User Agreement and supporting operational procedures. This ensures no substantive requirements are lost through the policy revocation while improving alignment with Council's broader policy framework and contemporary governance practices.

Council has recently completed a comprehensive review of its Seasonal User Agreement, which had not undergone a substantial update for more than ten years. The revised agreement has been developed using the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) template and provides a contemporary, consistent, and transparent framework for the management of seasonal sporting and recreation facility use.

The updated agreement strengthens governance by aligning operational arrangements with the *Leases and Licences Policy*, Fair Access and Use commitments, current risk management practices and contemporary local government standards. It also provides a clear mechanism for managing operational matters such as facility allocations, shared use arrangements, reporting requirements, maintenance responsibilities, and user expectations through a flexible and enforceable agreement framework.

This approach maintains strategic oversight through the *Leases and Licences Policy* while managing sport-specific operational requirements through contemporary and flexible agreement arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Revoke the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* adopted in September 2023.
2. Recognise the *Leases and Licences Policy* as the primary policy framework governing leases, licences, occupancy arrangements and associated use of Council owned and managed sport and recreation facilities.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any consequential administrative changes required to occupancy agreements, procedures and associated documentation.
4. Continue to apply sport and recreation specific requirements through operational procedures, seasonal user occupancy agreements and relevant strategic plans including the *Active Warrnambool Strategy* and *Fair Access and Use Policy*.

Background / Previous Reporting

Council adopted the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* in September 2023 to provide guidance for the allocation and use of sporting grounds, pavilions and recreation facilities through leases, licences and occupancy agreements.

In October 2025, Council adopted the *Leases and Licences Policy*, establishing a comprehensive and consistent framework for all Council property tenure arrangements. The policy applies across Council's property portfolio and includes community groups, sporting clubs, recreation organisations, commercial entities and other users.

A review of both policies has identified substantial overlap in purpose, principles and operational requirements. The *Leases and Licences Policy* now addresses the core matters previously covered under the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy*, including:

- eligibility and occupancy requirements;
- lease and licence arrangements;
- management of Council assets;
- maintenance responsibilities;
- insurance obligations;
- rental and fee considerations;
- governance requirements; and
- legal and legislative compliance.

As a result, the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* is no longer required as a standalone policy document.

Issues

Alignment Between Policies

The *Leases and Licences Policy* incorporates or supersedes many of the provisions contained within the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy (Occupancy Policy)*.

Shared Principles

Both policies promote:

- equitable and transparent access to Council facilities;
- maximising utilisation of community assets;
- formal occupancy agreements rather than informal use arrangements;
- responsible asset management;
- financial sustainability;
- community benefit outcomes; and
- compliance with legislative obligations.

The *Leases and Licences Policy* expanded these principles to all Council-owned and managed assets, ensuring consistency across the organisation.

Tenure Framework

The *Occupancy Policy* established three forms of tenure:

- Leases;
- Licences; and
- Hire Agreements.

The *Leases and Licences Policy* now provide a broader framework including:

- Leases;
- Licences;
- Occupancy Agreements;
- Shared User Agreements; and
- Committee of Management Agreements.

This provides Council with greater clarity and flexibility when allocating facilities and managing community access.

Asset Management and Maintenance

The *Leases and Licences Policy* includes a detailed Schedule of Maintenance Responsibilities, clearly defining obligations between Council and occupiers.

The maintenance framework is significantly more comprehensive than the provisions contained within the Occupancy Policy and provides improved governance, accountability, and consistency.

Benefits of Revocation

Revoking the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation* Facilities Policy will:

- Improve Governance: Remove duplication between two Council policies, reduce the risk of conflicting requirements, and provide a single source of truth for occupancy arrangements.

- Improve Administrative Efficiency: Simplify policy administration and review processes, streamline lease and licence management, and improve consistency across Council departments.

- Improve User Understanding: Sporting and recreation clubs will have a clearer understanding of Council's requirements through one overarching policy and reduce confusion regarding applicable tenure arrangements and responsibilities.

- Improve Consistency Across Community Assets: Apply the same governance principles to all community facility occupiers and ensure consistent decision-making regardless of facility type.

- Strengthen Governance and Contemporary Practice: Council's updated Seasonal User Agreement incorporates sport-specific operational requirements and aligns with the Leases and Licences Policy, Fair Access and Use commitments, contemporary governance standards and risk management practices.

Considerations for Sport and Recreation Clubs

While revocation of the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* is not expected to materially change how sporting clubs operate, several matters within that policy will continue to be addressed through operational procedures and agreement conditions.

Fair Access and Gender Equity

The *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* contained detailed references to:

- the Victorian Government *Fair Access Policy*;
- gender impact assessments;
- equitable access for women and girls; and
- female participation and representation requirements.

These provisions support Council's Fair Access and Use commitments and will continue to be maintained through:

- occupancy agreements;
- facility allocation procedures;
- the Fair Access and Use Action Plan; and
- relevant strategic documents.

Facility Allocation

The *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* provided specific criteria for allocation of sporting facilities, including consideration of:

- local community benefit;
- participation outcomes;
- club governance;
- inclusiveness;
- willingness to share facilities; and
- growth in participation demand.

These criteria will continue to be applied through documented allocation procedures.

Shared Use Expectations

The Occupancy Policy strongly promoted:

- shared use of facilities;
- maximising participation;
- reducing exclusive occupancy arrangements; and
- accommodating emerging sports and recreation activities.

These principles remain important and will continue to be reflected through licence agreements and allocation processes.

Reporting Requirements

The Occupancy Policy required annual reporting from clubs, including:

- insurance certificates;
- annual reports;
- financial statements;
- committee details;
- participation data; and
- Fair Access compliance reporting.

These reporting requirements will continue to be managed through Council's Seasonal User Agreement and associated administrative processes through Reserves Manager, ensuring clubs continue to provide the information required to support governance, compliance and facility management outcomes.

Seasonal User Agreements

Council's previous Seasonal User Agreement template had not undergone a substantial review for more than ten years. Following adoption of the *Leases and Licences Policy*, Council completed a comprehensive review using the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) template as the foundation document.

The updated agreement aligns with Council's contemporary policy framework, governance requirements, risk management obligations, and community expectations. It incorporates operational matters previously addressed within the Occupancy Policy, including facility allocations, pre-season training access, shared use arrangements, reporting obligations, Fair Access and Use commitments, maintenance responsibilities and user expectations.

This review represents a significant governance improvement by ensuring operational arrangements remain aligned with Council policy, risk management practices, and contemporary local government standards.

Sport-Specific Operational Matters
Operational matters such as seasonal allocations, pre-season training access, ground sharing arrangements, change room allocations, sportsground usage management, participation reporting and compliance requirements are more appropriately managed through Council's Seasonal User Agreement and associated procedures rather than a standalone Council policy.

These provisions have been incorporated into the updated agreement, ensuring continuity for sporting clubs while improving flexibility, accountability, and administrative efficiency.

Strategic Alignment

The recommendation aligns with:

- Warrnambool 2040 Community Vision;
- Council Plan;
- Active Warrnambool Strategy 2025-2035;
- Healthy Warrnambool Plan;
- Fair Access and Use Action Plan; and
- Council's commitment to good governance and efficient policy management.

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial implications associated with revoking the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy*. The adopted Leases and Licences Policy provides the overarching framework for the management of leases, licences and occupancy agreements across all Council-owned and managed assets, including sport and recreation facilities.

Existing fee structures, rental methodologies, occupancy agreements and subsidy arrangements for sporting and recreation organisations will remain unchanged. The proposal is an administrative governance measure that removes duplication, improves policy consistency, and streamlines the management of occupancy arrangements across Council's property portfolio. Minor operational efficiencies may be realised through reduced policy administration and simplified governance processes.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

4 City Wellbeing
4.3 Our active City provides recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

5 City Leadership
5.8 Our City will foster an informed community, enhance the customer experience and engage with the community to help inform key decisions, plans and policies.

Timing

Subject to Council approval, the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* will be revoked immediately following the resolution of Council.

Officers have completed a review of the Seasonal User Agreement using the MAV template, ensuring alignment with the *Leases and Licences Policy*, Fair Access and Use commitments, contemporary governance standards and current operational practices.

The updated agreement will be progressively implemented with our seasonal sporting user groups commencing with summer season tenants.

Internal / External Consultation

The *Leases and Licences Policy* was developed through extensive internal consultation involving Recreation and Culture, Safety and Risk, Finance, Rates and Revenue and Building Maintenance officers. Following Council's endorsement of the draft policy on 6 October 2025, the policy was released for public consultation for four weeks. A total of 12 submissions were received from existing tenants, including sporting clubs, community organisations, event providers, market operators, and not-for-profit groups.

Feedback demonstrated strong support for the introduction of a clear, fair, and transparent framework for the management of leases and licences. Stakeholders also provided feedback on rental methodologies, treatment of sporting clubs, licence holders, and community benefit considerations. Several amendments were subsequently made to the policy prior to adoption, including refinements to rental calculations, tenant classifications, and discount eligibility criteria.

The consultation process specifically included sporting and recreation organisations, and the adopted policy continues to recognise sporting clubs as a distinct tenant category while maintaining the rental methodology previously established under the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy*.

Legal Risk / Impact

Maintaining both policies presents the following risks:

- duplication of requirements;
- inconsistent interpretation of tenure arrangements;
- policy conflict where provisions differ;
- increased administrative burden; and
- uncertainty for community organisations.

These risks are reduced through revocation of the Occupancy Policy and reliance on a single overarching policy framework.

The primary risk associated with revocation is the potential loss of sport-specific guidance. This risk can be mitigated through:

- updated occupancy agreement templates;
- sport and recreation allocation procedures;
- Fair Access and Use implementation processes; and
- ongoing engagement with sporting clubs.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Collaborative Procurement

N/A.

Conclusion

The *Leases and Licences Policy* provides Council with a contemporary and comprehensive framework for the management of Council-owned and managed property, including sport and recreation facilities. As many provisions of the *Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy* are now contained within the *Leases and Licences Policy*, revocation will reduce duplication, improve administrative efficiency and strengthen policy consistency.

Sport-specific operational requirements will continue to be managed through Council's updated Seasonal User Agreement and associated operational procedures. Developed using the MAV template, the revised agreement incorporates key operational provisions previously contained within the Occupancy Policy and improves alignment between Council's policy framework and the day-to-day management of sporting and recreation facilities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy approved 4 Sep 2023 [**7.1.1** - 14 pages]
2. Leases and Licences Policy - ECM 12211350 v 1_ [**7.1.2** - 25 pages]

7.2. Warrnambool Planning Scheme Review 2026

DIRECTORATE : Sustainability and Development

Purpose:

This report provides information on a review of the Warrnambool Planning Scheme and recommends that the review be adopted and forwarded to the Minister for Planning. The report also recommends that the future strategic program be endorsed by Council and set the priorities for Council's future strategic projects.

Executive Summary

- Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* ("the P&E Act") requires review of the Planning Scheme every 4 years.
- Section 12B of the P&E Act also requires Council to undertake a review of the Planning Scheme within 12 months of the Council Plan being adopted.
- The Planning Scheme review was undertaken with external assistance through the Regional Planning Hub of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), and DTP employed the services of Mark Marsden of Transect Planning to undertake the review.
- The Planning Scheme review identifies where there are gaps in planning policy, provides recommendations regarding future strategic planning and includes a recommended 'planning scheme review' ordinance amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Adopt the Warrnambool Planning Scheme Review 2026 (Attachment 1).
2. In accordance with Section 12B (5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, forward a copy of the adopted Warrnambool Planning Scheme Review 2026 to the Minister for Planning.
3. Pursuant to Section 16F of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare a 'planning scheme review' planning scheme amendment (Attachment 2) into the Warrnambool Planning Scheme.
4. Following authorisation from the Minister for Planning under Section 16G of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, prepare and exhibit an amendment to the Warrnambool Planning Scheme in accordance with the 'planning scheme review' ordinance amendment (Attachment 2), and exhibit the amendment in accordance with Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Background / Previous Reporting

Warrnambool City Council (Council), with assistance from the Transect Planning Pty Ltd and with funding from Regional Planning Hub (RPH) has prepared a planning scheme review.

