



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Monday 21 July 2025
Council Chambers
Beaufort Council Offices,
5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

Members of the public may view the meeting virtually via the livestream

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. WELCOME	3
2. STREAMING PREAMBLE	3
3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	3
4. APOLOGIES.....	3
5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS	3
6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	3
7. BUSINESS ARISING	4
8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	4
9. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS	6
9.1. Councillor Activity Reports - June 2025	6
10. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS.....	8
10.1. Assembly of Councillors - June 2025	8
11. ITEMS FOR DECISION	12
11.1. Economic Development and Tourism	12
11.1.1. Economic Development Update	12
11.1.2. Small Business Support.....	20
11.2. Asset and Development Services.....	23
11.2.1. Flood Mitigation Investigation - Avoca Recreation Reserve	23
11.2.2. Reviewed Ten-Year Asset Plan	28
11.2.3. 2025/26 Key Capital Works Projects	30
11.3. Corporate and Community Services	34
11.3.1. Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Municipal Building Surveyor	34
11.3.2. Risk Management - Insurance Renewal 2025-26	36
11.3.3. Update on Pyrenees Aquatics	40
11.3.4. 2025/26 Budget Adjustments.....	47
11.3.5. Lease - Avoca Caravan Park property	51
11.3.6. NP48 Wilkerr Road HOMEBUSH	53
11.3.7. NP50 Kathleen Street AVOCA.....	55
11.3.8. NP51 Rose Mary Way AVOCA.....	57
11.3.9. ICT Transformation - SharePoint	59
11.3.10. Primary Producer Support Payment Program	61
11.4. Chief Executive Office	63
11.4.1. Membership - Timber Towns Victoria (TTV).....	63
12. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS	65
13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	68
14. CLOSE OF MEETING	68

1. WELCOME

Mr Jim Nolan, CEO advised that the Mayor is an apology for the meeting and invited nominations for a Councillor to take the chair.

Cr Phelan nominated Cr Ferrari to take the chair.

Cr Tol seconded the nomination.

CARRIED

Cr Ferrari took the chair.

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

Cr Damian Ferrari read the livestream preamble.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Ferrari acknowledged 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

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe.

5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Megan Phelan

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 June 2025;
- Closed Meeting of Council held on 16 June 2025; and
- Special Meeting of Council held on 23 June 2025

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING

Responses to questions taken on notice at the previous ordinary Council meeting on 19 May 2025:

Mr Trevor Davey of Waterloo

Question 1:

I was wondering if the council have somebody, or something or knowledge of who manages or maintains all of the Anzac memorials within the Shire, right across every subdivision. I have spoken to RSL House, and they said directly go out to the suburbs. If a list could be combined because there is major management issues around maintenance. I am sure the Council would like to have all the proud people be honoured by having them done up and cleaned. So, I was wondering if someone could get that list and maybe I can help them get it done. Thank you.

Response:

Mr Nolan thanked Mr Davey for the question and provided the following response:

Thank you for your question, happy to take that on notice and certainly work with you on that but perhaps we can bring a report back to a future meeting of Council to clarify responsibilities.

Officers are in the process of gathering information on memorials in Pyrenees Shire in preparation to provide a future report to Council.

URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Ferrari advised that an Urgent Business item relating to the Primary Producer Support Payment Program has been received to be considered.

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Megan Phelan

That the Urgent Business Item - Primary Producer Support Payment Program be considered in Corporate and Community Services Reports - item 11.3.10.

CARRIED

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Trevor Davey of Waterloo

Question one:

I would like to know the reasoning behind the removal of the Cuppa and chats in the shire monthly and the removal of Avoca council meeting.

Response:

Mr Jim Nolan thanked Mr Davey for the question and provided the following response:

Thank you, Mr Davey, for your question.

At the April Council Meeting, Council endorsed and Engagement Plan for 2025 which includes a significant list of engagement actions proposed over the course of the year.

In respect of the community cuppas, there are some logistical challenges for Councillors and officers in doing these in the way they have been conducted in recent years.

Council understands that some members of the community value this format of engagement. While many of the cuppas were well attended, on some occasions these cuppas were not, and the exercise did not represent a good use of resources. Councillors and Council officers however continue to make themselves available for direct engagement with members of the community.

There has also been an expectation by other members of the community to increase the engagement opportunities in other formats, and Council has made an increasing effort for engagement through Council's online engagement as an example. Council also regularly holds face to face engagement in communities on specific issues such as the Avoca Flood Mitigation, telecommunications, and the Beaufort dog of leash park to give just a couple of recent examples.

Council will continue to review its engagement methods, including face to face engagements in communities where this may be beneficial, acknowledging some of the constraints we operate in.

In respect of formal Council Meetings, when Council set a meeting schedule at the start of the year, Council felt that holding Meetings in the Beaufort Chamber was the most efficient and effective choice. People movement and travel, and logistics relating to live streaming were factors in this decision. The ability for members of the public to access meetings online, and past attendance at meetings were also factors. Council would however be open to relocate a meeting, or to hold a Special Council Meeting in Avoca if there is a good reason to do so in future.

Question two:

The Waterloo township sign has been missing for many months on the North side (Lexton Side) can you please have this replaced?

Response:

Mr Douglas Gowans thanked Mr Davey for the question and provided the following response:

Thank you for bringing this to the organisation's attention. Council will order and install a replacement sign. Please feel free to utilise Councils Customer Action Request system for similar requests so that we can address these issues in a timely and systematic way.

9. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**9.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - JUNE 2025**

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
1 June 2025	Save the Bush Rally (ESVF)	Bookar
2 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
2 June 2025	RCV Meeting	Virtual
6 June 2025	Pyrenees Art Exhibition Opening Night	Beaufort
11 June 2025	Beaufort Primary School Drink Tap Water Fountain – CHW	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort
23 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
23 June 2025	Special Council Meeting	Beaufort
24-26 June 2025	National General Assembly	Canberra
25 June 2025	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Virtual
27 June 2025	GBAC Committee Meeting with Minister Staikos	Ballarat
27 June 2025	Fat Farmers Feast	Snake Valley
28 June 2025	Terry Floyd Memorial	Avoca
29 June 2025	Beaufort Rotary Change Over Lunch	Beaufort
30 June 2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
30 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort

Cr Simon Tol – Ercildoune Ward		
1 June 2025	Save the Bush Rally (ESVF)	Bookar
2 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
3 June 2025	Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee Meeting	Virtual
6 June 2025	Pyrenees Art Exhibition Opening Night	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort
23 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
23 June 2025	Special Council Meeting	Beaufort
28 June 2025	Terry Floyd Memorial	Avoca
30 June 2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
30 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort

Cr Megan Phelan – De Cameron Ward		
1 June 2025	Save the Bush Rally (ESVF)	Bookar
2 June 2025	Council Briefing	Virtual
7 June 2025	Gallery 127 – Meeting - precinct plans	Avoca
9 June 2025	Constituent Meeting – Redbank Streetscape	Redbank
16 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort
23 June 2025	Council Briefing	Virtual
23 June 2025	Special Council Meeting	Virtual

28 June 2025	Terry Floyd Memorial	Avoca
28 June 2025	Resource Hub Meeting	Landsborough
30 June 2025	Council Briefing	Virtual

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw – Avoca Ward

1 June 2025	Save the Bush Rally (ESVF)	Bookar
2 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort
19 June 2025	Avoca Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting	Avoca
23 June 2025	Council Briefing	Virtual
23 June 2025	Special Council Meeting	Virtual
25 June 2025	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Virtual
28 June 2025	Terry Floyd Memorial	Avoca
30 June 2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
30 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward

1 June 2025	Save the Bush Rally (ESVF)	Bookar
2 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
4 June 2025	BPS60 Meeting	Beaufort
6 June 2025	Pyrenees Art Exhibition Opening Night	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
16 June 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort
19 June 2025	MEMPC Meeting	Beaufort
23 June 2025	Council Briefing	Virtual
23 June 2025	Special Council Meeting	Virtual
28 June 2025	Terry Floyd Memorial	Avoca
30 June 2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
30 June 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

10. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**10.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - JUNE 2025**

