



Pyrenees
Shire Council

AGENDA

Special Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Monday 23 June 2025
Virtual

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1. WELCOME

Welcome to this meeting of the Pyrenees Shire Council. Councillors will today deliberate and decide on a range of matters relevant to the work of Council in its communities for the welfare of the people of the Pyrenees Shire.

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

- As the meeting Chair, I give my consent for this Special Council Meeting to be streamed live, recorded and published online.
- The Chair and/or the CEO have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of livestreaming. Such direction will only be given in exceptional circumstances where deemed appropriate, that may include where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory or potentially inappropriate to be published.
- The live stream will stop prior to the closed section of the meeting and will recommence for the conclusion of the meeting.
- The public is able to view this livestream via our website at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au.
- Should technical issues prevent the continuation of the live stream, the meeting will continue as long as a quorum can be maintained and, where possible, a recording of the meeting will be published on Council's website. Where a quorum cannot be maintained, the meeting will be adjourned until the issue is resolved or the meeting postponed to another time and date in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire.

We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes, on whose land we meet today.

4. APOLOGIES

5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

6. ITEMS FOR DECISION

6.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1.1. ADOPTION - INTEGRATED SUITE OF STRATEGIC COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Kathy Bramwell – Corporate Projects Lead

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 16/20/06

PURPOSE

This report seeks adoption of the draft Council Plan 2025-29 and discusses the progress of the draft Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan, and re-adoption of the Community Vision 2021-2031.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, and following a general election, the Council must develop a 4-year Council Plan, a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, and conduct a review of the 10-year Community Vision 2021-2031.

The Council resolved at a special Council meeting held on Monday 28 April 2025 to put the following documents on public exhibition seeking community feedback:

- Draft Council Plan 2025-2029
- Draft Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029
- Existing Community Vision 2021-2031

Notice of the documents was placed in local print media and copies were made available at Council's customer service centres and on Council's website.

Council formally considered submissions to these documents at their Ordinary Meeting of Council 16 June 2025. Council has a legislative requirement to adopt these documents by October 2025.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Submissions

The Council invited interested persons to make written submissions in relation to the above documents by 5pm on 11 June 2025, and to also make verbal submissions at the Council meeting on 16 June 2025.

Three written submissions on the Council Plan were received and considered by Council:

One made by the DJAARA Registered Aboriginal Party and representative body for Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung people). This detailed submission -

- Identified that the Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement was not meaningfully addressed in the Council Plan or Community Vision as these documents were not developed in collaboration with the Dja Dja Wurrung people as a key partner,
- Identified that the aspirations, goals and objectives of the Dja Dja Wurrung People as articulated in their Country Plan, Dhelkunya Dja are not reflected in the plan or vision, and
- Provided some recommendations for inclusions within the Council Plan and Community Vision.

A submission prepared by a resident identified possible improvements, including the terminology used, linkages to other strategic documents, and in respect of the measures. Some minor wording changes without changing Councils intent are suggested in the final document to be adopted.

A submission by Rainbow Local Government sought to have the word “inclusion” included in the draft Council vision.

Internal feedback within the organisation was also provided, and some minor wording changes without changing Councils intent are suggested in the final document to be adopted.

No in-person submissions were requested and Council considered submissions at their meeting of 16 June 2025.

Council Plan amendments

Some minor wording changes without changing Councils intent are suggested in the final document to be adopted having regard to the submissions noted above.

In respect of the DJAARA submission, it is suggested that the draft plan be amended to include:

- A separate acknowledgement page with the Traditional Owner acknowledgement in accordance with the wording provided by DJAARA and inserting a map of the Traditional Owners within the Pyrenees Shire
- Inclusions within the Council Plan pillars and objectives to provide a general recognition of the need for greater inclusion and collaboration with our Traditional Owners within the Pyrenees Shire, including DJAARA, and noting that there is opportunity to incorporate additional initiatives within the supporting Operational Initiatives document and future Reconciliation Action Plans to ensure the full intent is not lost.

Acknowledgement of contributions

Council officers will take on board the comments of the DJAARA regarding future engagement for development of strategic plans and will include this requirement and work with DJAARA to develop improvements to engagement processes and Council’s Engagement Policy for the future and as part of future Reconciliation Action Plans.

A response will be provided to those who have made submissions, detailing how their contributions have been considered and incorporated into the relevant documents.