Council as the planning authority for the Warrnambool Planning Scheme (WPS) is required to review its planning scheme every four years under section 12(B) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&E Act). The last comprehensive review was undertaken in 2023.

Council also should undertake the planning scheme review within 12 months of the Council Plan being adopted. The Council Plan 2025-2029 was adopted in June 2025, however DTP have enabled additional time for the planning scheme review due to the implementation of Plan for Victoria.

A link to the current Warrnambool Planning Scheme is provided below: https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Warrnambool/ordinance

The objective of the planning scheme review is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning scheme in achieving both the objectives of planning in Victoria and ensuring it makes best use of the Victoria Planning Provisions and the planning framework established by the P&E Act.

The planning scheme review must evaluate the planning scheme to ensure that it:

- Complies with the Ministerial direction on form and content of planning schemes issued under Section 7(5) of the P&E Act;
- Complies with the Ministerial direction No.11 Strategic Assessment of Amendments;
- Sets out effectively the policy objectives for use and development of land;
- Makes effective use of state provisions and local provisions to give effect to state and local policy objectives;
- Planning practice notes, advice and other guidelines.

This review has been undertaken using the 'A Good Practice Guide to Planning Scheme Reviews' (October 2023) by DTP.

The last review of the planning scheme was undertaken in 2022. A planning scheme amendment implemented policy neutral changes that were identified in the 2022 review into the planning scheme via amendment C216warr in December 2025.

Issues

The review identifies both policy neutral and non-policy neutral amendments. The policy neutral amendments have no impact upon the policy content and delivery and are normally in response to corrections of errors or anomalies in grammar or maps. However, the non-policy neutral amendments are often changes that impact policy content and direction. As such, non-policy neutral amendments are required to go through a consultation process. The decision for whether a suggested amendment is policy neutral or non-policy neutral is determined by DTP as part of the authorisation process. This planning scheme review also includes outstanding non-policy neutral recommendations from the planning scheme review in 2022.

The review has found that the Warrnambool Planning Scheme is broadly compliant and has established a strong settlement framework that operates as a good foundation for land use planning for growth in Warrnambool. However, the planning scheme contains several policy gaps, which hinder its effectiveness in guiding decision making by Warrnambool City Council.

In summary, this review has identified a number of key issues and proposed changes. However, please refer to Attachment 1 for the full suite of recommended planning scheme changes.

Key issue	Proposed change or response
Strategic planning backlog and resourcing	Endorse a prioritised four-year strategic work program in Appendix 2 and update Clause 74.02 to reflect high-, medium- and lower-priority projects. Allocate resources to complete deferred work.
Housing delivery and location	Complete the Warrnambool Futures Strategy and prepare a city-wide Housing Strategy. Review policy, zones and overlays to direct housing to locations with good access to services and planned infrastructure in response to Plan for Victoria.
Integrated settlement framework	Use the Warrnambool Futures Strategy to establish an integrated municipal settlement strategy, including settlement boundaries, growth areas, infill opportunities and rural and agricultural land planning. Complete and implement the Woodford–Bushfield and Allansford framework plans compliant with PPN99.
Outdated and ineffective overlays	Complete the comprehensive review of ESO, DDO and DPO schedules; remove duplication, improve drafting, ensure compliance with current templates and determine whether newer planning tools are more appropriate. Implement major changes through a separate exhibited amendment where required.
Heritage	Undertake an audit of heritage buildings and places, review heritage precincts to ensure appropriate mapping is in place.
Planning permit efficiencies	Monitor permit activity and resource the statutory planning team accordingly. Identify opportunities to streamline controls and remove permit requirements for minor buildings and works. Explore opportunities to create efficiencies through the use of AI. Improve public information about VicSmart, particularly in view of the raft of planning reforms being undertaken at State Government level.
Outdated or missing local policy	Amend the Municipal Planning Strategy and local policies to reflect the Council Plan 2025–2029, Economic Development Strategy, sustainability objectives, active transport, open space, waterways and other adopted strategies. Include policy changes deferred from the 2022 review.
Rural and agricultural land planning	Address rural land planning through the Warrnambool Futures Strategy, then prepare a rural land use strategy and review rural policies to investigate appropriate rural land uses and rural living in appropriate locations and consistent with state policy.

Infrastructure planning and funding	Review existing development and infrastructure contribution plans and prepare new contribution frameworks with future precinct structure plans and growth strategies. Continue consultation with infrastructure providers about electricity capacity, substations, access and electric-vehicle charging demand.
Mapping and administrative anomalies	Correct privately owned land still in public-use zones, resolve other zoning and overlay anomalies, update Heritage Overlay references, refresh background documents and alphabetise incorporated documents through the review amendment or a separate mapping amendment.
Former saleyards precinct	Remove obsolete livestock-exchange references, identify the site as a strategic infill and housing opportunity, update the strategic framework plan and pursue a separate rezoning amendment consistent with the adopted masterplan.
Horne Road Industrial Area	Review DPO11 through the broader overlay project to clarify landscaping, parking and development requirements, while retaining the agreed water-authority referral arrangement unless further strategic work supports a change.
Car parking	Review parking demand and supply in the city centre, industrial estates and other high-demand areas; assess whether Clause 52.06 rates remain appropriate; and investigate a Parking Overlay and cash-in-lieu scheme.
Environmental and cultural heritage protection	Amend waterways, wetlands and floodplain policies; review environmental referral requirements and overlay mapping; update the regional catchment strategy reference; and prepare a local Aboriginal cultural heritage policy as future strategic work.

The planning scheme review has identified many policy-neutral changes that should be made to the planning scheme to bring it into alignment with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes. These are purely administrative matters and do not change the policy intent of the scheme. In addition, the planning scheme review is required to address any conflicts between local policies and schedules and change to state provisions through recent planning reforms such as clause 52.06 (carparking), 52.27 (Licensed premises), 52.37 canopy trees, 54, 55 and 57 (residential standards).

There are several factors that impact the drive for change as part of this planning scheme review. This includes population growth and economy, climate change and flooding risk as it relates to Warrnambool and the broader regional area.

These changes are marked up on the supporting Ordinance (refer Attachment 2).

Financial Impact

The costs associated with the Warrnambool Planning Scheme review have been funded by DTP and the Regional Planning Hub. Costs to Council are limited to officer time.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

1 City Futures
1.4 Our City will continue to advocate for improvements to planning frameworks for growth area developments including Development Contribution Plans.

4 City Wellbeing
4.6 Our nurturing city supports growth and development through high quality service delivery.

5 City Leadership
5.3 Our City is a leader in the South West region.
5.6 Our City will advocate strongly for our community and our region.
5.7 Our City is committed to sound governance, transparent decision-making and operating with integrity.
5.8 Our City will foster an informed community, enhance the customer experience and engage with the community to help inform key decisions, plans and policies.
5.9 Our City considers strategic risk in its decision making and is committed to providing safe environments where people can thrive.
5.10 Our City will review the community vision, Warrnambool 2040.

Timing

Councils are required to review their planning schemes every four years in accordance with requirements of the Planning and Environment Act. The review should also be undertaken within 12 months of the adoption of the Council plan (ie by June 2026). Due to the extensive State Government planning reforms and the implementation of Plan for Victoria, the Department of Transport and Planning has enabled additional time for the review to be finalised.

Internal / External Consultation

The review has been informed by consultation with stakeholders, referral agencies, and government departments.

An internal strategic and statutory planners workshop was held May 2026 including other Council departments to consider the current planning scheme effectiveness and raise issues.

Clause 66.04 and 66.06 agencies and authorities were invited to make comments on the operation of the planning scheme including EPA, Wannon Water, WorkSafe, VicRoads/DTP, VicPol, Heritage Victoria, CFA/Fire Rescue Victoria, DEECA and EMAC as it relates to the Warrnambool Reconciliation Strategy.

Consultation was undertaken with regular applicants who were invited to make comments, with three consultants providing feedback.

Consultation will be undertaken on the ordinance amendment in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987.*

Legal Risk / Impact

Undertaking a review of the Planning Scheme mitigates risks by ensuring compliance with the relevant Ministerial Directions, Planning Practice Notes, as well as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

None declared.

Collaborative Procurement

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The Planning Scheme review is a legislative requirement and also a valuable opportunity to provide a 'health-check' of how the planning scheme is performing. Importantly, recommendations from the review inform Council's future strategic work program and priorities.

This review has carefully considered the relevant changes necessary to update and improve the day-to-day operation of the planning scheme and also the strategic planning needed to better inform future planning designs. It is recommended Council adopt this important work so the planning scheme review can be implemented via a planning scheme amendment.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Warrnambool Planning Scheme Review - Draft Report - Version 1.3 [**7.2.1** - 68 pages]
2. Attachment 2 Warrnambool Planning Scheme Review - Draft Ordinance [**7.2.2** - 288 pages]

7.3. Open Space Asset Management Plan

DIRECTORATE : Sustainability & Development

Purpose:

The report provides information on the Open Space Asset Management Plan 2026 which is presented to Council for adoption.

Executive Summary

Following the completion of a comprehensive open space asset audit, the Open Space Asset Management Plan 2026 (the Plan) has been prepared to provide a strategic framework for the management of Council's open space assets.

The Plan incorporates updated asset data, condition assessments and lifecycle modelling to provide an improved understanding of Council's open space assets and future investment requirements. The audit confirmed that the majority of assets are in good condition and continue to provide an appropriate level of service to the community.

The Plan also identifies increasing renewal demands across the asset portfolio and a projected gap between forecast funding and long-term lifecycle requirements. These findings reinforce the importance of ongoing consideration of asset renewal needs through Council's Asset Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan and annual budget processes.

The Plan is now presented to Council and recommended for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Open Space Asset Management Plan 2026.

Background / Previous Reporting

Asset Management Plans are strategic documents that guide the planning, operation, maintenance, renewal and replacement of Council infrastructure assets. They support sustainable service delivery by identifying asset performance, future demand, associated risks and long-term financial requirements.

Open space assets contribute significantly to the liveability and wellbeing of the municipality by providing opportunities for recreation, sport, social connection and environmental outcomes. Council's open space portfolio comprises approximately 169 open space reserves covering more than 360 hectares and includes:

- Parks and gardens.
- Sporting reserves and recreation facilities.
- Playgrounds.
- Coastal and foreshore open spaces.
- Streetscape and passive recreation areas.
- Associated open space infrastructure.

Supporting these spaces is an extensive portfolio of playing surfaces, play equipment, lighting, irrigation, furniture, beach access, structures and other infrastructure needed to make them functional, safe and accessible.

Asset Groups covered by the Plan

Asset Group	Quantity	Unit	Replacement Cost ($)	Written Down Value ($)	Useful Life (Years)
Amenities and Furniture	1,733	Items	4,664,365	1,189,814	15 - 50
Artificial Playing Surfaces	39,216	Square metres	3,744,884	1,234,587	15 - 50
Barriers and Gates	47,324	Lineal metres	8,591,344	2,784,135	20 - 80
Grass Playing Surfaces	264,935	Square metres	23,155,319	4,777,634	30 - 30
Irrigation	11,436	Lineal metres	3,616,451	1,008,427	15 - 40
Lighting	653	Items	9,061,182	1,394,139	25 - 25
Play Equipment	203	Sites	20,582,317	5,372,206	10 - 30
Public Art and Monuments	121	Items	3,444,700	1,052,515	15 - 100
Retaining Structures	4,815	Lineal metres	5,512,707	2,033,388	30 - 100
Services	149	Items	1,277,075	433,550	15 - 20
Signs and Wayfinding	987	Items	882,184	268,437	15 - 20
Structures (eg. jetty's/boat ramps)	70	Items	5,218,764	1,616,096	30 - 40
Total			**89,751,292**	**66,586,363**	

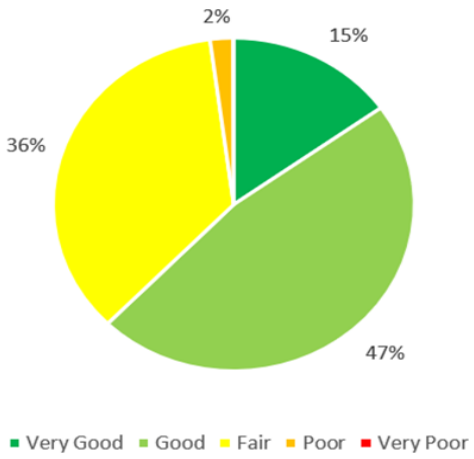
Issues

After completing a comprehensive audit of Council Open Space assets for the first time in January 2026, this Plan was developed to support decision-making.