2024 RESOLUTION OF COUNCILLORS - 2024-2025

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name		Council Briefing	
Meeting Date		2 June 2025 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 8.00pm	
Meeting Location		Council Chamber, Beaufort	
Items Discussed		1. Strategic Planning Program 2. Emergency Services Volunteers Fund (ESVF) 3. Council Direction Implementation 4. Council Meeting and Briefing Schedule of Topics 5. Councillor Discussion	
ATTENDEES			
Councillors		Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari (from 4.15pm) Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)	
Apologies		Nil.	
Staff		Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Rachel Blackwell (Manager Planning and Development Services) - item 1 Virginia Mcleod (Planning Services Lead) - item 1	
Visitors		Nil.	
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	16 June 2025 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Councillor Only Time 2. Old Beaufort Primary School Masterplan 3. Submission on Public Exhibition Documents 4. Agenda Review		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan		
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Kathy Bramwell (Corporate Projects Lead) - item 2		
Visitors	Phillip Ward (Public Realm Lab) - item 2 Kate De Pina (Public Real Lab) - item 2		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name		Council Briefing	
Meeting Date		23 June 2025 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.45pm	
Meeting Location		Council Chamber, Beaufort	
Items Discussed		1. Consideration of Key Strategic Documents - Budget 2025/26 - Revenue and Rating Plan - Financial Plan 2025/26 - 2034/35 - Council Plan 2025-2029 - Community Vision - Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 2. Renewable Energy Matters	
ATTENDEES			
Councillors		Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari (virtual) Cr Rebecca Wardlaw (virtual) Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)	
Apologies		Nil.	
Staff		Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance) - item 1	
Visitors		Nil.	
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	30 June 2025 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 7.00pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Strategic Matters Raised by Councillors 2. Avoca Caravan Park Lease 3. Community Satisfaction 4. Renewable Energy Matters (continued from last briefing) 5. Council Plan Initiatives 2025/29 6. Councillor and Exec Strategic Day		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)		
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Visitors	Nil.		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Simon Tol

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

11. ITEMS FOR DECISION

11.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

11.1.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 22/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform councillors on recent activities of the Economic Development and Tourism team over the June quarter 2025.

BACKGROUND

Economic Development Activities for the June quarter

Throughout the past quarter progress has continued on the projects and activities outlined below:

- Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees (SWNP) water supply project
- Beaufort Lake Caravan Park redevelopment.
- Beaufort off leash dog park
- The Shop Façade Program
- The digital connectivity plan
- Project drop-in sessions at Moonambel, Avoca and Beaufort
- Cycle routes
- Support for drought affected businesses
- Business support (refer also separate agenda item on the Business Friendly Councils Initiative)
- Events and tourism campaigns

SWNP Water Supply

Following the development of a draft business case late last year, agreements have subsequently been secured within the original project budget to complete a Traditional Owner Water Plan which will be incorporated into the business case.

GWMWater have negotiated arrangements with Dja Dja Wurrung to undertake the project which will include consultation with the Barengi Gadjin and Eastern Maar traditional owners.

Beaufort Lake Caravan Park

The final stages of Phase One of the parks redevelopment were completed in the June quarter.

The studio apartments became operational at the end of March and the all abilities cabin and duplex units were commissioned at the end of June.

Civil works including upgrades to the parks electrical switchboard, waste water system, drainage, storm water and internal road construction have all been finalised.

There remain three further stages of development to deliver the entire redevelopment of the park at an estimated cost of \$3 million as follows:

Stage 2

- Installation of three additional cabins
- Renovation of ensuites

Stage 3

- Construction of a replacement all abilities camp kitchen with recreation room
- DDA compliant and renovated amenities block
- Replacement of ensuite sites on the eastern side of the park with additional powered sites. (Each ensuite site can be replaced with two powered sites).
- Southern entry involving turning lanes on Skipton Rd, relocation of boom gate and reception area.
- Removal of existing camp kitchen and internal road construction for access to proposed new powered sites.
- Internal road construction for improved access to unpowered sites at the southern end of the park

Stage 4

- Instal additional studio block of three to four studios

Beaufort Off Leash Dog Park

Council has received approval of funding of \$111,000- from the Victorian Government to develop a dog park in Beaufort.

Concept plans have been developed and community engagement commenced during June including:

- Letters issued to immediately surrounding neighbours and property owners
- A drop in session on 26 June
- Feedback being sought through Councils Engage Hub
- A meeting in early July with the group of residents who petitioned council to create the park.

Further site investigations are being undertaken at the time of developing this report about the locations cultural heritage background and to understand if there is any evidence of contamination which may require mitigation or treatment.

Shop Façade Program

Council approved 23 grants under the shop façade program over two previous financial years.

Five grants remained open at the beginning of the 2024-25 financial year with these recipients having requested to extend their timelines for completion of their projects.

Two of these have since been completed while three recipients have had further delays to their projects. These are actively being followed up.

Actions from Digital Connectivity Plan

Around 130 responses were received to a recent survey on mobile phone and internet connectivity with many of the responses coming from the Lexton area.

This has been useful in informing a feasibility study for a potential telecommunications tower for improved mobile connectivity at Lexton.

The results of the Lexton study are not yet available.

Council also facilitated a series of drop-in sessions during late June which included representatives from Telstra, NBNCo and Regional Tech Hub as follows:

- Moonambel from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 25 June

- Regional Tech Hub session at the Avoca library from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 June
- Beaufort from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 26 June

The drop in sessions also provided people the opportunity to discuss plans for proposed gravel cycle routes near Moonambel and Beaufort and the Beaufort Off Leash Dog Park.

Cycle Routes

Developing cycle routes was identified as a priority in the 2024 Pyrenees Local Area Action Plan (tourism strategy). A number of meetings have now been held with DEECA over the past twelve months to create some gravel cycle loops using existing roads from Beaufort Lake. Draft maps have now been developed with agreements now to be drafted by DEECA for agreed terms between DEECA and Council on the implementation of the trails.

Two cycle loop trails from Moonambel are also being investigated at present and were presented for feedback during the drop-in session at Moonambel.

Business Support

The dry conditions continue to challenge our farmers, and the current economic environment continues to challenge many of the small businesses in the Pyrenees. The economic development team continues to provide one on one support to a range of businesses to assist in upskilling and via connection with appropriate agencies such as Rural Financial Counselling Services Victoria West and Tourism Midwest Victoria depending on the business's needs and challenges.

A wide range of workshops and information sessions have been delivered throughout the Pyrenees Shire in the last 3 months and have been delivered in partnerships with various agencies. These sessions continue to support our businesses and the agriculture sector through the continued challenging times.

Delivered Workshops:

1. Drought Feeding: Nutrition basics in tough times

- Thursday 3 April, 9:30am -1:30pm
- Beaufort Community Bank Complex
- Delivered by Ag Vic

2. Talk the Talk Raglan

- Date: Wednesday 14 May, 12pm to 3:30 pm
- Venue: Raglan
- Delivered by Pyrenees Shire, Finwell Support & RFCS Victoria West
- Attendance 8

3. Talk the Talk Moonambel – Cancelled due to low numbers

- Date: Wednesday 14 May, 6pm to 9:30 pm
- Venue: Moonambel Recreation Reserve

4. Social media made simple

- Date: 13 May 2025, 10am - 2:30 PM
- Venue: Beeripmo Development Centre
- Attendance: 14 (Registered 16)
- Delivered by Pyrenees Shire

5. Small Business Bus – Avoca Visit

- Date 19 May
- Delivered by Business Victoria

6. RDV-Big River, Jobs Skills Education Fair –

News was recently received of the impending closure of the truss manufacturing business at Racecourse Rd Beaufort.

Following Council liaison with the site manager and in response to a request by Council, Regional Development Victoria delivered Job skill support for the employees so they can plan future opportunities.

- Tuesday 3 June 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Agency representation -
 1. Tom Clark – RDV
 2. Ace Assessment – (Tom Clark)
 3. Melissa Cavanagh - Skills & Jobs Centre (Federation TAFE)
 4. Brad Maxwell/Stacey Cook– Asuria
 5. Bec Ware – Ballarat Employment
 6. Melissa Dimond – Pyrenees Shire Council

7. NBN Round Table with local business representatives

- Chris Cusack - General Manager NBN Local
- Friday 6 June, 9:30 am -11 am
- Delivered by Pyrenees Shire.