A revised draft of the Council Plan 2025-29 is attached, and the Council is now invited to consider and adopt this document.

Implementation of the Council Plan 2025-29

The Council Plan 2025-29 is the key strategic document that provides direction to the council administration on activities and service delivery. The Plan will be communicated to officers and implemented via the development of specific initiatives designed to operationally deliver the Council Plan. This will be used as a basis for quarterly progress reporting to the Council.

A document containing draft initiatives will be provided to the Council for consideration and approval at a future meeting.

Community Vision 2031

The community vision that informed the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 was the unaltered 10-year Community Vision that was prepared and adopted in 2021 following a deliberative community engagement process.

This is the same Community Vision that was placed on public exhibition. Council may wish to consider any change to the vision having regard to the submissions or otherwise adopt the vision without alteration.

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029

This Plan includes proposed initiatives that have not sufficiently been tested against the Council's ability to deliver from a resource and budgetary perspective.

It is proposed that this document undergo further review, alignment with the Council Plan 2025-29, and further community and Traditional Owner engagement to ensure the success of the plan's implementation over the next four years, prior to being submitted to the Council for adoption. The deadline date for review and adoption of this document is October 2025.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- a. Motivate and inspire community involvement
- b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Community engagement was conducted through the public exhibition of draft documents as detailed in the body of the report.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. 2025 06 FINAL DRAFT Council Plan 2025 29 (1) [6.1.1.1 - 10 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial and risk implications relate to the operational implementation of the strategic documents, and budget alignment over the term of the Council needs to facilitate delivery.

CONCLUSION

The strategic documents required under the Local Government Act 2020 were published for community feedback and submissions received were considered by the Council on 16 June 2025. Following consideration, a revised Council Plan 2025-29 is submitted for Council consideration and adoption.

It is suggested that the Community Vision 2031 remain unaltered unless Council considers the need in consideration of the submissions received.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is not considered to be yet ready for adoption, and it is proposed that this document be subject to further refinement and brought back for consideration and adoption at a future Council meeting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 with or without amendment
2. Seeks that a further report be presented to Council to consider initiatives to be adopted and included in the Council Plan 2025-29
3. Adopts the Community Vision 2031
4. Requires the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan undergo further refinement and be reported to Council for adoption prior to October 2025.

6.1.2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2025/26

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services

Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.

File No: 32/26/04

PURPOSE

This report presents to the Council the 2025/26 Proposed Budget, Revenue and Rating Plan and 10 Year Financial Plan for consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a budget for the upcoming financial year and 3 subsequent financial years. In preparation for the 2025/26 Budget Council reviewed the 10 Year Financial Plan, Revenue and Rating Plan.

The preparation of the budget begins with Officers preparing the operating and capital components of the budget during January and February. The various components of the budget are then prepared and discussed with the Council at informal briefings. A proposed budget is then prepared in accordance with the Act and the following steps are followed to review and adopt the budget in June: -

1. Officers prepare the annual budget in accordance with the Act and submit the “proposed” budget to Council for approval in “principle”.
2. The council is then required to give 28 days' notice of its intention to adopt the proposed budget and make the budget available for inspection at its Offices.
3. Individuals have the right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the budget, and any submission must be considered before adoption of the budget by Council.
4. The Council is to formally adopt the budget after receiving and considering any submissions from interested parties.

The budget is required to be adopted by 30 June each year and is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

This report also includes detailed information about the rates and charges to be levied and other financial information which the Council requires to make an informed decision about the adoption of the budget. The budget includes consideration of several long-term strategies to assist Council in considering the Budget in a proper financial management context.

These include: -

- 10 Year Financial Plan;
- Revenue and Rating Plan; and
- Borrowing Strategy
- Council Plan