The Plan includes improved asset information, updated condition data, refined lifecycle modelling, and a structured improvement plan for ongoing asset management maturity.

Recent condition assessments indicate approximately 62 per cent of assets are in Good or Very Good condition, with a further 36 per cent in Fair condition. Only a small proportion of assets are currently assessed as Poor.

This condition profile demonstrates that Council has historically maintained and renewed these assets in an effective manner. However, maintaining current service levels will become increasingly challenging as assets age and renewal requirements increase.



Council has a strong overarching strategic direction for the future of open space, supported by its broader open space, recreation, environmental and community planning. These strategies establish clear aspirations for the quality, accessibility, functionality and resilience of Warrnambool's open spaces.

The key challenge will be Council's capacity to progressively deliver these aspirations while continuing to sustainably manage its existing open space network.

Future demand will be influenced by:

- Population growth and demographic change;
- Changing recreation, sport and community expectations;
- Climate change and the need for more resilient open spaces and assets;
- Accessibility, inclusion, gender equity and child safety requirements;
- Growth and development creating new open space and infrastructure requirements;
- Ageing infrastructure and changing asset standards; and
- Council's long-term financial and resource capacity.

Council will respond through a combination of managing and making better use of existing assets, targeted renewal and upgrades, new infrastructure where justified, and adaptation to climate and other emerging risks.

Financial Impact

The Plan provides financial forecasts for the operation, maintenance, renewal and replacement of Council's open space assets over a ten-year planning period.

Forecast lifecycle expenditure required to sustain current service levels is estimated at approximately $105.2 million over this period comprising:

- $84.9 million for Operations and Maintenance;
- $13.3 million for Renewal; and
- $7.0 million for Upgrade, New and Expansion works.

Council's current forecast budget provides approximately $80.8 million over the same period ($68.1 million for operations and maintenance, $12.7 million for renewal and upgrade). This represents approximately 77 per cent of the funding required to sustainably maintain the current level of service and results in a projected lifecycle funding gap of approximately $24.4 million over the period.

Approximately 31% of the funding gap can be attributed to future renewal demand as existing open space infrastructure continues to age. Renewal modelling identifies approximately $13.3 million of renewal requirements over the next 10 years, compared with approximately $5.7 million in forecast renewal expenditure.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

2 City Infrastructure
2.1 Our City will prioritise maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure.
2.2 Our City will have appropriate open space infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing community.
2.7 Our City values and implements sound Strategy Asset Management with consideration to assets and the retirement and consolidation of assets.

Timing

The Plan has been established on the back of the most recent Open Space condition audit and incorporates recent information to better inform Council's asset management practices, renewal planning and future investment decisions.

Following adoption, the AMP will inform future reviews of Council's Asset Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan and annual budget processes.

Internal / External Consultation

The Plan is an operational planning document developed in consultation with relevant internal stakeholders responsible for the management, maintenance and planning of open space assets. Community expectations relating to open space provision have been informed through existing strategic planning documents, including the Open Space Strategy, Council Plan engagement processes and community feedback mechanisms.

Legal Risk / Impact

Without effective asset management planning, Council may fail to adequately identify and manage risks associated with asset deterioration, service delivery and infrastructure failure.

The Plan assists Council to understand these risks and supports compliance with long-term planning requirements under the Local Government Act 2020.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

N/A

Collaborative Procurement

N/A

Conclusion

The Open Space Asset Management Plan provides an evidence-based framework for the management of Council's open space assets.

The Plan demonstrates that Council's open space portfolio is currently in generally good condition, while also identifying future renewal pressures and long-term funding challenges that require consideration through strategic asset and financial planning processes.

Adoption of the Plan will ensure Council is better placed to manage risk, prioritise investment and sustainably deliver open space services that meet community expectations in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Open Space Asset Management Plan - Draft [**7.3.1** - 59 pages]

7.4. Warrnambool City Council Holiday Parks Strategic Plan 2026

DIRECTORATE : City Wellbeing

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the adoption of the Warrnambool Holiday Parks Strategic Plan. The plan is focused on Surfside Holiday Park and Shipwreck Bay Holiday Park.

The Strategic Plan is intended to guide future Park planning and investments over the next 10 years.

Executive Summary

Warrnambool City Council (Council) engaged Urban Enterprise to prepare a strategic plan for Council's holiday parks, including Surfside and Shipwreck Bay.

Situated adjacent to the Warrnambool foreshore, the Surfside and Shipwreck Bay Holiday Parks have long been highly important and strategic assets for the regional visitor economy.

However, due to a number of challenges, the assets are not currently meeting their market, operational, and business potential.

A strategic plan has been prepared to guide their future enhancement and maximise their operational performance.

The aim of this project is to prepare a Strategic Plan that will guide future Park planning and investments over the next 10 years. The plan focuses on maximising Park operations, return on investment and broader economic and social benefits for Warrnambool.

The objectives that underpin the preparation of this strategic plan include:

- Identify and prioritise Park improvements, upgrades and enhancements
- Identify target visitor markets for the Parks
- Identify requirements to meet contemporary Park standards
- Drive increase in visitation in shoulder and off-peak periods (reduce seasonality of offer)
- Maximise operational performance / return from the assets.
- Leverage further economic benefits for Warrnambool through the attraction of additional visitors, length of stay, and visitor yield.
- Consider the unique coastal landscape of the Parks.

There are a number of strategic directions recommended across accommodation and infrastructure, park operations, environment and branding and marketing considerations. A large component of the strategy and ultimately maximising the Holiday Park operations is underpinned by investment in existing infrastructure and investment in new cabin accommodation. Other options include leasing Shipwreck Bay Holiday Park, refreshing branding and enhancing marketing and promotion.

The attached Warrnambool City Council Holiday Parks Strategic Plan Strategy Summary – refer Attachment 1, summarises the strategic direction for the Holiday Parks, including vision, objectives, role of each park, target market along with accommodation proposal and further planning. This report will summarise the key points in the draft plan.

The Draft plan was released for public comment in May / June with nearly 100 survey responses and two written submissions received. The feedback has informed minor changes to the Strategy. Most recently WCC officers arranged for Chris Young a Holiday Parks Industry expert with over 20 years benchmarking the Australian holiday park industry to present his insights to Councilors, followed by workshopping the relevant initiatives in the Strategic Plan.

The main aim of this workshop was to ensure all relevant initiatives were fully discussed and identified to proceed to the master planning stage if the plan is endorsed. The outcomes from this workshop have been included in the report with the Strategic Plan amended to include:-

- More emphasis on maintenance of park infrastructure;
- Revision of development and leasing opportunities to be explored ie. no wider opportunities such as accommodation, wellness studio (eg massage) would be explored, and no Liquor would be able to be sold within the food and beverage precinct;
- Clarity around directions, actions and initiatives are a guide and are subject to future consideration within the masterplan, further planning and budget cycles.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Adopt the Warrnambool City Council Holiday Parks Strategic Plan.
2. Nominate Cr Benter and Cr Edis to the Master Plan Project Control Group.

Background

Surfside and Shipwreck Bay Holiday Parks have been a destination for locals and travellers since informal camping started in the early 1900s, and the formal creation of the Warrnambool Foreshore Trust in the 1930s.

The Parks are highly important assets to the regional visitor economy and Warrnambool City Council. Located on the Warrnambool foreshore, the Parks offer convenient access to the beach and coastline, Lake Pertobe precinct, Flagstaff Hill, the Warrnambool CBD, and other regional attractions. This Strategic Plan is intended to guide future Park planning and investments over the next 10 years.

The plan has been prepared in response to several notable issues and challenges. The Strategy presents ways to generate more revenue to fund infrastructure and amenity upgrades.

Urban Enterprise were engaged to undertake the review and develop the Strategy. The scope of the engagement of Urban Enterprise included the following:

- Site visits
- Strategy and policy review
- Summary of existing conditions and operations, including accommodation, occupancy and financial performance
- Market assessment
- Survey of park visitors
- Engagement with key stakeholders, including Council officers and other identified stakeholders
- Identification of issues and opportunities
- Preparation of vision, objectives, themes, strategic directions, and initiatives.
- This project does not include site master planning. It is expected that the Plan will assist in informing a future masterplan for the site.

Issues

The Strategy details and highlights the issues with the ongoing operations of the Holiday Parks. In particular, the camping and caravan options, where sites are now becoming too small for the size of caravans and vehicles towing them. There is also a propensity for guests to bring more belongings, including gazebos, swags, boats, bikes & cars etc.

Other Key issues include;

- Large areas with extensive infrastructure, presenting a management and maintenance challenge;
- Homogenous accommodation product, including sites and cabins, not meeting the needs of current travelers;
- No accessible cabins;
- Aging infrastructure and amenities;
- Sub-optimal site entry, reception at both parks and kiosk building (Surfside);
- Limited recent capital investment in renewal and upgrades;
- Car parking and traffic management challenges;
- Vegetation issues with invasive species common throughout the Parks.
- Highly seasonal visitation.
- Limited Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) throughout.

Zoning of the land (PPRZ), planning overlays including Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO), Coastal Hinterland Landscape Area, Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) and it being Crown land, may present challenges relating to the development of increased visitor opportunities, including ensuite sites, increased and diversified cabin and roofed accommodation (Pods and Safari Tents) and any other building proposals and upgrades. Policy and regulations need to be considered when proposing development and should be referenced in preparation of masterplans and design work for future developments. All use, development and works on marine and coastal Crown land require an application for Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (MACA) consent.

The Parks are a significant asset to Warrnambool's and the regional visitor economy, and provide opportunity and capacity to assist with the realisation of tourism and economic development objectives, including:

- Assisting with supporting additional overnight visitation, visitor length of stay and yield opportunities;
- Support visitation in non-peak periods / year-round visitation.
- Attracting new and high yield visitor markets;
- Respond to regional accommodation gaps;
- Support Warrnambool as a visitor hub, from which further geographic dispersal can occur;
- Assist in supporting commercial investment;
- Support the foreshore as a major economic asset for Warrnambool;
- Support large scale events, through providing accommodation options for participants, patrons and spectators;

The Strategy identifies a number of key strategic directions (refer to Pages 40- 43 of Attachment 2 *Warrnambool Holiday Parks Strategic Plan Consultation Final* under themes:

- Accommodation and Infrastructure
- Parks Operations
- Environment
- Branding and Marketing

In particular to note are:

Enhance Park presentation, arrival experience and amenities

During the development of the Plan the community consultation feedback largely supported the key directions in the strategy however respondents also want overdue upgrades—especially to sites, grass, amenities, security, cleaning, parking, and basic infrastructure to be undertaken. These are noted in the plan, in section 8. Vision, Strategic Directions and Initiatives.

Although important for the long term viability of the parks and continued patronage, upgrading and or replacing the extensive infrastructure will be very costly and not make any significant increase to the Parks revenue and more planning will be required to get the best outcome.

Funding these upgrades and ongoing maintenance will become part of Council budget processes with significant increases expected. This could be offset by increased income from new cabins proposed in Surfside Holiday Park and the Key Worker Accommodation in Shipwreck Bay Holiday Park.

New Cabins Proposal

It is proposed to add 17 new larger cabin accommodation, consisting of new 2 and 3-bedroom cabins product, with larger kitchen/dining/lounge areas compared to current Beach Chalets in Surfside Holiday Park.

These cabins would cater to a mix of markets, but primarily families and/or friends and relatives travelling together and/or adult couples travelling together. New cabins will include provision of accessible cabins (~20%).

In addition, the introduction of studio safari tents, and/or Pods will cater to adult couple travellers and solo travellers.

Table 1 summarises existing and proposed cabin accommodation at Surfside Holiday Park, including a summary of the cabin type, cabin capacity, and the accommodation product mix.

Proposed new cabins are highlighted in the table below. A masterplan for the site will consider the ideal siting / locations of proposed cabin accommodation.