8. Winter Drought Feeding: Smoko Sessions - Beaufort

- Wednesday 18 June, 9:30am -11:30am
- Beaufort Community Bank Complex
- Delivered by Rumenate Livestock Services, Ag Vic
- Attendance: 30

9. Winter Drought Feeding: Smoko Sessions - Avoca

- Friday 20 June, 9:30am -11:30am
- Avoca RSL Hall
- Delivered by Rumenate Livestock Services, Ag Vic
- Attendance: 40

10. Community drop-in Sessions – New Moonambel Cycling routes, Digital Connectivity with NBN, Telstra & RTH

- Wednesday 25 June, 3:30pm-6:30pm
- Venue: Moonambel Recreation Reserve
- Attendance: 6
- Delivered by Pyrenees Shire

11. Community drop-in Sessions – New Beaufort Trawalla Cycling routes, Dog Park, Digital Connectivity with NBN, Telstra & RTH

- Wednesday 25 June, 3:30pm-6:30pm
- Venue: Beeripmo Development Centre
- Attendance: 20
- Delivered by Pyrenees Shire

12. Regional Tech Hub drop-in Session – Avoca

- Wednesday 25 June, 10am -1pm
- Attendance: 6

- Delivered by Pyrenees Shire

Events

The second quarter of 2025 saw a diverse and vibrant array of events across the Shire.

- **Pyrenees Unearthed – Wine and Food Festival:** Numbers were slightly down on last year however the sun was shining on the Avoca Riverside yet again and the organisers were pleased with the outcomes of the event.
- **Tom Hawkins debut at the Beaufort Football and Netball Club:** A successful turnout for the club giving them not only a boost with numbers with 1700 through the gate it was wonderful to see a win for the team and a boost in morale around the club and town.
- **Other Notable Events:**
 - Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally
 - Pyrenees Art Exhibition and Book sale
 - Snake Valley Heritage Weekend
 - Beaufort Walkfest
 - Moonambel Photographic Competition
 - Seasonal Beaufort Market (Easter & Autumn)
 - Monthly Avoca Market
 - **Cellar doors and hospitality venues** remain key contributors to the Shire's vibrant events calendar, showcasing local talent.

Event support April – Jun 2025

- **14 event organisations** submitted formal event applications, an increase from 8 during the same period in 2024. Each of these event applications have been all processed and appropriate permits issued where required.
- **37 events** across the shire received support through our marketing and promotional efforts, an increase from a total of 26 in 2024.

Tourism

Tourism Midwest Sub-destination Positioning Framework

Tourism Midwest initiated the Framework project with the objective of identifying the unique strengths of each municipality within the TMV partnership. The goal being to highlight what sets each shire apart and how they can complement each other.

From this a regional position proposition has been developed for each Shire so that this can be adopted in strategically marketing each area within the region for its strengths.

The overarching theme out of this work to underpin the Pyrenees proposition is that visitors “slow down and savor”.

An example of this theme can be found at <https://www.visitballarat.com.au/stories/road-to-red-winter-in-the-pyrenees>

Play in the Pyrenees

From December to May visitation is promoted through the “Play in the Pyrenees Campaign”. This seasonal tourism campaign was initially launched post-COVID to encourage visitors to enjoy a series of outdoor events funded initially through the Victorian Governments outdoor dining initiative and “Kick Start Events”

programs, while reconnecting with nature. Over time, the campaign has evolved due to a decline in the number of events over the summer period.

This year's tourism campaign was delivered under challenging environmental conditions, with the region experiencing particularly dry weather. This impacted on the overall visual appeal of the landscape, which is typically a key asset in promoting the Pyrenees region. Beaufort Lake, which is a feature natural attraction has experienced significantly low water levels and was unfortunately not in a suitable state to feature prominently in campaign materials or itineraries. While this limited some promotional opportunities, it also prompted a shift in focus toward other strengths of the Pyrenees region, including food and wine experiences, unique accommodation options, seasonal events and camping and hiking.

Road to Red Winter Campaign

The Road to Red campaign commenced in June with a strong seasonal focus on the region's renowned red wines, cosy cellar doors, and the inviting warmth of wood fires.

Designed to promote winter travel through the Pyrenees wine region, the campaign highlights the soul-warming experiences unique to this time of year. Visitors are encouraged to explore at their own pace through a self-guided drive itinerary, with supporting content available via the Visit Pyrenees app.

The campaign aims to boost visitation during the cooler months by tapping into the appeal of comfort, connection, and local produce.

The campaign fits neatly with recent "sub-destination positioning framework" project undertaken by Tourism Midwest Vic for visitors to "slow down and savor" the Pyrenees region.

Official Visitor Guide

A new Pyrenees Visitor Guide has recently been developed and is being distributed to Pyrenees tourism operators and visitor centers throughout the state.

Digital Statistics

Facebook

	Organic Posts Reached	Organic Page Visits	New Followers	Paid Ad Reach
Apr – Jun 2024	50,789	1,761	90	11,851
Apr – Jun 2025	56,735	1,136	49	

Instagram Organic Posts

	Posts Reached	Page Visits	New Followers	Paid Ad Reach
Apr – Jun 2024	2,437	287	NA	11,851
Apr – Jun 2025	2,719	269	65	

In April last year, Council invested in some paid advertising on social media to promote the Pyrenees Unearthed Festival which is reflected in the Facebook statistics above.

Visit Pyrenees Website

- 7.6K Users
- Most visited pages were Play in the Pyrenees, Wineries, Festivals and Events, Pyrenees Unearthed, and the Beeripmo Walk.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The completion of Phase 1 of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park redevelopment was supported by a grant of \$500,000- from the Victorian Government and \$500,000- in Council funds.

Phase one of the project has seen the first instalments of new cabins at the park which created employment for local construction industry operators including:

- Roadworks
- Drainage, stormwater, curb and channel
- Concreting
- Electrical works including essential upgrades to the parks switchboard to meet current compliance requirements
- Plumbing and wastewater installations

While excellent progress has been made with improvements to the park during Phase One of the redevelopment, the park still has a legacy of aging infrastructure in need of either renovation or removal. Stages Two, Three and Four of redevelopment identified in the masterplan remain unfunded at this time and are significantly reliant on external sources of funding.

The January 2024 business case indicates that the proposed redevelopment will increase overnight visitor stays by 5,734 nights contributing an estimated \$3.3 million to the local economy with a positive cost benefit ratio of 1.34 upon completion of improvements identified in the masterplan.

At the time of developing the business case, occupancy rates for cabins ranged from 66% for the premium cabin to 74% for a deluxe waterfront cabin and 92% for a budget cabin. Demand for cabins has continued to be strong over the past year with the parks income having increased by around 22% over the 2024-25 financial year.

While occupancy rates for the newly installed cabins will be closely monitored throughout the next twelve months, modelling in the business case and initial demand for the new cabins suggests that at 65% occupancy, Phase One will increase the number of visitor nights by 1,660 visits per annum, which assumes one visitor per booking. Tourism Research Australia data for the Grampians region indicates overnight visitors spend an average of \$214- per night which are expected to result in a direct increase in visitor expenditure of \$355,240- per annum. Please note that these figures are considered to be conservative as they assume single occupants for each booking as mentioned earlier, whereas there are often multiple occupants in the two-bedroom cabins particularly but not exclusively for recreational visits.

According to Remplan economic modelling data, the above-mentioned additional visitor nights will contribute to an overall increase in economic activity in the local economy of \$621,000- p.a. and create three new jobs.

In excess of twenty employees from various organisations have been involved during the construction phase of Phase One, according to Remplan modelling contributing \$2.2 million in direct and indirect output.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**Pillar 2 - Economy**

- 2a. Support growth and diversification of new and existing businesses.
- 2b. Coordinated and facilitated planning fostering business and tourism growth.
- 2c. Support community events and visitor economy.
- 2d. Advocate for transport infrastructure, job creation and workforce development.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This report provides an overview of various projects in which prior consultation will have occurred.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Following completion of phase one of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park development further investment of an estimated \$3 million is required to complete stages three to four as identified in the Council endorsed masterplan.

The estimated economic return to the local economy of completing all stages of the parks redevelopment is \$3.3 million per annum.