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

1. The council had the draft budget, 10 year financial plan, and the Revenue and Rating Plan on public display for a period of 28 days, to be considered by the public and any submissions were to be considered by Council at a Council meeting held on Monday 16 June 2025.
2. The proposed 2025/26 Budget has been prepared considering the Victorian Governments Rate Cap of 3.0%.
3. Property revaluations are completed annually and, although the Council's rate increase has been set at the rate cap, actual rate increases of individual properties are impacted by changes in property valuations across the municipality. The effect of this is that individual rates can vary from the rate cap set by the Victoria Government.
4. The proposed budget and 10 Year Financial Plan have been prepared considering the latest economic factors to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Council.
5. The Revenue and Rating Strategy has been reviewed ensuring the equitable distribution of rates across the municipality.
6. The proposed budget has included a capital budget that is considered sustainable for both the 2025/26 financial year and for the next 10 years.
7. It is proposed that the Council borrow \$1,000,000 which will be used for strategic capital works projects.
8. The waste management charges have been increased to cover the cost of the delivery of the service. It should be noted that the Council has decided not to implement ministerial guidelines relating to the waste charge. Should these guidelines be implemented this would only be achieved in transferring the revenue raised from the waste charge to general rates, resulting in a significant rate increase which would not have reflected equity in the payment of this service by ratepayers.

The proposed charges are:

- \$254 Waste Facilities/Disposal Charge on improved properties
 - \$116 Waste Facilities/Disposal Charge on unimproved properties
 - \$603 Properties receiving a service in the Beaufort and Avoca kerbside collection districts
 - \$603 Properties in the other urban townships and rural areas
9. An adjustment to the Revenue and Rating Plan was undertaken following the consideration of the impact of rates on vacant land. The Council considered that amendments to the Revenue and Rating Strategy were required to improve the equity in rates payable throughout the municipality. The changes for 2025/26 are:
 - All vacant land categories are charged at 150% of the General Rate.
 - Commercial and Industrial properties are charged at 125% of the General Rate.
 - Undeveloped Land be charged at 90% of the General Rate.

10. At the time of placing the draft budget of public display, the rate in dollar calculations were carried out on stage 3 valuations. The stage 4 valuations were issued by the Valuer General during the budget display period. As is required, the rate in the dollar calculations has been reworked based on stage 4 valuations. It should be noted that the recalculations do not result in any increase in revenue received by the Council. The revised rate in dollar figures is set out below:

Rate Code	Description	Stage 3 Valuations	Stage 4 Valuations	Stage 3 25/26 Rate in \$	Stage 4 25/26 Rate in \$
1	Vacant Land <2Ha	44,770,000	44,198,000	0.00388895	0.00388215
2	Vacant Land Between 2Ha and 40Ha	163,509,000	164,109,000	0.00388895	0.00388215
3	House Flats etc	1,462,801,500	1,465,558,000	0.00259263	0.00258810
4	Commercial	49,618,500	49,782,000	0.00324079	0.00323513
5	Industrial	67,352,000	64,852,000	0.00324079	0.00323513
6	Farms	2,797,704,000	2,807,629,000	0.00181485	0.00181168
7	Rec & Cult	14,975,000	15,120,000	0.00259263	0.00258810
8	Vacant Land Greater than 40Ha	60,112,000	60,112,000	0.00388895	0.00388215
9	Undevelopable Land	154,000	154,000	0.00233337	0.00232929
		4,660,996,000	4,671,514,000		

11. The proposed 2025/26 Budget has been amended to the version on public display for the following activities:

- Recognition of the Workers Accommodation grant funding
- Correction of an error with the Library Grant that was recorded.

These amendments have not impacted the financial position of Council.

12. Public notice of the draft Budget, Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan was given in accordance with Councils Engagement Strategy through notice in the Pyrenees Advocate, Maryborough District Advertiser, Ballarat Courier, Councils website, and customer services centres, and an opportunity was provided for members of the public to make submissions including through the Engagement Hub on Councils website.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- Provide transparency and accountability
- Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Community engagement was carried out by having a period of 28 days for the public to review the documents on display and submit submissions to Council. This information was published in the:

- Ballarat Courier
- Pyrenees Advocate
- Maryborough District Advertiser

The community had the option to submit a submission and present their submissions to a meeting of the Council. The council considers all submissions and presentations before resolving the final 2025/26 Budget, 10 year financial plan, and the Revenue and Rating Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Revenue and Rating Plan [6.1.2.1 - 35 pages]
2. 10 Year Budget 25-26 [6.1.2.2 - 27 pages]
3. Council Budget 25-26 - No Links [6.1.2.3 - 55 pages]
4. Fees 2025-26 [6.1.2.4 - 23 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications have been considered within the 2025/26 Proposed Budget, 10 Year Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Strategy.

CONCLUSION

This report presents the 2025/26 Proposed Budget, 10 Year Financial Plan, and Revenue and Rating Strategy for consideration and adoption. It is considered that these strategic documents enable the Council to deliver its essential services and projects in line with the Council's vision.