Table 1. Existing Cabin Accommodation, Surfside Holiday Park

Type	Beds	Baths	Sleeps (up to)	Existing	Proposed	Total	Mix (%)
3-Bed, 2 Bath (proposed)	1X Queen, X1 Queen-Twin, X2 Bunks	2	8	0	4	4	10%
3 Bed, 1 Bath (proposed)	1X Queen, 2X Single Bunks	1	6	0	4	4	10%
2 Bed, 1 Bath (proposed)	1X Queen, 1X Single, 1X Bunks	1	5	0	4	4	10%
2 Bed, 1 Bath (Beach Chalet)	1X Queen, 1X Queen-Twin	1	4	5	0	5	13%
1 Bed, 1 Bath (Cedars)	1X Queen, 1X Single Bunk	1	4	12	0	12	30%
Studio (Marriners)	1X Queen, 1X Single Bunk	1	4	6	0	6	15%
Studio Safari Tent (proposed)	1X Queen	1	2	0	5	5	13%
Total				23	17	40	100%
Mix (Existing v Proposed)				58%	43%		

Source: Warrnambool Holiday Parks, Warrnambool City Council, Urban Enterprise, 2025

Image 1: Existing and Proposed cabin accommodation at Surfside Holiday Park

Leasing Shipwreck Bay

During this process it has become apparent that this Park provides opportunity for licensed activations and strategic leasing opportunities, which could be of benefit to WCC and the broader Visitor Economy. Especially if they can provide more attractions for Warrnambool and increase year-round and off-peak visitation.

Leasing Shipwreck Bay is preferrable to that of Surfside as it is only utilised for 10 weeks during peak season for camping only. Preliminary discussions with a couple of local businesses have shown interest to increase accommodation options, providing a range of accommodation options to appeal to target markets, along with a potential of "pop up" paid attractions of geothermal bathing and geothermal waterpark, which could increase off peak visitation to Warrnambool and still maintaining the existing peak camping offering which existing customers want.

Further investigation with DEECA, business case studies and financial modelling will need to be explored to inform Council in relation to this option, if endorsed by Council.

Implementation

The following planning projects would assist with realising the objectives of the strategic plan.

1. Prepare a masterplan to guide infrastructure upgrades and accommodation investments. This should include:
   - Refinement of park layout, and site configurations
   - Entry and administrative building reconfiguration and concept design
   - Siting of cabin accommodation
   - Siting of amenities and infrastructure
   - Landscape/planting plan.
2. Business plan update.
3. Asset maintenance and renewal plan.
4. Brand and marketing collateral review.

Financial Impact

Next Steps

If the plan is endorsed by Council, the next steps would be to prepare a masterplan to guide existing infrastructure upgrades and new accommodation opportunities. The budget for this is proposed to come from the existing Holiday Parks 2026-2027 budget, with a proposed budget variation from Capital Improvements into a specific new Holiday Parks Masterplan budget line.

Implementation of the plan

The implementation of the plan will be incorporated into Council's annual budget processes and long-term financial plan.

The Holiday Parks continue to be a profitable enterprise. Recent site and cabin fees increases, in line with other similar offerings along the Great Ocean Road, Port Fairy and market rates have achieved a considerable increase in profits over recent years.

Increasing and diversifying the amount of cabin stock, targeted marketing and offerings to offset the seasonality of revenue will only increase this further.

If the Plan is endorsed by Council it is envisaged that new cabin stock could fund other aspects of the plan including upgrades of existing amenities and enhancing Park presentation and arrival experience.

In FY24, the Park generated $1.54 million in operating profit, up from $860K in FY19, which equates to a 79.1% increase. Total expenditure was $2.5 million in FY24, up from $2.2 million in FY19 (12.1% increase).

Revenue was $4.0 million, up from $3.1 million in FY19 (31% increase). Surfside generated close to three quarters of revenue. Sites generated 78% of revenue in FY19, which increased to 82% in FY24.

Cabins comprised 17% of revenue in FY19, easing to 14% of total revenue in FY24. 61% of accommodation revenue was generated in December and January (see Figure 6).

Other months of higher than average revenue include March and February.

The Park generates low levels of revenue in the low and shoulder season. The strategy considers ways to increase visitation and revenue in the low and shoulder seasons.

Financial Assessment

A financial assessment has been prepared to determine the projects return on investment. This includes consideration of:

- Capital cost of new cabin accommodation;
- Projected cabin revenue and expenditure;
- Development feasibility.

Capital Cost Estimate

A capital cost estimate has been prepared for new cabin accommodation. Capital costs are preliminary only and have been estimated having regard to published construction cost benchmarks outlined in Rawlinson's Construction Handbook 2025.

A blend of 2 bed and 3 bed, 1 and 2 bath family cabins and safari tents totaling 17 in number are estimated to cost $4.5million.

The cost estimate includes allowance for preliminaries, building works, site preparation, loose furniture and equipment, landscaping, design variables, professional fees and contingency. It excludes allowances for cost escalation, adverse ground conditions, GST, removal of hazardous materials, services infrastructure upgrades, and other works.

It is recommended that costs be re-visited and estimated by a quantity surveyor, builder or cabin supplier at such time when cabin product has been specified and proposed siting is known.

Cabin Revenue

A conservative, estimated (and after costs) annual revenue based on key assumptions, including cabin types, capacity, estimated occupancy, and the average daily room rate associated with new cabins would be in the order of $1.3million (as of 2025). This assumes 65% occupancy and 4,033 occupied annual room nights across all cabin types.

Operational Expenditure

Estimated annual operational costs associated with new cabin accommodation, based on key assumptions, including cost allowances for cleaning, consumables, cabin maintenance and utilities is $366,468.

Development Feasibility

A projected cash flow has been prepared which has regard to proposed staging of cabin accommodation, capital costs and operational expenditure over a 20-year period to identify the overall return on investment.

The proposed cabin accommodation is estimated to produce an internal rate of return of 22.5%, with a payback period of 7.1 years and a net present value (NPV) of $1.6 million (at a discount rate of 15%). The financial results indicate a financially viable development, with a strong internal rate of return (IRR).

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

1 City Futures
1.5 Our City is activated to be attractive to residents and visitors.
1.6 Our City will be a sought-after destination for visitors.

2 City Infrastructure
2.1 Our City will prioritise maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure.

4 City Wellbeing
4.1 Our liveable City promotes access to housing, places and activity for all.
4.4 Our inclusive and diverse City is welcoming to all.

Timing

If this report is endorsed by Council it is proposed to seek a consultant to undertake the work necessary to complete a Masterplan for both parks with the next steps being;

- If the plan is adopted by Council it is proposed to undertake the master planning as per the actions from the strategic plan.
- If Council would like to pursue leasing opportunities as outlined for Shipwreck Bay Holiday Park further investigation with DEECA, business case studies and or commercial leasing EOI processes will need to be explored.
- The aim would be that in the event of a successful EOI, the proponent would undertake their own Masterplan for the site in accordance with any negotiated lease agreement with WCC.
- The aim is to complete the master planning by the end of 2026-2027 Financial Year.

Internal / External Consultation

A Project Reference Group of WCC planning team staff, industry stakeholders, DEECA representatives and Caravan Park professionals was established to guide the development of the plan.

An online visitor survey, which was conducted between December 2024 and February 2025. The survey was available via QR code link at the Holiday Parks, as well as emailed to the bookings database. A total of 859 responses were collected, providing useful insights into the types of visitors to the Park, their travel behaviour and preferences.

The Draft plan went out for community consultation in collaboration with WCC Communications Team for 2 weeks concluding on Friday 29 May 2026 with nearly 100 respondents. The draft plan was made available online at Warrnambool Have Your Say, with hard copies available at the Civic Centre and Holiday Park Office. There were also in person opportunities for feedback at the Library on 2 occasions during the consultation process.

Two written feedback submissions were received from Warrnambool Surf Lifesaving Club (WSLSC) and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Primarily WSLSC submission was more relevant to the pending Master Plan process, services and amenities upgrades and carparking. We welcome their interest in being involved in that process.

Their submission identified an issue concerning the adequacy of the phone/internet service, not addressed within the Strategy; this has now been included in the Strategy as an issue and an action included to investigate options to improve this.

The WSLSC submission also revisited their proposal to add car parking to Section N where the Mariners Cabins and 21 sites are located. However, at the time this was detailed as a negative budget impact of approximately $154K for cabins and $42K for the sites annually.

DEECA in their submission noted;

"DEECA considers that several aspects of car parking and traffic management require further review to ensure alignment with government policy and guidelines. Key matters include:

- *Potential expansion of the SLSC car park into Shipwreck Park*
- *Additional staff parking*
- *The number of cars and boats per site*

Additional parking within coastal Crown land caravan parks is often contentious, particularly during peak periods. Parking within the caravan parks should be limited to park occupants. Expanding parking to support adjacent coastal Crown land users is not consistent with relevant policy or guidelines."

The submission from DEECA also requested some minor changes to the plan which have been included;

- Identify the coastal Crown land status on the caravan parks in the Overview section of the Plan

The key guidelines to be applied in finalising the Strategic Plan, which will also apply to site masterplans include:

- Best Practice Management Guidelines for Committees of Management Managing Caravan and Camping Parks on Crown Land
- Improving Equity of Access to Crown Land Caravan and camping Parks

A summary of the key themes and feedback from the community consultation submissions are provided below. The detailed responses are attached – refer Attachment 3.

Questions 1 – 3 were demographic data. Question 4 asked respondents;

"Please provide your feedback on the draft Strategic plan. If you are making specific comments about a section of the plan, let us know the section or page number you are referring to."

Question 5 was more general in nature and asked respondents to consider:

"Do you have any other comments about Surfside or Shipwreck Bay Holiday Park?"

Overall, respondents appear to support the need for improvement and modernisation, but many want this done carefully, without losing the parks' affordability, camping character, or natural setting.

The feedback largely supports the key directions in the strategy, and respondents want overdue upgrades—especially to sites, grass, amenities, security, cleaning, parking, and basic infrastructure. There is strong caution against overdevelopment, rising fees, increased cabins and changes that would erode the natural, affordable, family camping character of the parks. The feedback received was mainly issues and suggestions that will be useful for the Masterplan stage if the Strategic Plan is endorsed by Council

The other items were either operational issue, such as booking systems, access, safety and security, cleaning and broader maintenance and operational issues. All of which is being addressed with the Holiday Parks ongoing operations.

Issues raised in relation to question 4 largely relate to 17 themes and are listed in the table below along with the summary of responses.

#	Theme	Key Feedback Summary
1	Broad support for the draft plan and overdue upgrades	Many respondents described the plan as comprehensive, logical, fair, and badly needed. There is a strong sense that both parks—especially Shipwreck have declined over time and require significant renewal.
2	Amenities and cleaning are a top concern	The most consistent feedback relates to toilets, showers, laundries and general upkeep. Many respondents said amenities are outdated, poorly maintained, unclean, or insufficient in number. Common issues included broken doors, cracked tiles, leaks, poor water pressure, lack of soap, and calls for more frequent cleaning.
3	Site condition, grass, drainage and dust are major issues	A very strong theme is dissatisfaction with the condition of sites. Many respondents referred to bare dirt, dust, uneven ground, poor drainage, rabbit holes, and lack of grass, especially at Surfside and Shipwreck Bay. Improving grass coverage, levelling, soil condition, and water runoff was repeatedly raised as a priority.
4	Site size, road layout and access need improvement	Many respondents said sites are too small, too narrow, or difficult to access, especially for larger caravans and tow vehicles. Common suggestions included: • Larger or wider sites • Drive-through sites • Better road layout and circulation • Easier reversing and entry/exit • Improved traffic flow at arrival and gates during peak periods There was, however, some caution that increasing site size should not come at the expense of too many total sites.
5	Strong concern about increasing cabins and reducing camping space	A major theme is opposition to the draft plan's apparent focus on more cabins, especially at Shipwreck Bay. Many respondents felt this would: • Reduce caravan and camping capacity • Undermine the parks' traditional camping identity • Compete with local motel/hotel accommodation • Make holidays less affordable • Overdevelop a valued foreshore setting Some respondents supported replacing ageing cabins or adding a limited number of better quality or accessible cabins, but many opposed any significant net increase.
6	Worker accommodation proposal attracted notable concern	Several respondents specifically objected to the proposed worker accommodation at Shipwreck Bay, questioning its location, suitability, timing, and impact on the family-friendly and tourist character of the park. This was one of the clearest plan-specific objections.
7	Preserve affordability and avoid major fee increases	Affordability was a repeated concern. Many respondents said the parks are already expensive relative to current quality, and they fear upgrades will lead to higher fees. A common message was: improve the basics, but do not add unnecessary features that increase costs.