CONCLUSION

The remaining stages of redevelopment of Beaufort Lake Caravan Park estimated at \$3 million are unfunded at this time, and represent an opportunity to increase visitor nights by 5,734 nights overall, contributing an estimated \$3.3 million to the local economy with a positive cost benefit ratio of 1.34.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. Notes the report
2. Monitors the direct economic benefit of Phase One of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park Development over the coming months and
3. Continues to advocate to government for further funding to implement stages two to four of redevelopment at the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park.

CARRIED

11.1.2. SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 22/02/02

PURPOSE

To provide information regarding Councils support to small businesses in response to a councillor request.

BACKGROUND

Council is committed to improving its support for the business community including management of regulatory approvals to maximise the efficiencies for the benefit of both applicants for permits and staff.

As such Pyrenees Shire Council have been signatories to the “Small Business Friendly Charter” with the Victorian Small Business Commissioner (VSBC) for more than five years.

In part, the Charter outlines the following obligations:

Part 3 | Streamlined permit approvals processes for small businesses

Your council will:

- a. work towards improving permit approvals processes for new small businesses. This may mean:
 - i. an ongoing commitment to consolidating processes; or
 - ii. implementing new strategies to streamline permit approvals processes for small businesses

Part 4 | Prompt payment to small businesses

The VSBC and your council will:

- a. initiate processes to ensure invoices from small businesses are paid within 14 days

Full details of the Charter can be found at <https://www.vsbcc.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SBFC-charter-FINAL-July-2020.pdf>

In keeping with the existing commitment to the VSBC under the Small Business Friendly Charter, Councils’ Planning Team are currently surveying recent applicants for permits to analyse where opportunities exist for improvement.

More recently an expression of interest to participate in the Victorian Governments “Business Friendly Councils” program was lodged indicating that Pyrenees be included in the program prior to the end of 2025.

Further to the above information, Councils’ economic development officers continue to undertake priority actions identified in Councils Economic Development Strategy Action Plan whose overarching objectives are to:

1. Attract new residents, visitors and investment
2. Foster the capability of key economic sectors

3. Develop local business and employee capacity

A progress report of completed actions against this strategy was reported to Council in April and a separate report on economic development activities for the June quarter has been provided with this month's Council agenda.

A new economic development strategy is due to be developed during the 2025-26 financial year to identify opportunities and prioritise strategic actions in future work.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Business Friendly Council Program

Council's participation in the Victorian Governments "Business Friendly Councils" initiative was mentioned earlier in this report.

The aim of this initiative is to **increase the efficiency of the permit process**, so new businesses can start operating sooner and existing businesses can streamline their council interactions and expand.

There is no cost to participate in the initiative, the main commitment being staff time over the 5-week period of delivering the program.

Following a successful pilot last year, participating councils are realising the benefits of streamlined business permit approval processes, more connected teams, and internal practice efficiencies. These benefits include reduced time and resources required of councils to deliver core business permitting functions, reduced time for businesses to receive permits and cost savings to local businesses.

By participating in the Business Friendly Councils initiative, Council will gain access to:

- **Specialised facilitated support** for council team members across planning, health, economic development, customer service and IT.
- **Customised tools and resources** to simplify and accelerate the permit approvals process for businesses.
- **A comprehensive culture change toolkit** to support internal process improvements and enhance service delivery.
- **Online learning modules** designed to build capability within and across council teams.

This initiative is also a complementary activity to the Victorian Small Business Friendly Charter and will directly support participating Councils to meet their Charter commitment of streamlined permit approvals processes for small businesses.

The extent to which the objectives of the initiative can be implemented is also dependent on the regulatory environment that we must work within including the Victorian Planning Framework and the Building Regulatory Framework.

Economic Development Strategy

The development of a new economic development strategy will identify potential economic development opportunities for Council and prioritise key strategies and actions.

The development of the strategy will entail input from the Shires industry stakeholders, business associations, and ideally be driven by these stakeholders involving co-design principals.

Other stakeholders to be engaged include government agencies (e.g. RDV and Ag Vic), traditional owners, councillors and council staff.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 2 - Economy

2a. Support growth and diversification of new and existing businesses.

2b. Coordinated and facilitated planning fostering business and tourism growth.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5a. Foster values driven inclusive culture, which is responsive, accountable and aligned to priority.

5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The development of the new economic development strategy will entail input from the Shires industry stakeholders, business associations, government agencies (e.g. RDV and Ag Vic), traditional owners, councillors and council staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is no cost involved in being party to the VSBC Business Friendly Charter nor the Victorian Governments Business Friendly Councils initiative.

The budget for the new economic development strategy is \$55,000- (plus GST) and is due to commence in the second half of 2025.

CONCLUSION

The Victorian Governments “Business Friendly Councils” initiative aligns with the objectives of placing the community at the centre of all that we do, in this case being new and existing members of the business community.

Furthermore, Councils’ new economic development strategy will be an industry led strategy and identify the future priority actions of the economic development team.

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. Notes the report and
2. Endorses Council participation in the Victorian Governments Business Friendly Council initiative.

CARRIED

11.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

11.2.1. FLOOD MITIGATION INVESTIGATION - AVOCA RECREATION RESERVE

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 2324-021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the adoption of the recommendations and final report for the Flood Mitigation Investigation for the Avoca Recreation Reserve.

BACKGROUND

Building on the 2021 Upper Avoca River Flood Investigation, and with funding provided by the State Government, Water Technology Pty Ltd was commissioned to conduct the Avoca Recreation Reserve Flood Mitigation Plan. The project, managed by the Pyrenees Shire with technical support from North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA), included a full flood assessment and potential mitigation options to protect the Avoca Recreation Reserve and surrounding properties from future flood events.

One of the key elements of this project was community engagement. Avoca Recreation Reserve user groups and the Avoca community were provided with a sense of project ownership with several community in-person sessions held at the Avoca Recreation Reserve and various online consultation opportunities.

The Flood Mitigation Investigation Avoca Recreation Reserve project contained the following stages:

- Inception Meeting
- Data Collation
- Community Consultation
- Mitigation Options – Workshop and Pre-Feasibility Assessment
- Mitigation Options – Modelling and Costing
- Present Results to the Community
- Draft Report
- Final Report

The Final Report is attached and along with the mitigation options, contains the following information:

- Data Review – historic events and survey information
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling
- Community Engagement Summary

A summary of the seven (7) potential mitigation options is presented in the below table. Of the seven (7) mitigation options presented in the Final Report, these options were evaluated against the advantages, disadvantages and importantly the community feedback when determining if they would progress to the cost benefit analysis stage. Of these, two (2) mitigation options progressed to the cost benefit analysis stage.

Mitigation Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	Community Feedback	Outcome
Option 1: New levee around the clubrooms and Men's Shed.	Provides protection to all facilities within the Avoca Recreation Reserve.	Negatively impact surrounding properties.	Impacted property owners did not consent to the negative impacts on their properties.	Not progressed
Option 2: New levee around the clubrooms, Men's Shed and football oval.	Provides protection to the clubrooms and Men's Shed building up to a 0.2% AEP plus climate change event. Does not negatively impact surrounding properties	Blocks a significant portion of the carpark and impacts amenity. Does not provide protection to the sporting facilities (oval, netball courts and tennis courts). The cost of the levee extension will exceed the value of the Men's Shed facility. Indicative costs show the levee extension would cost approx. \$200,000	Desire for the occupiers of the Men's Shed to move Location.	Not progressed
Option 3: Extend the existing levee to the east of the football oval to the north.	May provide further protection against sediment and debris on the football oval.	Does not provide adequate protection to the Avoca Recreation Reserve facilities during large flood events.	Impacted property owners did not consent to the negative impacts on their properties.	Not progressed
Option 4: Remove vegetation and fallen trees in the Avoca River channel.	Reduced water levels along the Avoca River.	Does not provide adequate protection to the Avoca Recreation Reserve facilities.		Not progressed
Option 5: Widen the Avoca River and remove the Duke		Does not provide adequate protection to the Avoca		Not progressed

Mitigation Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	Community Feedback	Outcome
Street crossing.		Recreation Reserve facilities. Potential negative impacts to Avoca River ecosystem.		
Option 6: Flood-proof the clubrooms with structural mitigation options.	Provides protection to the clubrooms and Men's Shed building up to a 0.2% AEP plus climate change event. Does not negatively impact surrounding properties.	May slightly impact the amenity of the building. Expensive solution.	Desire for this option to be further investigated.	Progressed
Option 7: Relocate the Avoca Football Club (all facilities).	Protects all facilities within the Avoca Recreation Reserve including all sporting facilities,	Very expensive with only limited funding available.	There is a strong desire from the community to relocate all facilities.	Progressed

The draft final report outlined the following recommendations.