Final documents will be prepared following Council consideration of submissions and will be forwarded to Councilors prior to the meeting set down to adopt the 2025/26 Proposed Budget, 10 Year Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Strategy.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolves it has considered all submissions and presentations made to Council.
2. Acknowledges the contribution of submitters to the budget process and thank them for their contribution.
3. Authorise the Manager Finance to amend the budget for minor amendments that have no material impact on the budget.
4. Authorises officers to provide a formal response to each submitter.
5. Authorises officers to make adjustment to budget documents based on any changes to the Council Plan 2025-2029 that are reflected within the budget documents.
6. Pursuant to Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020, adopts the proposed 2025/26 Budget as provided.
7. Adopts the proposed 10 Year Financial Plan 2025/26-2033/34 as provided.
8. Adopts the proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26-2028/29 as provided.
9. Adopts the Fees and Charges as provided.
10. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give notice of the decision to adopt such budget.
11. Discloses that as at 30 June 2025 the total amount borrowed by Council is \$2,535,211
12. Projects that \$1,000,000 will be borrowed during the 2025/26 financial year.

13. Projects that \$313,880 will be redeemed during the 2025/26 financial year.
14. Projects that the cost of servicing the borrowings during the 2025/26 financial year will be \$122,220
15. Projects that as at 30 June 2026 Council borrowings will total \$3,221,331.
16. Approves new loan borrowings of up \$1 million in line with the Budget and authorises the CEO, Director Corporate and Community Services, and Manager Finance to:
 - Negotiate any loan
 - Approve the successful loan facility (any two of the above officers); and
 - Execute the loan documentation (any two of the above officers).
17. Proposes that the rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied for the 12 month period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 are:

Type or class of land	Budget
	2023/24
	cents/\$CIV
General rate for rateable residential properties	0.258810
General rate for rateable commercial properties	0.323513
General rate for rateable industrial properties	0.323513
General rate for rateable vacant non-farm land properties less than two hectares	0.388215
General rate for rateable non-farm vacant land properties between two hectares and forty hectares	0.388215
General rate for rateable non-farm vacant land properties greater than forty hectares	0.388215
General rate for undevelopable land	0.232929
General rate for rateable farm properties	0.181168
Recreational properties	0.258810

18. Proposes that no municipal charge be declared; and
19. In accordance with the provisions of section 171 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council will waive 50% of the Rates levied for the 2025/26 year on properties where the property is classified as Recreational for rating purposes.
The objective of this waiver is to provide financial assistance to those sporting and recreational clubs that are required to pay rates.
20. Proposes to levy a Waste Facilities/Disposal Charge of
 - \$254 for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 on improved properties.
 - \$116 for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 on unimproved properties.
 - Owners of “farm rated” properties will pay a maximum of three “unimproved charges” for farm rate properties upon application.
21. To levy a Kerbside Garbage, Recycling and/or Green Waste collection service of \$603 on those properties receiving a service in the Beaufort and Avoca kerbside collection districts for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

22. To levy a Kerbside Garbage and Recycling collection service of \$603 in the other urban townships and rural areas for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.
23. That the general rates and service charges referred to in this recommendation shall be levied by the service of a notice on each person liable to pay such rate or charge in accordance with s.158 of the Local Government Act 1989.
24. That the rates and charges declared by the Council for 2025/26 financial year must be paid as follows:
 1. By four instalments made on or before the following dates:
 - i. Instalment 1 - 30 September 2025
 - ii. Instalment 2 - 30 November 2025
 - iii. Instalment 3 - 28 February 2026
 - iv. Instalment 4 - 31 May 2026
 2. By a lump sum payment made on or before 15 February 2026.
22. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to levy and recover the rates and charges in accordance with the Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020.
23. Notes that the Budget utilises the final valuations from the Valuer General and that minor changes to the differential rate may be required to remain compliant with the 2025/26 rate cap.
24. Adopts the schedule of Fees and Charges as set out in the budget.
Requires that any person pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges in accordance with section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989 which:
 - That person is liable to pay;
 - Have not been paid by the dates specified for their payment; and
 - Is not otherwise waived as part of Council's Financial Hardship Policy.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Special Meeting of Council held on Monday 23 June 2025 closed at _____