#	Theme	Key Feedback Summary
8	Protect the natural character and uniqueness of the parks	Many respondents strongly value the parks as simple, authentic, beachside camping experiences. They want improvements, but not overdevelopment. Common sentiments included: • Keep the parks natural • Preserve open space, vegetation, and privacy • Avoid turning the parks into a heavily commercial or "Big 4"-style experience • Retain the unique foreshore camping atmosphere
9	Kiosk and reception are important to visitors	The kiosk was mentioned frequently and is clearly valued. Several respondents wanted it retained or extended, especially with longer operating hours. Some supported reception improvements or relocation, but others thought the current setup was adequate and not a spending priority.
10	Booking system and fair access need review	Some respondents called for improvements to the booking system, including: • Online booking via an interactive site map • Easier self-service booking • More transparent site availability • Review of preferential booking arrangements to ensure fairness and equity
11	Demand for better digital and service infrastructure	A smaller but consistent theme was the need for better visitor services, including: • Improved Wi-Fi at Shipwreck Bay • Better TV reception • EV charging infrastructure • Number plate recognition for boom gates • More dump points and practical caravan servicing infrastructure
12	Accessibility should be built in from the outset	Several respondents welcomed accessible accommodation but stressed that accessibility must be integrated across the whole park, not treated as an afterthought. This included: • Accessible cabins • Wheelchair-friendly paths and amenities • Accessible camp kitchens and laundries
13	Pet-friendly access is strongly requested	Many respondents want the parks to become more dog-friendly, particularly during peak season. Suggestions included: • Year-round pet-friendly areas • Designated dog-friendly sections • Fenced dog-friendly sites Stronger alignment between pet facilities and actual pet access rules
14	Safety, rule enforcement and security need more attention	A number of respondents raised safety concerns, including: • Speeding cars • Unsafe use of e-bikes and scooters • Poor enforcement of one-car-per-site rules • Lack of visible security presence • Poor fencing, lighting, and beach access safety • Need for handrails, repaired stairs, and better control of risky behaviour

#	Theme	Key Feedback Summary
15	Landscaping, shade, privacy and revegetation matter	Respondents frequently raised concerns about loss of vegetation and shade. They want more: • Natural shade • Hedging/privacy between sites • Revegetation and tree replacement • Landscaping that enhances the environment rather than making it feel overbuilt
16	Mixed views on extra features like pools and playgrounds	There were mixed opinions on added recreational features: • Some respondents supported pools, playgrounds, or a jumping pillow • Others said these are unnecessary given the proximity of Lake Pertobe, the beach, and existing local attractions So, while some see these features as attractive for families, many believe the parks do not need to duplicate nearby public amenities.
17	Broader maintenance and operational issues	Some responses highlighted ongoing maintenance and management frustrations, including: • Deteriorating fencing • Poor pest control • Noisy maintenance vehicles • Inconsistent standards over time • Concern that consultation may not influence final decisions

Table 1: Summary of the general public responses to Question 4

Legal Risk / Impact

There are many risks and environmental issues if the plan was to be adopted, and progress sought in relation to its implementation. Many have been noted above in the “Issues” section, including those following here;

The sites are located within the Public Park and Recreation Zone, with Environmental and Landscape Significance overlay protections, which require consideration for proposed development.

- Park operations, potential developments and enhancements should align to planning policy, regulations, fire safety guidelines, and road safety.
- Policy and regulations need to be considered when proposing development and should be referenced in preparation of masterplans and design work for future developments.
- All use, development and works on marine and coastal Crown land require an application for Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (MACA) consent.

The land is also Crown land managed by Warrnambool City Council and there may be more impacts, risks and issues from DEECA as the plan progresses and / or State Government's change

Officers' Declaration of Interest

None to declare

Conclusion

The Holiday Parks Strategic Plan provides a guide for maximising the operations of the parks in the future. The Plan has been amended to accommodate feedback from stakeholders and Councillor workshop. There are effectively two options for Council to consider.

1. Council can continue to manage the Parks as it is within existing budget model; however, facilities are not meeting expectations and demand of current users, are ageing and the parks are not delivering to their full potential.

2. Council can adopt the Plan and endorse the strategic directions noting that all future investment will be subject to further planning, discussions as a part of the long-term financial planning and specific information, business cases and financial modelling with other elements such as leasing Shipwreck Bay.

If Council adopts the plan, Council may wish to nominate two Councillors at this time, to be part of the Masterplan Project Control Group (PCG).

ATTACHMENTS

1. Holiday- Parks- Summary- Document- FINAL [**7.4.1** - 6 pages]
2. Warrnambool- Holiday- Parks- Strategic- Plan- Consultation- COUNCILLOR FINAL [**7.4.2** - 50 pages]
3. Holiday parks survey Q4 & 5 results with AI summary June 2026 [**7.4.3** - 24 pages]

7.5. Annual Action Plan 2026-2027 Report Q1

DIRECTORATE: Corporate Strategies

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of quarter one progress against the Annual Action Plan 2026-2027 and highlights key achievements delivered across Council's functional areas in support of the Council Plan 2025-2029.

Executive Summary

The Annual Action Plan outlines the key initiatives funded through Council's Budget to deliver the strategic priorities of the Council Plan 2025–2029. Q1 results demonstrate strong progress across all five strategic pillars, with most actions progressing as planned.

During the quarter, Council delivered a range of projects, services, advocacy initiatives and strategic planning activities, including major milestones in growth planning, community development, environmental sustainability, infrastructure delivery and digital transformation. Overall, the report highlights Council's continued commitment to delivering positive outcomes for the community and achieving its long-term strategic objectives.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Annual Action Plan 2026 – 2027: July – September (Quarter 1) be received.

Background

The Warrnambool City Council Plan 2025–2029 is the primary strategic and planning document, setting out the key priorities and strategic objectives for the municipality over a four-year period. The Annual Action Plan items support the strategies undertaken by Council to achieve its 2025–2029 vision: *"We are a thriving regional leader, rich in opportunities and committed to fostering a sustainable and inclusive lifestyle."* The 5 key objectives are:

1. **City Futures:** Activating a vibrant, liveable and safe city through enhancing outcomes for all.

2. **City Infrastructure:** Renewal and maintenance of Council's infrastructure while balancing the needs of our growing city through sound asset management.

3. **City Sustainability:** Caring for our natural environment by promoting energy efficiency, best practice circular economy and embracing new technology.

4. **City Wellbeing:** Working to enable everyone at every stage of life to participate in welcoming and inclusive environments which foster learning, connection, health and wellbeing.

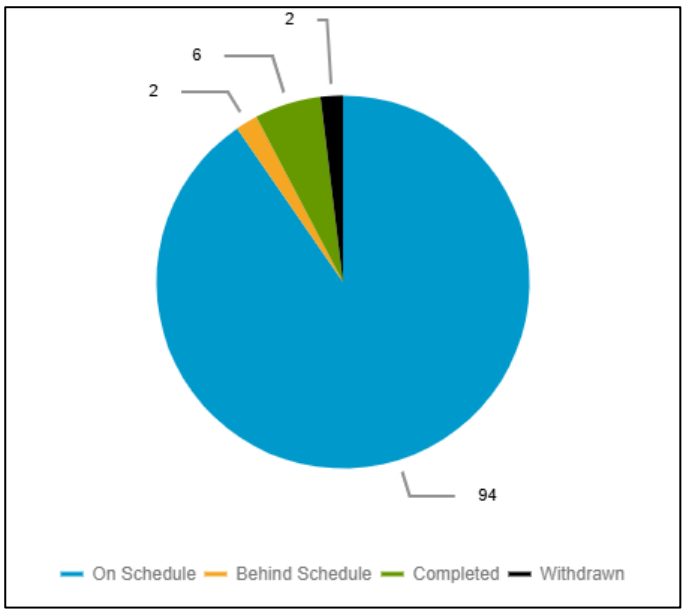
5. **City Leadership:** We will advocate for our community and region, operate efficiently, maintain sound governance, care for our team, and embrace a rapidly changing technological landscape.

Performance Snapshot

Council made a strong start to 2026-2027, with achievements including adoption of the Open Space Strategy 2026-2041, progression of strategic growth projects, support for local businesses and community events, delivery of environmental and wellbeing initiatives, advancement of infrastructure projects, and the successful implementation of the Coastal Connect ERP system.

Overall, Q1 demonstrates solid progress toward Council's strategic priorities and long-term vision for a thriving, connected and sustainable Warrnambool community.

Q1 ACTIONS BY CATEGORY



Key Achievements

Strategic Pillar 1: City Futures

- Open Space Strategy 2026-2041 adopted by Council.
- East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan rezoning gazetted and operational, with the first development application already received.
- Strong participation in the Local Community Safety Committee, contributing to initiatives that reduced antisocial behaviour.
- Successful acceptance into the DTP Unlocking Strategic Sites Program to progress the former Saleyards Precinct redevelopment.
- Three new business approvals processed through the Better Business Approvals program.
- 76 worker positions endorsed through the Great South Coast DAMA program, supporting regional workforce attraction.
- Business engagement strengthened through networking events, workshops and mentoring programs.
- Festival and Events Fund distributed to 28 events across the municipality.
- What's On platform recorded 17,299 views and over 650 events listed during Q1.
- Regional collaboration established for the Southwest Housing Expo focused on innovative housing solutions.

Strategic Pillar 2: City Infrastructure

- Agreement clarified with DTP regarding maintenance responsibilities for bus shelters. Council to clean and perform minor maintenance tasks on bus shelters with DTP responsibility to renew, upgrade or install new shelters.
- Speed reduction implemented on the Princes Highway near Allansford, improving safety outcomes.
- Civic Centre accessibility upgrade design completed, preparing for construction stages.
- Multiple external funding applications submitted under Safe Local Roads and Streets and Blackspot programs.
- Regional Transport Strategy advanced through the South West Victoria Alliance, strengthening future advocacy efforts.

Strategic Pillar 3: City Sustainability

- Two robotic mowers and a robotic line marker added to Council's fleet, improving operational efficiency.
- Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles incorporated into Council's fleet.
- Water monitoring expansion commenced through partnership with Wannon Water.
- Home Energy Efficiency education session delivered through the Green Warrnambool Speaker Series.
- Approximately 8,750 plants, including 605 canopy trees, established through the 2026 revegetation program with participation from around 670 community members.
- Coastal Resilience Plan progressed, including updated sea level rise modelling and consultation preparation.
- Advocacy contributed to introduction of six-carriage train services and a request for improved bus services.

Strategic Pillar 4: City Wellbeing

- Public Art Registry drafted with a corresponding filing system to record annual condition reports completed.
- AquaZone continued extensive programming with 211 weekly learn-to-swim classes, 54 group fitness classes and strong regional participation.
- Healthy Warrnambool monitoring and evaluation framework developed.
- Cultural awareness and safety training delivered to Council's Senior Leadership Team.
- New kindergarten enrolment software rollout commenced for 2027 enrolments.
- Matron Swinton Playground upgrade reached 75% completion.
- Breastfeeding Friendly Places QR code initiative completed and ready for community distribution.
- Child Safe training completed across all early years staff.

Strategic Pillar 5: City Leadership

- Coastal Connect ERP Phase 1 successfully went live on 1 July 2026.
- SharePoint pilot successfully launched within Children and Family Services and integration testing completed.
- AI adoption commenced with the Infringement Review application becoming operational.
- Workforce leadership and development programs embedded across the organisation.
- Organisation-wide action plan developed in response to employee survey findings.
- Safety Management System fully maintained and operational.