- Flood barriers be installed around the Avoca Football and Netball Club clubrooms to protect the building from future flood events.
- Relocating the Men's Shed building outside the flood-prone area.
- Rebuilding the netball and tennis courts with flood-resilient designs.

At the June 2025 Council meeting, Council resolved to release the final draft report to the Avoca Recreation Reserve user groups and the broader Avoca community that is impacted by flood and commit to undertaking a community information session on the recommendations of the draft report.

Council undertook the consultation session at the Avoca Recreation Reserve on Wednesday 02 July 2025. In addition to Council Officers, Water Technology consultants and NCCMA representatives, there were seven (7) community members in attendance.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

When the recommendations were put to the community members who were present, there was a general understanding of how the consultants arrived at the recommendations. However, there were views expressed regarding disappointment that Option 1: New levee around the entire recreation reserve was not the recommended option as it solved all the issues for the Avoca Recreation Reserve and the Men's Shed.

There were also strong views expressed that the small levee that protects the pétanque piste should be extended to further protect the oval fence and scoreboard which was modelled in option 3.

Additionally, it was stated that the way to completely resolve the flooding issue was to relocate the oval and its supporting facilities to land that does not flood. This option was discussed within the report including the costs. There are a few factors to consider including the cost benefit analysis and what the broader community's expectation of the existing oval reserve and how it might be used in the future if a new facility was created elsewhere. Council officers also put to the group that finding between \$10-15 Million could be difficult and would ultimately need support from other levels of government. Council officers also stated that if this is a genuine priority for the Reserve Committee from a Council perspective this needs to be looked at from a holistic perspective as to where this would sit within Councils recreation priorities.

The Men's Shed flooding in 2022 was also quite a long and expensive recovery, but it is the view of the consultants that this standalone facility could be moved to a non-flood prone area much more easily and at a reasonable cost, when compared to the cost to provide flood barriers as this would likely cost more than the construction of a new shed.

Based on the experience of Water Technology consultants and the detailed cost-benefit analysis, the consultants have recommended that a flood barrier be installed around the Avoca Football Netball Clubrooms to protect the building as the history of recovery for the Reserve has been that the oval and hard surface courts can generally be brought back to a useable standard within a short period following a flood, but that the building takes longer. The community raised concerns with this recommendation, regarding the physical impact of a wall surrounding the building on 3 sides, and the potential manual labour required for any flood infrastructure to be in place in the lead up to a flood, along with the need to provide storage for this infrastructure.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

3b. Mitigate risks, build community resilience and enhance responsiveness to natural disasters.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The Avoca Recreation Reserve user groups played a significant role throughout the Flood Mitigation Investigation project, contributing to the collation of data from previous flood events and actively participating in consultation, providing valuable feedback on draft mitigation options.

Council officers, with support from NCCMA and Water Technology consultants, undertook the final community consultation session at the Avoca Recreation Reserve on 02 July 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Flood Mitigation and Cost Benefit Analysis Report - Avoca Flood Mitigation Investigation [11.2.1.1 - 105 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

A cost-benefit analysis was completed for both recommended mitigation options. This detailed analysis included consideration of tangible and intangible costs. The major flood event in October 2022 caused over \$1.4 Million in damage and led to extensive closures of the Avoca Recreation Reserve facilities, heavily impacting the key social assets for the Avoca community.

It has been clearly observed by Council Officers and others involved in the project that the impact of the 2022 flood and its recovery was something that the Avoca Recreation Reserve Committee were keen to avoid into the future, as it took an emotional, physical and financial toll on the Committee and the community.

CONCLUSION

The Flood Mitigation and Cost-Benefit Analysis Report for the Avoca Recreation Reserve Flood Investigation and recommendations provide a well-researched and considered guide to future decision making. The Avoca Community has been at the center of this report, and their views are reflected in the potential solutions.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. Receives the Flood Mitigation Investigation report and recommendations, acknowledging the level of technical input into the report, and see a further minor inclusion into the final report regarding commentary on the concept of a town protection weir.
2. Work with the community to investigate the options of recreation reserve relocation and the feasibility and viability of this option.
3. Work with the Men's Shed group to investigate relocation options that could leverage existing community facilities and the investment requirements for any relocation.
4. Support the extension of the existing levee as presented in option 3 to further protect the Avoca Recreation Reserve assets from the velocity effects of flood water.
5. Pursue funding for the extension of the existing levee (option 3).

CARRIED

11.2.2. REVIEWED TEN-YEAR ASSET PLAN

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Tim Day – Manager Assets

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

File No: 06/12/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the reviewed 10-Year Asset Plan and undertake engagement with the community on the revised Plan.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan (Plan) in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. The Plan requires a scope of at least the next 10 financial years.

Since the introduction of the new Act the 10-Year Asset Plan has been reviewed on an annual basis. The draft 2025-2034 10-Year Asset Plan is a major refresh to align with the requirements of the Act and Council's recently adopted Plan.

The Plan must include information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council. In particular, the 10-Year Asset Plan supports economic priorities by focusing on road infrastructure that enhances connectivity for both the community and commerce while promoting sustainability. The 10-Year Asset Plan addresses priorities relating to People, Place and the environment enabling Council to deliver a wide range of services to the community and the broader public.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The draft 10-Year Asset Plan (2025-2034) was reviewed in consideration of the newly adopted Council Plan 2025-2029 and Council's Vision 2025-2029, to ensure alignment with Council's plan to support liveability, resilience and growth.

The June 2025 revision to the 10-Year Asset Plan includes the following changes.

- Alignment with the recently adopted 10-year financial plan
- Updated project lists to reflect changes in asset conditions
- Minor changes to asset class descriptions

Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires that:

(1) ... a Council must develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan ...

(4) ... a Council must develop or review the Asset Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Asset Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election...

(5) The Asset Plan adopted under subsection (4) has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.

It is proposed that engagement with the community be undertaken on the revised Plan, and that the Plan be brought back to Council to consider and adopt at a future Council Meeting.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2024 25 Ten Year Asset Plan Draft Revision 20250711 [**11.2.2.1** - 26 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of the Ten-Year Asset Plan is to reduce Council's financial risk through linking the forward planning of asset renewal to Council's Ten-Year Financial Plan. This will ensure expenditure on renewal works aligns with Council's resource allocation. The renewal of assets also manages and reduces risk associated with asset impairment and failure.

CONCLUSION

The Ten-Year Asset Plan provides the Pyrenees community with assurance that public assets will be sustainably maintained to meet their needs. The revised Ten-Year Asset Plan 2025-2035 is provided for adoption by Council.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council

1. undertakes engagement with the community on the revised Ten-Year Asset Plan 2025-2034.
2. Considers adopting the revised Plan at a future Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

11.2.3. 2025/26 KEY CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Daniel Potter – Manager Engineering

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

File No: 06/04/02

PURPOSE

This report seeks Councils endorsement of the upcoming 2025/26 Financial Year's Major Road, Bridge & Major Culvert Capital Works Projects.

BACKGROUND

The approved 2025/26 budget includes \$2,555,068 for Major Road Reconstruction/Constructions & \$432,900 for Bridges/Major Culverts Reconstruction/Constructions with a provisional additional \$1 million loan allowance for bridge upgrades to remove load limits on bridges.

These budget values include Council funding of \$532,900 and Federal 'Roads to Recovery' Funding of \$2,455,068.

Additional to the 2025/26 budget values is external funding from the TAC funded 'Safer Local Roads & Streets Program', external Federal Government flood & fire disaster repair funding, external contributions from developers, and carry forward funding from the 2024/25 financial year.

This report only includes major road and bridge/major culvert projects with other asset classes like sealed road reseals, sealed road major patching, gravel roads resheets, drainage, footpaths, buildings, recreation projects, etc., are still being finalised.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The projects proposed for inclusion in the 2025/26 financial year were assessed against the following factors:

- community need,
- asset management principles (Asset Plan),
- strategic value and,
- cost benefit.