- Significant community consultation undertaken across major projects, generating strong participation through surveys, drop-in sessions and Social Point engagement tools.
- Child Safety Standards embedded across Council operations with formal policy development completed.
- Advocacy efforts contributed to election commitments for a new Surf Life Saving Club facility and ongoing support for regional infrastructure projects.

Conclusion

Council has made strong progress in the first quarter of the 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan, with positive outcomes achieved across all five strategic pillars. Significant milestones during the quarter include the adoption of the Open Space Strategy 2026-2041, the successful go-live of the Coastal Connect ERP system, progression of the East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan, delivery of the revegetation program, support for local businesses and events, and ongoing advocacy for transport, housing and regional infrastructure priorities.

Overall, Council is well positioned to deliver on its strategic objectives and long-term vision for a thriving, sustainable and connected Warrnambool community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Annual Action Plan Report Q1 (July - September 2026) [**7.5.1** - 23 pages]

7.6. Calendar Dates of Observance 2026-2028 and Australia Day 2027

DIRECTORATE : Wellbeing & Economy

Purpose:

This report is to confirm Council's approach for scheduling the Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony and recognition of Australia Day in January 2027 and Calendar of Dates of Recognition.

Executive Summary

In past years, Council's Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremonies were held on Australia Day, but more recently (since 2023) these awards have been presented on a separate day due to decline in the number of attendees to, and cultural sensitivities around, activities held on the 26 January date. Council acknowledges Local Awards in the categories of Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Local Achiever and Community Event of the Year.

Days of recognition, observation or celebration (dates of recognition) are often internationally identified, a national recognition or could be a local occasion, which mark particular events or topics in order to promote awareness and action, and the objectives of the organisation or promote a sense of belonging to an idea and what it represents. For Council the days recognised and observed mark particular events or topics which have relevance to the broader community and align with a Council service or policy. Dates are either Council recognised or organisation recognised and the level of resources, communications with the community and activities will vary depending on the day of recognition.

Australia Day is Australia's national day and is recognised with a national gazetted public holiday. Australia Day is a national holiday that represents a day of celebration and sorrow. Opinions on celebrating this day are divided. It is important as a part of Council's commitment to the Reconciliation Strategy Action Plan (RSAP) and Council Plan that it is mindful of supporting a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for all residents.

Councillors have discussed Council-recognised dates, scheduling and event options for the local awards and citizenship Ceremony.

Council's current endorsed list of Council-recognised dates are proposed to remain with the addition of Australia Day:

- IDAHOBIT Day
- International Women's Day
- National Reconciliation Week
- ANZAC Day
- Citizen of the Year Ceremony
- National Volunteer Week
- National Tree Day
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Remembrance Day

Nominations for Local Award recipients are currently sought in October/November for the ceremony scheduled in January. Planning for any additional events will also need to commence imminently. In planning the Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony and recognition of Australia Day in January 2027, Council can consider scheduling Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremonies within 3 days of 26 January (Status Quo) or on Australia Day with or without additional activities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Endorse the recognition of the following dates of recognition to be Council-observed dates for the two year period, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028:

    - IDAHOBIT Day
    - International Women's Day
    - National Reconciliation Week
    - ANZAC Day
    - Australia Day
    - Citizen of the Year Ceremony
    - National Volunteer Week
    - National Tree Day
    - Clean Up Australia Day
    - Remembrance Day

2. Acknowledge that a range of other dates of recognition will be observed by the organisation and implemented by Council's services typically as programs of activities and with external messages to community shared through Council's communication channels.

3. Schedule the 2027 Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony to be held on Australia Day 26 January followed by a community BBQ.

Background / Previous Reporting

In 2024 Council adopted a calendar of dates of recognition for the organisation with clear identification of the dates of significance that Council will celebrate. As a part of the development of the calendar, 13 responses were received from the public with 2 commenting on Australia Day.

Council has seen community sentiment for traditional Australia Day celebrations change at a local level over recent years with decline in attendance numbers, one award winner rejecting the award because of the association with 26 January and several other award winners indicating they would not have accepted the award had it been presented on 26 January. Anecdotal feedback from community members who attended previous 26 January events, indicating concerns about the significance of the date in the context of First Nations peoples' perspectives and the broader reconciliation process. Council has also experienced challenges in securing artists and musicians for Australia Day events, with some expressing a preference not to be associated with celebrations held on 26 January. This reluctance has not been observed for non-public events such as citizenship ceremonies.

On a similar scale there has been commentary broadly across the nation and locally around supporting and celebrating Australia, and this occurring on 26 January being Australia's national day.

Following the 2022 event, Council decided to transition its local awards and citizenship ceremony to within three days of the 26 January as permitted under legislative requirements and discontinue activities on Australia Day. This has been the case since that time.

Issues

Awareness months, appreciation weeks and national days are observances of special days, weeks, or months dedicated to raising awareness about important social, health and employment topics.

There are a myriad of groups or agencies that specify holidays and observances internationally and in Australia including public holidays, cultural and religious holidays and observance and awareness days.

No one list is fulsome nor is it feasible that Council would celebrate and resource the full suite of observance days, hence Council has tailored a calendar to meet its own vision, mission and objectives.

The level of Council involvement, communications and community activities will vary depending on the date of recognition. A two-tier approach to the events/days observed will enable Council to allocate its resources appropriately:

1. Council recognised – where the date of recognition has significant relevance to the broader community and current broader societal needs and issues. This may be typically communicated by the Mayor and/or Councillors in the form of organising or attending a ceremony or community event and media messages and communications.

2. Organisation recognised – where the date of recognition has relevance to the broader community and aligns with a Council service or policy. The organisation would promote internally and externally and may be accompanied by the Mayor educating the community more broadly via media. The specific Department may recognise the day with events/activities promoted internally in venue and externally via social media page.

There are dates of recognition and community activities and events that are led by other agencies which Council will support, for example NAIDOC Week, National Tree Day and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

A review of the calendar of dates of recognition has been undertaken and the framework has been updated to reflect the Council Plan 2026-2029. All current dates of recognition are recommended to be retained for Council-recognised days. Australia Day has been requested to be added acknowledging it is the official National Day of Australia, celebrated every year on January 26.

A number of changes to Organisation-recognised dates will be made within existing operational resources to better align nominated days with the new Council Plan 2025-2029 and Healthy Warrnambool Plan 2025-2029.

An emerging issue occurring in relation to observance of special days are requests from community groups to 'light up' our buildings. Where these align with our nominated dates for recognition this is accommodated. For example the 16 days of Activism in November has included a collaboration with other services to light up buildings in the CBD in Orange.

Where they don't align with our calendar, the request is declined apart from exceptional situations. Examples where the request has been declined are Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer and Mental Health Month.

Australia Day – 26 January

Australia Day means something different to everyone. There is no right or wrong, however realistically whatever event or activity Council decides to hold, whether on 26 January or not, will be met with criticism, and with support.

Most importantly, reflection on Australia's complete history and vibrant culture, acknowledging traditions and cultures of First Nations people and, regardless of the date held, plays a positive role in advancing reconciliation. Australia Day is about so much more than the events of one day – it is about where we have come from, who we are as a nation and what we aspire to be.

Recently Council has adopted its Reconciliation Strategy Action Plan (RSAP) (document link here).

Council's commitment in the RSAP is to *Strengthen wellbeing through connection to culture and community,* acknowledging Council's play an important role in supporting the health, wellbeing and social connection of First Nations people through its public health, community development and inclusion programs. Key Focus Area 1 in the RSAP is :-

Empower First Nations people to thrive – strengthening health, wellbeing, inclusion and cultural safety.

Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia is the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing, mental health, and suicide prevention. In an article on cultural support around Australia Day they highlight "racism and social exclusion continue to be significant stressors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and these challenges are often intensified when conversations about and around Australia Day are prevalent."

At the same time there has been an increase in commentary broadly across the nation and locally around supporting and celebrating Australia, and this occurring on 26 January being Australia's national day.

In making its decision, Council should be mindful of what holding activities on 26 January could incite within the community, that people may wish to express their views through online commentary and in person peaceful protests including award recipients not attending the local awards ceremony.

The following options are presented for Council's consideration:

1. Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremonies to be held within three days of 26 January (Status Quo)

This option is the continuation of the Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony held within 3 days of 26 January which meets Council's obligations for holding A citizenship ceremony in January. This maintains the integrity of the awards and citizenship ceremony by promoting participation for all community members regardless of their points of view on Australia Day.

This option does not provide for activities being held on Australia Day. Council could still recognise Australia's National Day through informative and respectful promotion on social media whilst promoting its public open spaces for people to come together and enjoy as they see fit. This would support community gatherings to occur organically.

2. Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremonies to be held on Australia Day 26 January

This option would combine the Local Awards Ceremony and Citizenship Ceremony with recognition of Australia Day on 26 January. This option combines existing and any new activities on one day, acknowledges Australia's national day and aligns with the National Australia Day Council for potential funding.

Holding the local awards and citizenship ceremonies on 26 January could be controversial for award recipients and their friends, family, and community who may not want to celebrate on this day in recognition of what this means for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

3. Separating the two events

This option would see activities and events coordinated on Australia Day 26 January and maintaining the status quo for Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony within 3 days of 26 January. This would mean people can make a choice to participate in Australia Day events or not.

This option would require additional budget and have resource implications on staff existing workplans for planning and delivering the event. As a defined public holiday, the team will also need to determine what staffing and commitment is available on the day.

Outdoor event- Any outdoor event is proposed to be held at the Civic Green. Recent upgrades to the space provide for the easiest set up for staff and logistics of running the various events.

Opportunity to sensitively include First Nation history within both days in the form of Welcome to Country and how the events are promoted is encouraged.

Financial Impact

The cost to Council for the Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony and events on Australia Day depends on what activities are planned; whether there is entertainment, catering and facility hire. Indoor events are less likely to be impacted by the weather.

The costs and resources required for event planning and expenditure levels remain the same regardless of attendance numbers. This was evident at most recent Australia Day events, pre-COVID period through to 2022, with the steady decline of attendance.

The cost of the Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony held 3 days prior to Australia Day over the past 3 years has been as follows:

2024 -$5,830 (Lighthouse Theatre)
2025 - $5,070 (Emmanuel College)
2026 - $4,250 (ARC stadium)

An indicative budget of $10,000 is proposed for promotions/invitations/publicity/communications, entertainment, venue fees, catering, and equipment hire and other associated expenditure if the Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony are combined with Australia Day Community BBQ activities.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

Local Government Victoria's *Ministerial Good Practice Guideline and General Guidance for Councils Engaging with Aboriginal Victorians* to assist and support councils to develop respectful and meaningful relationships and partnerships with First Nations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and the Aboriginal community in order to meet the requirements of engaging with Aboriginal Victorians as a part of the municipal community under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The legal requirements and best practice guidelines for organisations hosting a citizenship ceremony are outlined in the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code (13MB PDF). Refer to Part 2, Event, page 21.

The Government expects local government to hold a citizenship ceremony as a part of their Australia Day celebrations. Council must hold a ceremony on Australia Day, or the three days prior or the three days after Australia Day.

The key objective in the *Council Plan 2026-2029* is:

4 City Wellbeing

4.4 Our inclusive and diverse City is welcoming to all.

Goal 1 of *Warrnambool 2040* is Warrnambool is a welcoming and inclusive city outcome. The outcome is:

> All residents are respectful, accepting and welcoming to people of all ages, abilities, cultures, genders, races, ethnicities, sexual orientation and faiths.

Council's Reconciliation Strategy's focus areas have been intentionally aligned to four Council Plan priorities, as shown in the table below:

Council Priority Area	Strategy Focus Area
City Wellbeing:	
Working to enable everyone at every stage of life to participate in welcoming and inclusive environments which foster learning, connection, health and wellbeing	Empower First Nations people to thrive – strengthening health, wellbeing, inclusion and cultural safety
City Futures:	
Activating a vibrant, liveable and safe city through enhancing outcomes for all.	Strengthen economic empowerment and opportunity for First Nations people
City Leadership:	
We will advocate for our community and region, operate efficiently, maintain sound governance, care for our team, and embrace a rapidly changing technology.	First Nations people and culture are valued as a regional strength, with self-determination advanced through genuine partnership and shared decision-making
City Sustainability:	
Caring for our natural environment by promoting efficiency, best practice circular economy and embracing new technology.	Embed caring for Country at the heart of a sustainable Warrnambool

Timing

Nominations for Local Award recipients will be sought in November for the ceremony scheduled in January.

Event planning will be required should Council choose to hold activities in addition to the Local Awards and Citizenship Ceremony.

The calendar of dates of recognition will be implemented for a two year period following Council resolution.

Internal / External Consultation

The calendar of dates of observance has been developed in consultation with Council Branch Managers, Executive Assistant and Council's Healthy Engaged Communities and Events teams.

External consultation occurred previously during:

- Development of the calendar of dates of observance in June 2024
- Benchmarking other LGA's Australia Day events in June 2025
- Consultation with EMAC (May 2025 and again August 2026)

Councillors have workshopped scheduling and event options.

Legal Risk / Impact

Nil – legal risk.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Collaborative Procurement

Nil.

Conclusion

Council has a leadership role to support days of recognition, observation or celebration that are internationally identified, of national significance or of relevance to the broader community and current broader societal needs and issues. It is proposed that we acknowledge and celebrate a range of awareness days, weeks and cultural festivals throughout the year. Council should ensure the dates of recognition are reflective of the balance between community demands and Council resources.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.7. Federal Government Growing Regions Fund

DIRECTORATE : Wellbeing & Economy

Purpose:

This report presents options on eligible projects to apply to the Federal Government's Growing Regions Program Round 3 should it be released for applications.

Executive Summary

The Federal Government's *Growing Regions Program Round 3 (GRP-Rd3)* has been presented as a forecast opportunity following the Australian Government commitment of $750 million in the 2026–27 Federal Budget for new rounds of the Growing Regions and Thriving Suburbs programs.

The Growing Regions Program provides open competitive grants ranging from $250,000 to $15 million for local infrastructure projects that improve liveability and community connections in regional, rural, and remote areas.

Council last applied for this funding in 2024 for Brierly Recreation and Wellbeing Hub and was unsuccessful.

The Guidelines are expected to be released from late 2026. Upcoming rounds will offer open competitive grants from $250,000 to $15 million for projects that deliver local, place-based benefits.

An assessment of the last program guidelines identifies strong alignment with AquaZone Redevelopment (AquaZone) as well as Brierly Recreation and Wellbeing Hub (Brierly). Previously, the Growing Regions Fund had a maximum contribution of $15million up to 50% of eligible project costs.

Given the lack of state government election commitments to Council's priority projects, it is now timely that Council consider which project to pursue funding for should the GRP-Rd3 be opened for applications.

This is the only grant program with funding available of this level that Council is likely to have access to that supports higher value projects.

An inspection of the outdoor pool and plant has been completed and is being finalised along with the audit of the internal pool and plant which will occur whilst the pool is closed for the roof renewal. The initial indication is the outdoor pool is at end of life and requires replacement.

This was a part of the scope of Stage 1 proposed in the AquaZone Redevelopment Business Case including core aquatic, entry and fitness works. The Business Case also provided for a three-stage scenario where the initial stage was solely core aquatic renewal.

Whilst the grant has yet to be released, this report seeks council endorsement for submitting a project for funding to the program should it be released, enabling timely preparation of required documentation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council submit an application for up to $15 million to the Federal Government Growing Regions Fund Round 3 for AquaZone Redevelopment project – Core Aquatic Renewal should the program open for applications.

Background / Previous Reporting

Council has only a handful of key priority projects that would be eligible to apply for the *Growing Regions Program.* With reference to Round 2 Guidelines:

The objectives of the program are:

- constructing or upgrading community infrastructure that fills an identified and immediate gap or unmet need for community infrastructure, particularly for communities that have experienced substantial growth;
- contributing to achieving social outcomes and increased community cohesion, liveability and accessibility;
- delivering increased amenity, liveability and community connectedness in line with the Investing in Places priority focus area of the Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework to deliver targeted and place-based investment.

The intended outcomes of the program are:

- to enhance liveability and amenity in regional communities;
- provision of multi-use infrastructure which benefits a broad cross section of the community by improving access, equity and social inclusion;
- to contribute to the achievement of Government priorities supporting the resilience, adaptability, accessibility, sustainability and liveability of communities including in First Nations communities;
- delivery of diverse project types and a balance of large and small projects;
- supporting and encouraging projects from lesser-resourced project proponents and low ratebased councils.

To be eligible, projects must:

- construct new community infrastructure or expand or upgrade existing infrastructure for wider community benefit;
- not be standard capital works of other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies including, but not limited to, roads, housing and essential service provision;
- not have commenced construction;
- not have received Commonwealth funding to undertake the same funding activities
- have a minimum eligible expenditure depending on co-funding requirements*

* for Warrnambool City Council this would be $1million.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and must include at least one of the following:

- constructing new community infrastructure.
- expanding or upgrading existing infrastructure for wider community benefit

The types of projects that would deliver on the objectives and intended outcomes of the program include:

- multi-purpose community hubs, youth centres, community sheds and gardens;
- libraries and cultural facilities such as creative centres;
- sports and recreational facilities;
- town centre revitalisation, bike or walking paths, play spaces and green spaces;
- multi-use centres that a large part of the community can use to access a number of different activities or services such as a centre that provides childcare, a pharmacy, library and a shared meeting space.

All activities must be strategically aligned to regional priorities and benefit a broad section of the community. This will need to be addressed through the assessment criteria.

Examples of the types of projects that are out of scope include:

- new or upgraded infrastructure for a hospital or medical centre, an aged care centre, rehabilitation or disability services centre, universities and schools;
- infrastructure for housing or accommodation, building of new roads or transport links;
- infrastructure related to waste, sewage, water, environmental and energy facilities, or telecommunications.

Applications must provide the following documentation:

- evidence of both incorporation and not-for-profit status;
- evidence to demonstrate eligibility of your entity type;
- evidence to support eligibility for Group 1 co-funding where the Commonwealth is funding up to 90 per cent as detailed in section 4.2 (if applicable)
- formal documentation providing confirmation of a cash contribution from another source (for example state government)
- evidence that you either own the land/infrastructure being built/upgraded upon, or that you have the landowner's permission to use the land/infrastructure;
- a business case which must include a detailed project budget that shows income sources, and eligible expenditure items, a project plan, project risk assessment plans and a cost benefit analysis
- evidence the project is ready to commence including approved development applications, project designs and timelines, noting the project needs to be 'shovel ready' at the time of entering into a funding agreement;
- attach detailed evidence that supports assessment criteria responses as detailed in section 6 (where applicable);
- recent costings/quotes for major costs as part of your application;
- accountant declaration (published online)
- evidence of funding strategy e.g. financial statements, loan agreements, cash flow documents;
- a letter of support from each project partner.

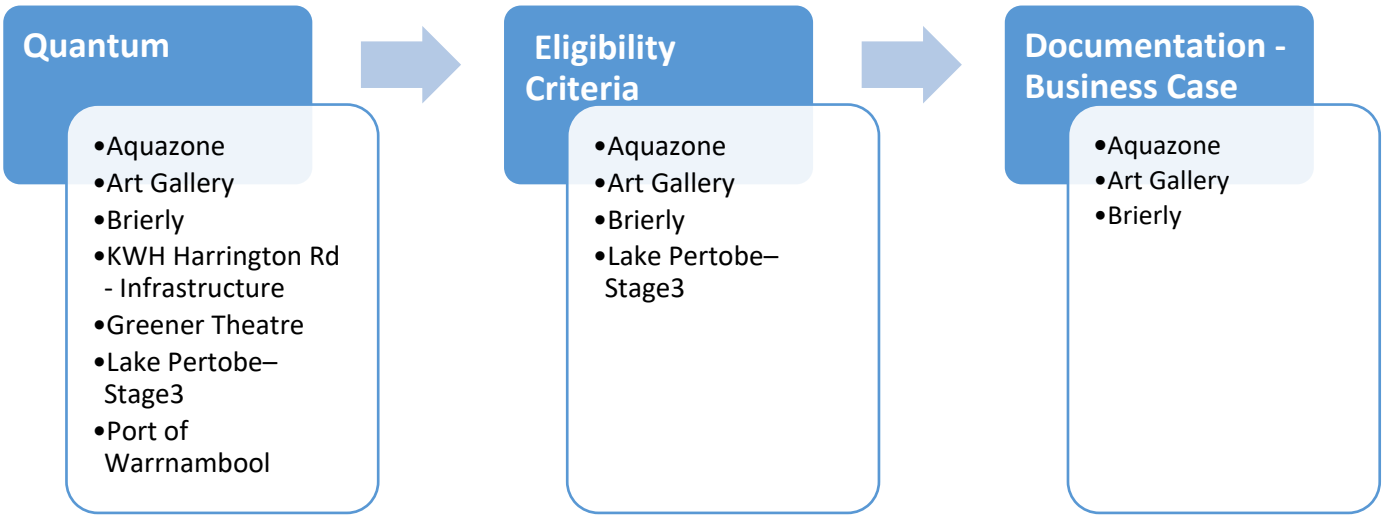
Issues

An assessment of Council's priority projects has been undertaken against the quantum of funding available (enabling higher value projects to be considered), the eligibility criteria, required documentation and council forecast co contribution.

The projects assessed were

- Aquazone
- Art Gallery
- Brierly
- KWH Harrington Rd - Infrastructure
- Greener Theatre
- Lake Pertobe–Stage3
- Port of Warrnambool

The desktop assessment is shown in the Figure below.



Port of Warrnambool is considered ineligible as it is *standard capital works of other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies including, but not limited to, roads, housing and essential service provision;*

KWH Harrington Road is out of scope under the program as it is *infrastructure for housing or accommodation, building of new roads or transport links*;

The Greening Lighthouse Theatre project is considered ineligible as it is it does not *directly relate to constructing new community infrastructure, or expanding or upgrading existing infrastructure for wider community benefit.*

Lake Pertobe–Stage3 does not have a Business Case as required for the application.

AquaZone, Art Gallery, Brierly are each:

- strategically supported;
- have a Business Case with appropriate detail.

Brierly and AquaZone are the strongest natural fit because they most closely align with the program's focus on community infrastructure, participation, accessibility, social inclusion and liveability outcomes.

Whilst the Art Gallery presents renewal of community infrastructure it is less able to demonstrate significant community access and regional visitation to compete with Brierly and AquaZone projects.

Further considerations:-

	Aquazone	Brierly
Scalability	Possible to deliver in 3 stages - Core Aquatic Renewal - Entry and fitness Expansion - Wellbeing and program enhancement	Possible to deliver in 2 stages - Sports facilities - Community Hub
Compliance with facility design standards	Mandatory	Not Mandatory
Condition	End of Life - Draft report on the condition assessment of Aquazone highlights the outdoor pool has deteriorated since its last inspection and requires replacement	Poor – existing temporary facilities
Community Need	Extremely High	High
Alternate Design Approach	Limited - without significant additional costs	Possible - at lower cost

Demonstrating the project is shovel-ready will be an issue as detailed designs and planning requirements are yet to commence.

This was provided as specific feedback from the Department regarding the application for Brierly.

The timeline for AquaZone would show designs progressing whilst the outdoor pool season is operational.

Financial Impact

Project Financial Details

The maximum grant able to be applied for is $15m. The ratio of funding is 1:1 so Council would require $15m for an application for AquaZone and $8.1m for an application for Brierly.

The below table highlights the cost estimate of the preferred option approved in the Business Case, a revised option for application to the GRP-Rd3 and external funding projections.

Please note these costs are based on preliminary cost estimates from quantity surveyors prepared as a part of the development of the Business Case for each project in accordance with Victorian Treasury and Finance accepted guidance on Business Case development.

The total project cost will be dependent on detailed design and scope, however it is fair to assume the cost for aquatic core renewal will be within the vicinity of a total project cost of $20m-$30m.