The prioritised programmed capital works projects are listed below:

1. Major Road Reconstruction/Construction Projects:

Description	Comments
Redbank Streetscape - Kerb on north side between High St & Perry St, sealing, pavement works, etc. (RTR Funding)	Additional funding for kerb & pavement works to achieve completed community outcome.
Stockyard Hill Rd / Beaufort Carranballac Rd Intersection (RTR Funding)	Deferred from 24/25 FY due to delayed environmental approvals.
Willoby St, Beaufort (Livingstone St to carpark driveway) – Intersection Upgrade and road reconstruction including section of kerb - (Council & SLRSP Funding)	Deferred from 24/25 FY to align with design/approval of SLRSP co-funding.
Racecourse Rd, Beaufort Ch.630m to Ch.2,000m x 6.2m seal & 1.2m Shoulders (Incl 70m of the south approach to rail crossing) - (RTR Funding)	Poor seal & pavement condition at end of life. Part of a staged widening strategy with long term aim of widening to Trawalla Waterloo Rd.

Langi Kal Kal Rd - Ch.0m to Ch.300m x 7.0m Seal & 1.0m Shoulders - (RTR Funding)	Narrow section previously not completed approaching rail crossing. Pavement & seal at end of life.
Trawalla Waterloo Rd - Ch.0m to Ch. 400m x 6.2m seal & 1.0m Shoulders - (RTR Funding)	Narrow section previously not completed approaching rail crossing. Seal at end of life with cracking of pavement.
Crowlands Eversley Rd - Ch.2,020m to Ch.2,735m x 6.2m Seal & 1.2m Shoulders - (RTR Funding)	Last section of narrow seal. Alternative construction method still to investigate as seal/pavement in good condition. Classified as an upgrade project.
Havelock St, Beaufort - Drainage/Parking Upgrade near public toilets (Council Funding)	Community raised issue including design improvements to disabled parking.
Hopes Ln – Ch.2,540m to Ch.3,380m x 6.2m Seal & 1.2m Shoulders (Flood Repair & RTR Funding)	Partially funded from flood repair funding. Repair required due to failing pavement.
Waubra Talbot Rd – Ch.11,950m to Ch.12,220m x 6.2m Seal & 1.2m Shoulders including intersections with Stud Farm Rd, Lexton Evansford Rd, School Rd & Clunes Evansford Rd (SLRSP & RTR)	SLRSP due to Y intersections within Evansford and RTR for narrow poor pavement/seal section between intersections.
Burke St Beaufort Speed management & Intersection Improvements (including the realignment of the Sinclair St Intersection) (SLRSP Funded)	
Mt William Rd & Carngham Streatham Rd Intersection Realignment (SLRSP Funded)	
Duke St, Avoca Speed management (SLRSP Funded)	
Other minor SLRSP Projects	Refer to previous Council report for breakdown of full SLRSP funding.
Total Sub Program Estimate	\$4,565,000

2. Bridges/Major Culverts Reconstruction/Construction Projects:

Included below is a list of priority bridge projects proposed to be undertaken subject to matching funding utilising Councils' \$1 million loan commitment as co-contribution where projects may be eligible for funding under state and commonwealth funding programs. In some instances, where funding is unattainable, these projects will be delivered using council funds.

The total value of the sub program of projects below is estimated on a best-case scenario leveraging 80% additional funding (\$4 million) from external federal funding. The delivery of these projects is time dependent on funding program timeframes and expected to carry over into future years beyond 2025/26.

Description	Comments
B191 - Beaufort Caravan Park No. 2 (Snake Island) Footbridge Reconstruction (Council funding)	Poor condition footbridge.
B80 - High St Footbridge Reconstruction (Council funding)	Footbridge recently failed and requires replacement.
B58 & B60 – Eurambeen Streatham Rd – Bridge to Major Culvert Constructions (RTR Funding)	Poor condition bridges.
B185 – Amphitheatre Rd – Bridge to Major Culvert Construction (Council/External Funding)	Poor condition bridge with steel plates installed to keep bridge open.

B139 – Raglan-Elmhurst Rd – Bridge Approaches (Council Funding)		
B22 – Lake Goldsmith Rd – Bridge Guardrail Renewal (Council Funding)		Failing timber guardrail.
Guardrail Replacement (Council Funding)		Several damaged sections of guardrails on various bridges including contributions towards Flood & Fire affected guardrail projects as betterment/replace with current standard.
MC342 - Beaufort-Carngham Rd – Major Culvert Reconstruction (Council Funding)		Poor condition culvert
B167 & B168 – Waubra Talbot Rd – Bridge Widening & Strengthening (SLRSP/RTR Funding)		Load Limited bridges due to configuration. Bridge upgrade works in conjunction with SLRSP/RTR roads Project.
B120 – Nerring Trawalla Rd - Bridge to Major Culvert Construction (Council Funding)		Poor condition bridge.
B53 - Eurambeen Raglan Rd – Bridge Widening & Strengthening (Council Funding)		Narrow bridge. Under investigation if this project can fit within 25/26 budget.
Total Sub Program Estimate		\$1,535,000

Loan Allowance/Additional Funding		Comments
B7 – Back Cemetery Rd – Bridge Deck Replacement (Council loan/External Funding)		Extremely poor condition bridge and currently load limited to 15t. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B97 – Lexton Ararat Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B89 – Landsborough Elmhurst Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay / Guardrail (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B90 – Landsborough Elmhurst Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay / Guardrail (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B95 – Landsborough Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay / Guardrail (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 45t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B166 – Waubra Talbot Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay / Guardrail (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 45t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B2 – Amphitheatre Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay / Guardrail (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B99 – Lexton Ararat Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B135 – Racecourse Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B20 – Black Bottom Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)		Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.

B44 – Dawson Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)	Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B78 – Haddon Preston Hill Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)	Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B79 – Haddon Preston Hill Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)	Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B112 – Mooramong Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)	Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
B131 – Pittong Snake Valley Rd – Bridge Strengthening / Concrete Overlay (Council loan/External Funding)	Load limited to 30t due to configuration. 20% Council Funding/80% External Funding.
Total Sub Program Estimate	\$5,000,000

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Many of the projects within the capital works program for Roads & Bridges/Major Culverts have come from community raised issues. Community engagement/notification will occur as required for each project utilising noticeboards, media releases and social media, etc.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Each project has financial and risk implications that will be managed in line with engineering construction management methods.

CONCLUSION

The capital program for roads, bridges and major culverts is a significant proportion of Council's budget. It provides the public and community with assets that are maintained, improved and renewed to provide an ongoing service level or an improved level of service where funding is available. The listed projects are a balance between community need, asset management principles, strategic value, and cost benefit.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. Endorses the listed projects within this report for Road, Bridge & Major Culvert projects to proceed with construction in the 2025/26 financial year, and to seek external funding for relevant bridge projects.

CARRIED

11.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

11.3.1. INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION - MUNICIPAL BUILDING SURVEYOR

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: 16/20/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt an Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation with respect to the Municipal Building Surveyor.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act requires Council to review its delegations, appointments, and authorisation as required. This is done when updates to legislation are received, or new staff appointments require appropriate delegations or authorisations to be implemented to allow that officer to fulfil their role obligations.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The incumbent in the role of Municipal Building Surveyor has changed, with Mr Daniel de Lacy being appointed in the role as of July 2025.

To appoint the officer as an Authorised Officer and to fulfil the requirements of the role, an Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation is required to delegate this authority from the Council.

An Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation has been prepared for Council consideration, and adoption is now requested.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This is an administrative function that does not require community engagement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation MBS June 2025 [**11.3.1.1** - 3 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The role cannot fulfil its full obligations without appropriate delegation and authorisations.

CONCLUSION

To legally allow the officer appointed into the role of Municipal Building Surveyor, Council is requested to consider and adopt the attached Instrument of Appointment & Authorisation.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by the *Local Government Act 2020* and other legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Appointment & Authorisation, resolves that:

1. The officer appointed in the role of Municipal Building Surveyor be designated an Authorised Officer to conduct the powers, duties, and functions as set out in the attached Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation, subject to any conditions and limits specified in that Instrument, and
2. The Instrument comes into force immediately it is signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
3. That all previous delegations relating to role of Municipal Building Surveyor be revoked upon the Chief Executive Officer signing the new Instrument.