	Business Case Preferred Option	Revised Option for GRP-Rd3	External Funding
AquaZone	STAGE 1 Core aquatic, entry and fitness works - **$54.7 million**	STAGE 1a Core Aquatic Renewal **Outdoor Pool $27.75M** Construction of the new 50-metre pool, plant, and spectator seating, replacing ageing infrastructure and addressing immediate operational and community needs Indoor Pool **$Yet to be costed.** Plant and pipework repair / replacement	Grants - No alternate grant funding programs with this quantum.
Brierly	**$16.2m** • $9.2m sports pavilion • $4.2m community hub • $2.8m enabling infrastructure	• $9.2m sports pavilion Revisit Options eg • Modular Permanent Facilities (Ausco / Fleetwood) • Similar to Jetty Flat	Grants – No alternate grant funding programs unless significant rescoping in which case SRV funding (up to $500K) could be possible provided we retain compliance with facility guidelines.

Council Contribution Options

Funding Aquazone would require a significant Council contribution, proposed to be funded primarily through borrowing, with further staged contributions from the annual asset renewal budget. This approach would spread the funding commitment over two years but reduce the annual funding available for other infrastructure renewal priorities, potentially increasing pressure on Council's existing renewal program and long-term asset sustainability.

Long Term Financial Plan

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) currently allows for Brierly Sports and Community Hub - $13.5m and AquaZone - $10.6m (outdoor pool) with the following funding.

Project	Budget Item	2027(m)	2028 (m)	2029 (m)	2030 (m)
Brierly	Capital Works		$13.50		
	Borrowing		($7)		
	Grants		($7)		
Aquazone	Capital Works				$10.60
	Borrowing				($4)
	Grants				($7)

While the Brierly Sports and Community Hub project may present stronger alignment with the LTFP, Aquazone may deliver a more favourable overall outcome by maximising available funding opportunity better aligned with the relevant funding criteria for this fund.

Borrowing Capacity

The proposed borrowing is within Council's current borrowing thresholds, however, it would reduce available borrowing capacity for approximately one to two years, limiting Council's flexibility to fund other key priorities and respond to emerging infrastructure or strategic investment needs during this period.

Financial Sustainability

Both project options would require ongoing, committed recurrent savings to fund annual borrowing repayments and accommodate increased asset renewal requirements in future years. This would place additional pressure on Council's operating budget and require sustained savings to be identified to maintain long-term financial sustainability without compromising existing services and infrastructure renewal priorities. Where Aquazone renewal currently is forecast over the coming four years will be confirmed at the meeting.

Pre application project requirements

In order to ensure Council optimises its competitiveness with the grant application, work is required to progress the projects shovel-readiness. This would require commencing detailed design. Funding is available through current carry forward of $289,920 for Brierly Recreation & Community Planning. This could be allocated to the preferred project as a part of Council's 2026-2027 mid year budget forecast review.

If this were to be reallocated to AquaZone Core Aquatic Renewal project, true costings for Brierly Recreation and Community Hub based on revised scope could be sought and incorporated into the 2027-2028 budget development.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

4 City Wellbeing
4.3 Our active City provides recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
4.6 Our nurturing city supports growth and development through high quality service delivery.

5 City Leadership
5.4 Our City manages financial resources sustainably.
5.11 Our City will advocate for important needs including an upgrade of the aquatic centre, a community hub at Brierly Recreation Reserve, a new art gallery and affordable housing.

Timing

Whilst the funding program has yet to be released, a timely decision is required on Council's preferred project should the program open for applications so that work to progress the application can commence.

For whichever project is not supported, further work will be completed on design options and/or works to bring back through to Councillor's for consideration as a part of the 2027-2028 budget.

Internal / External Consultation

Next steps for each project will require detailed design and stakeholder consultation.

Stakeholders will be consulted during the design stage.

Community will be informed as broad community consultation has occurred in the development of the strategy's and business case for each of the projects supporting the current direction for each.

Legal Risk / Impact

Significant risks exist if council does not pursue renewal of AquaZone's outdoor pool. With the recent closure of Belfast Aquatics Centre, Cobden Rodney Grove Pool and soon to be closed Warrnambool College, AquaZone plays an even greater role in providing aquatic services across the region.

The outdoor pool has been assessed as at end of life. The indoor facilities condition are currently being assessed.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

No conflict to declare

Collaborative Procurement

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Growing Regions Program Round 3 presents an opportunity for Council to apply for a significant amount of funds and therefore target the higher value projects. The projects with strategic alignment, eligibility to the program and readiness for application are however limited. Both AquaZone and Brierly strongly align with the program guidelines and are identified in Council's current Long Term Financial Plan.

While both AquaZone and Brierly demonstrate excellent alignment with the program's focus on community infrastructure, liveability and accessibility, AquaZone Redevelopment - Core Aquatic Renewal project addresses the renewal of critical, end-of-life regional infrastructure where the condition assessment indicates the outdoor pool requires replacement, and aquatic facilities are subject to mandatory compliance and operational standards. The facility already demonstrates substantial community demand, and with recent closure of community facilities, provides strong evidence of an immediate and established community need.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.8. Contract Award - Tender 2026048 Evelyn Crescent Pavement Rehabilitation

DIRECTORATE : Sustainability & Development

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of Tender 2026048 – Evelyn Crescent Pavement Rehabilitation and recommend that Council award the contract to HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd.

Executive Summary

Asset management inspections have shown the pavement in Evelyn Crescent is in poor and declining condition, with up to 70% cracking and critical defects identified.

A specification was developed to rehabilitate the pavement and a tender issued in August 2026 requesting submissions to undertake this work.

Two submissions were received and assessed by the Tender Evaluation Panel. The submission from HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd was assessed as providing the best value for money.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Awards Contract 2026048 – Evelyn Crescent Pavement Rehabilitation, to HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd for the amount of $506,830.95 excluding GST.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract and associated documentation on behalf of Council.
3. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer financial authorisation to approve variations and adjustments in Council's finance system in accordance with the contract.
4. Acknowledges that the contract will be administered in accordance with its terms, including the exercise of contractual powers and responsibilities by the persons authorised under the contract.

Background / Previous Reporting

Asset management inspections have shown the pavement in Evelyn Crescent is in poor and declining condition, with up to 70% cracking and critical defects identified. Council has previously undertaken a partial rehabilitation on a small section of the pavement, which is not included in these works, along with ongoing patching in recent years; however, the patching's are short-term treatments and deterioration is ongoing. The planned pavement rehabilitation works adopt a proactive, whole-of-life approach.

Issues

Evelyn Crescent is a residential street that loops off Breton Street and contains approximately 90 properties that will be affected by the works. Tenderers were therefore required to provide methodologies and staging plans explaining how the works would be undertaken while minimising disruption to residents.

HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd's submission scored strongly against the assessment criteria because of the quality and level of detail provided. The tenderer demonstrated relevant experience delivering similar projects for local government clients and provided evidence of accredited management systems, supported by sample documentation. Its comprehensive methodology addressed the specification requirements and included staging arrangements designed to minimise disruption to residents. A detailed Gantt chart also demonstrated a well-planned approach to project delivery and scheduling. Collectively, these elements gave the Tender Evaluation Panel confidence in HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd's capacity and capability to undertake the works successfully.

In accordance with Warrnambool City Council's Procurement Policy, a value-for-money ratio was calculated for each tender by comparing the total weighted evaluation score with the submitted tender price. This assessment identified HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd as offering the best overall value for money and supported its recommendation as the preferred tenderer.

Financial Impact

This project is being funded from the following sources:

FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
Warrnambool City Council	$200,000
Roads to Recovery Program	$500,000
TOTAL FUNDING	$700,000

The anticipated award value for the contract is $506,830.95 (EX GST).

The estimated overall cost of entering into this contract is:

- **Lump sum component** **$506,830.95 ex GST**
- Allowance for rise and fall in the price of bitumen $15,000 ex GST
- Allowance for latent conditions associated with shallow services and soft spots $30,000 ex GST

- **Total estimated overall cost** **$551,830.95 ex GST**

Through the tender evaluation process, HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd was determined to represent the best value for money.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

2 City Infrastructure
2.1 Our City will prioritise maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure.
2.5 Our City's road network will be maintained to a safe and high-quality standard.

Timing

The main onsite works will be undertaken in February 2027.

Internal / External Consultation

Advises Council's communications approach:

- An initial letter was distributed to residents in March 2026 outlining the intention to undertake the works in the second half of 2026.
- A follow up letter will be issued post contract award providing an update on construction dates and advising residents of the contractor engaged.

Legal Risk / Impact

Standard road construction risks apply.

The Contract appoints the contractor as the Principal Contractor responsible to address all OHS risks.

The Contract requires the submission of an EMP to address all environmental risks that may be encountered.

The Contract requires the submission of a quality plan and ITP's to address quality control risks.

Following execution, the contract will be administered in accordance with its terms and conditions. Contractual decisions, including the assessment and determination of variations, claims and extensions of time, will be undertaken by the persons authorised under the contract.

These contractual functions are distinct from Council's internal financial approval and expenditure management requirements, which will continue to apply in accordance with the relevant policies and delegations.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil

Collaborative Procurement

Project specific procurement - collaborative procurement not applicable.

Conclusion

A full procurement process has been undertaken for tender 2026048 – Evelyn Crescent Pavement Rehabilitation. After evaluation of tender submissions by the Tender Assessment Panel, it has been determined that the tender submission from HIWAY Australia Pty Ltd represents the best value for Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.9. Informal Meetings of Council Reports

DIRECTORATE : Executive Services

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with copies 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 are 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 12 October 2026 – refer **Attachment A**;
2. Monday 19 October 2026 – refer **Attachment B**;
3. Monday 26 October 2026 – refer **Attachment C**.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors Record 12 October 2026 [**7.9.1** - 1 page]
2. Assembly of Councillors Record 19 October 2026 [**7.9.2** - 2 pages]
3. Assembly of Councillors Record 26 October 2026 [**7.9.3** - 2 pages]

RECOMMENDATION

That the record of the Informal Meetings of Council held on 12, 19 and 26 October 2026, be received.

7.10. 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
7 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor – Attended Friendly Societies Reserve election commitment funding announcement by Member for South West Coast, Roma Britnell.
	Port Campbell	Chief Executive Officer – Attended the official opening of the 12 Apostles Visitor Centre.
	Warrnambool	Chief Executive Officer and Director Wellbeing & Economy met with CEO of WRAD.
8 October 2026	Mortlake	Mayor – Attended the South West regional Councillor dinner.
12 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Met with Member for South West Coast, Roma Britnell.
	Warrnambool	Mayor and Councillors – Attended the Philanthropic Foundations briefing.
13 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Met with Warrnambool Swimming Club members.
14 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor – Attended the funding announcement for Davidson Oval lighting.
	Port Campbell	Mayor – Regional Cities Victoria visit to the 12 Apostles Visitor Centre.
15 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor - Attended and Chaired the Regional Cities Victoria meeting.
	Koroit	Deputy Mayor – Attended the South West Community Foundation Annual General Meeting.
	Warrnambool	Mayor – Met with the Wannon Water Board and Executive Leadership Team.
20 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor – Conducted an Australian Citizenship ceremony with 58 residents receiving Australian Citizenship.

Date	Location	Function
21 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor – Attended the Callaghan Motors delivery of the 150,000the BYD sold in Australia.
	Warrnambool	Mayor – Met with representatives of the Warrnambool Target Sports Association.
22 October 2026	Melbourne	Mayor – Attended the Municipal Association of Victoria Councillor Service Awards and received the Mayor Emeritus award.
23 October 2026	Melbourne	Chief Executive Officer – Attended the Municipal Association of Victorian State Council Meeting.
24 October 2026	Warrnambool	Cr Ziegeler – Represented the Mayor at the Kiwanis Warrnambool Club changeover dinner.
30 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Attended the South West Victoria Alliance Board meeting.
31 October 2026	Warrnambool	Mayor – Attended and spoke at the official opening of the 171st Warrnambool Show.

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. Suspension Of Standing Orders

RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public to depart.

Resume Standing Orders

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Standing Orders be resumed.

2. That pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2)(a) of the *Loca Government Act 2020,* the meeting be closed to the public to enable consideration of the following reports:-

   a) Minutes of the Confidential Meeting of Council held on 7 September 2026 – Section 3(1)(f);

   b) Kerbside Collection and Processing Tender Evaluation – Section 3(1)(g).

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12. Section 65 Confidential Meeting

13. Resolution To Re-Open Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be re-opened to members of the public.

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14. Close Of Meeting