CARRIED

11.3.2. RISK MANAGEMENT - INSURANCE RENEWAL 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: Kathy Bramwell – Corporate Projects Lead

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

File No: 38/02/04

PURPOSE

This report is presented for Council to endorse the insurance renewal program placed for the 2025-26 financial year.

BACKGROUND

As part of good governance, and mitigation of risk, the Council annually purchases and maintains insurance as part of sharing risk for various lines including public liability, professional indemnity, property, crime, cyber security, travel, and motor vehicle.

In addition to the above coverages, Sections 43 and 52 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to indemnify Councillors, members of an Audit & Risk Committee (ARC), the Chief Executive Officer and members of council staff against actions or claims made against them in respect of their employment.

In line with previous years, the Pyrenees Shire Council has maintained its long-standing relationships with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) for public liability and professional indemnity coverage through the Liability Mutual Scheme, and its risk advisor, JLT Public Sector. JLT Public Sector acts as an agent for the procurement of insurance cover annually, going to market each year through tender to obtain the best deals on behalf of its clients.

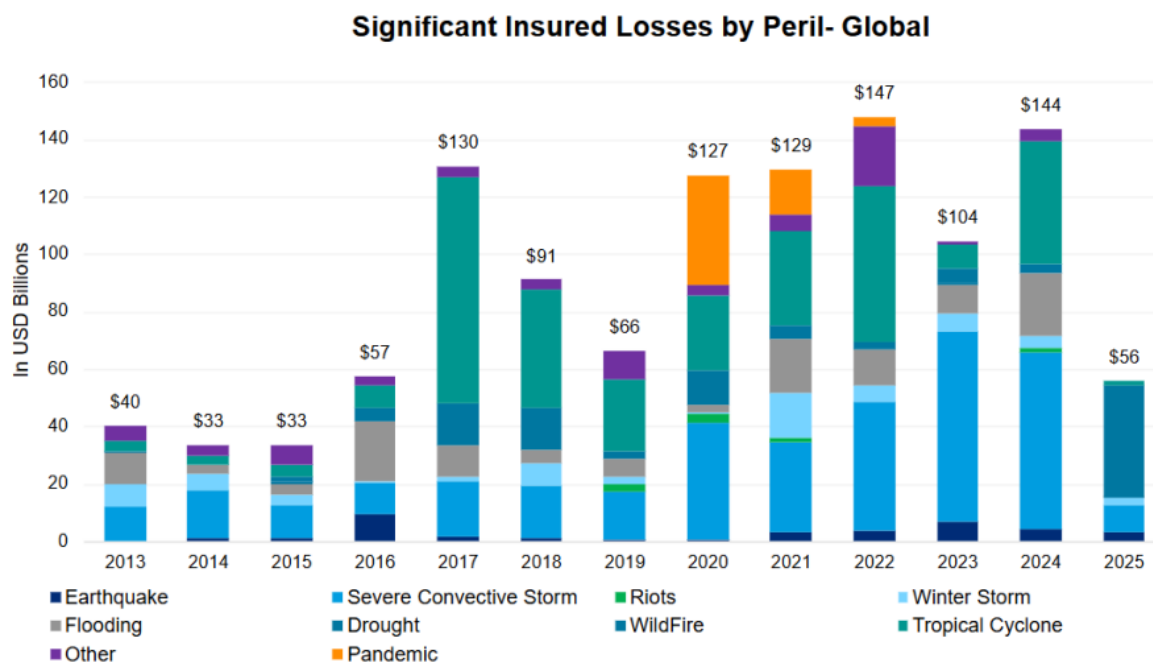
ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The annual insurance program (excluding WorkCover) was successfully procured for another year, commencing 1 July 2025, at a total increase of just over \$65,500 or 10.67% above the previous year. WorkCover insurance is procured slightly later in the year and will be reported to Council separately.

Most policy premiums increased, with the largest increases seen for public liability / professional indemnity (joint scheme), property, and motor vehicle. Property insurance coverage was amended in line with the recent Council resolution, which achieved some savings but was offset by valuation increases on Council buildings.

Increased claims costs associated with motor vehicle claims, impacted by the average cost of motor vehicle repairs having significantly increased over the past five years, have had a major impact on premiums. The complexity of new automotive systems means that even minor damage can require extensive repairs, recalibrations, or complete replacements, resulting in higher claims costs. The average cost of a claim increased over that period by 42.2%, which is more than double the rate of inflation during the same period.

In general, despite a break from major weather and catastrophe events in 2024, there continues to be challenges for insurers in 2025, with data released by the Insurance Council of Australia in May 2025, showing insured losses reached almost \$1.5 billion following two extreme weather events in 2025: North Queensland Floods in February, and Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred in March. The insurance market is global, and the impact of the January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles on premiums is not yet fully understood. These wildfires caused significant damage to around 11,000 homes, leading to an estimated US\$45 billion in insured losses, pushing global insured losses to record levels for Q1 2025. The following gives an overview of significant insured losses globally by year.



*Significant Insured Losses (Insured Loss estimates >\$100M), includes NFIP estimate. Figures are not adjusted for inflation. Source: PCS, PERILS, ICA, GC, Floodsmart.org, and other news sources. Russia-Ukraine conflict losses estimated by S&P Global. Data updated as of May 29, 2025

 Guy Carpenter

Consequently, after years of sustained unsatisfactory underwriting results, there has been a concerted effort to return to profitability.

To support councils in delivering as comprehensive information for renewals as possible, Council's risk advisor is planning on visiting all buildings valued above \$500,000 to collect insurer data requirements that allows more comprehensive insurance negotiation and enables accurate catastrophe modelling.

Total insurance costs (excluding WorkCover) in 2025-26 are \$679,652.04 which is 1.75% of Council's budgeted expenditure. Although less than previous years, this remains a high percentage for a financially constrained council like the Pyrenees.

Commercial-in-confidence information relating to individual insurance line premiums has been provided to the Council separately. The insurance program renewal was required by 1 July 2025 and, as has been the case in previous years, renewal information was received too late to be provided to Council at its June 2024 meeting for advance approval. Indicative costs are, however, included within Council's budget.

Due to timing constraints and the mandatory nature of needing an insurance program in place, the insurance program has been accepted on behalf of Council and the Council is now requested to provide endorsement of the decision made to procure insurance for the 2025-26 financial year.

The insurance lines held by Council for 2025-26 include:

Property – renewed with the JMAPP Discretionary Trust Program. This arrangement is not an insurance policy but is authorised and classified by ASIC (Australian Securities and Investments Commission) as a managed investment scheme and mutual risk product. The structure of JMAPP is designed to reduce the reliance on the traditional insurance market using the managed aggregate. This program covers property located in Australia that is the responsibility of its members including Council's catalogue of artworks.

Public Liability and Professional Indemnity – renewed with the MAV’s Liability Mutual Scheme. This scheme covers liability for personal injury and property loss arising through Council’s actions or absence or action, plus professional indemnity against decisions made by Councillors, ARC members, and council officers.

Motor vehicle – renewed with Vero Insurance. This policy provides fully comprehensive coverage for all registered motor vehicles, including heavy fleet vehicles, owned and operated by Council.

Personal Accident – renewed with Chubb Insurance. This policy provides coverage for Councillors, officers and volunteers working or engaged on behalf of the Council where that work is officially organised by and under the control of Council, except where such expenses are covered by Medicare.

Corporate Travel – renewed with Chubb Insurance. This policy provides coverage in respect of Council business, provided such travel involves a destination fifty (50) kilometres or more from the covered person’s home or normal place of business.

Community Liability Pack – renewed with QBE Insurance. This policy provides coverage for:

- Uninsured casual, ad-hoc and regular hirers of Council owned or controlled facilities for activities conducted at and from the hired facility, provided hire occurs no more than 52 times per annum (per hirer).
- Uninsured Council-run or Council-approved events or programs including performers, stallholders, artists, buskers, street stallholders, artists occupying studios, tutors, instructors and similar. Coverage includes the various activities of the insured whilst participating in an event or program organised by Council or an event or program organised by others where Council requires coverage.
- Uninsured permit holders (liability coverage) including:
 - Local trader permit holders for the placement of advertising boards and other merchandise on footpaths or areas deemed to be Council property under a permit issued by Council.
 - Community garden permit holders – residents setting up and maintaining gardens on Council property including nature strips or planter boxes, under a permit issued by Council.

Cyber Liability – renewed with a panel of insurers, led by Chubb Insurance. Cyber-security remains a high rated risk in 2025-26 and has potential impacts on other key risks including financial sustainability, business interruption, and statutory / regulatory requirements.

Councillor & Officers Liability – renewed with AXA XL Insurance. This policy provides coverage for claims brought against Council or insured persons (Councillors and Council officers).

Crime – renewed with Chubb Insurance. This policy provides protection against the full impact of crime, including theft.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This is a required annual activity for which community consultation is not required. Commercial-in-confidence implications prevent the provision of individual premium disclosure outside of council operations. This report is considered a method of informing and providing assurance to our community that Council meets its mandatory obligation to protect its people, assets, and operations through an appropriate insurance program.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Significant financial and risk implications are inherent in a poorly procured insurance program. Risks include insufficient coverage in the event of a disruptive incident, inability to obtain appropriate insurance, and exposure to an extremely variable cost impost year on year.

Financial risks exist in small rural councils with the high cost of insurance when compared to expenditure. In 2025 the insurance procurement cost represents approximately 1.75% of its budget for the year.

CONCLUSION

Insurance has been procured for the 2025-26 financial year through MAV and JLT Public Sector with premium detail provided to Council separately as a confidential document. The Council is asked to endorse payment of the 2025-26 insurance premiums, which reflect an overall increase of 10.67% over the previous year.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the information provided in this report, and
2. Endorses payment of \$679,652.04 for the procurement of the 2025-26 insurance program.

MOTION

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council:

1. Notes the information provided in this report, and
2. Notes the payment made of \$679,652.04 for the procurement of the 2025-26 insurance program.

CARRIED

11.3.3. UPDATE ON PYRENEES AQUATICS

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: Baylie Lang – Recreation Development Co-ordinator

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

File No: 56/02/02

PURPOSE

To provide an end of 2024–25 pool season summary, including a review of community participation, operational outcomes and update on planning processes for Council's pools.

BACKGROUND

The 2024–25 pool season experienced targeted growth in participation and an associated increase in season pass sales. However, operations were affected by safety-related closures due to unforeseen maintenance needs, which were necessary to ensure continued safety and asset sustainability.

Table 1 provides highlights of each pool:

Table 1: Highlight Summary

Beaufort pool	- Water walking and gentle exercise remained popular with older patrons. 'Friday Fun Days' and BBQs hosted with Beaufort Friends of the Pool, boosted summer holiday engagement. - Officers received consistent positive feedback on cleanliness, and facility presentation, reflecting Belgravia Leisure's quality management.
Avoca Pool	- December was the busiest month with visitation increasing by 43% from the same period in the previous season. - Avoca Friends of the Pool funded free family passes for the season to Avoca Primary and Childcare Centre families, enhancing community access and inclusion. - There was an increase on the previous season in school and community bookings, including carnivals and events.
Landsborough	- Although season pass sales increased compared to last summer, broadening the potential for community access, this was not reflected in visitation rates. - An Australia Day BBQ and other Belgravia-led events supported opportunity for community connection. - Experienced a modest increase in total and average daily visits.

When compared against the 2023–24 season, community attendances across all assets recorded a combined visitation increase of 6.3%.

The warm, dry and longer summer conditions contributed to only 7 full days of weather closure (cool weather policy - pools do not open on days forecast below 20 Degrees Celsius). With some necessary closures due to asset repairs, the season was extended by an additional week at Beaufort and Avoca, reaching 279 operating days (21 more than the previous season).

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of visitation trends for the last 3 seasons and daily average attendance for each pool for the 2024/25 season.

Table 2: Total Attendances – 3-Year Comparison

VENUE	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
BEAUFORT	4,461	5,156	4,602
AVOCA	4,225	2,443	3,505
LANDSBOROUGH	642	454	457
TOTAL	9,329	8,053	8,564

Table 3: Average Daily Patronage 2024–25

VENUE	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
BEAUFORT	58.25
AVOCA	34.03
LANDSBOROUGH	04.71

Operations and Maintenance Summary

The season was successfully managed by service contractor Belgravia Leisure, with community feedback reflecting high satisfaction—particularly recognising staff professionalism, excellent water quality management, and meaningful improvements in community programming.

Council acknowledges the efforts of the local Friends of the Pool groups, who played a key role in proactive engagement and access support to the pools.

Belgravia Leisure fully complied with all contractual obligations related to incident and complaint management, ensuring timely reporting, thorough documentation, and appropriate resolution in accordance with agreed service standards.

There were several unanticipated plant and asset failures that resulted in additional expense to repair and replace, and resulted in some necessary closures:

Table 4: Significant asset repairs

ASSET	ISSUE	OUTCOME
AVOCA	Overnight super-chlorination events through a failed dosing unit, impacting safe water access (impacted access to early morning swim sessions).	Mitigated through the installation of an updated chemical dosing unit.
BEAUFORT	Air and water penetration between the pool shell and liner, creating unsafe access to water (resulted in 23 days closure).	Replacement of custom water inlet valves and water circulation improvements.
BEAUFORT	Circulation pump failure (resulted in 2 closure days).	Required specialist repair.
LANDSBOROUGH	Toddler wading pool inoperable given filtration system failure (inoperable for the season).	Recommending moving the asset to a decommissioning status.

2025-26 Season Preparations

In preparation for the 2025–26 aquatic season, Council officers have been working closely with Belgravia Leisure and our associated contractors to prioritise a range of proactive maintenance and compliance items across all three pool facilities. The focus is on addressing known issues, improving safety and operational functionality, and ensuring plant and infrastructure are season-ready.

Works have been programmed at an adopted budget of \$87,000 across all pool assets, with Belgravia Leisure implementing a range of improvements, guided by their requirements in the service management agreement.

The 2025/26 scope of works has been informed by an Asset Condition Assessment report, Royal Life Saving Society safety audits, liaison with Belgravia Leisure and advice from other engaged industry professionals, providing a combination of plant and equipment upgrades and compliance-related improvements, including:

- Plant and equipment servicing, including upgrades to pumps and valves.
- Infrastructure assessments, including concourse and changeroom condition reviews.
- Safety and compliance upgrades, including upgrade to chemical storage and operating systems.

In addition to the above works, Belgravia Leisure also undertakes a comprehensive pre-season inspection and commissioning process at each facility. This includes engaging an external independent contractor to complete a thorough inspection of plant and equipment, identify and rectify any operational issues prior to opening. This proactive review ensures each pool is safe, functional, and compliant with relevant standards before the season commences.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Management of Pyrenees Shire pool operations

The current service management for pool operations was contracted to Belgravia Leisure Pty Ltd from 20 October, 2021. The initial contract period was three years. The contract provided options for extension, which at its meeting of 16 April 2024, Council exercised a 2-year extension of services until 30 August, 2026.

Officers have commenced planning for pool management post the 2026 contract end date. This process will enable adequate time for engagement and consultation, and required tender procedure timelines and or transition of service programs.

To ensure the management and operations of the pool facilities are operationally sustainable for Council and aligned to industry trends and compliance requirements, this will produce a detailed assessment of future service options available and associated costs and benefits for the future management of the facilities.

This process could include future management options such as an in-house model, external service management contract, or lease options.

Aquatic Services Planning

Council's pool assets are at the end of their estimated lifespan. Ageing public pool infrastructure is a national issue with 40% of public pools reaching the end of their lifespan this decade (the average public pool in Australia was built in 1968).

Issues facing Pyrenees' pools include:

- Financial and operational viability.
- Pool shell integrity, failing plant, assets non-compliant to relevant standards.
- Not fit-for-purpose (change facilities which are not inclusive, accessible pathways, etc) and an absence of spaces for ancillary income streams that could assist to compensate for rising costs.
- Future decisions required to repair or replace asset components.

Council officers have initiated a strategic analysis and planning process for the municipality's aquatic facilities. This has included the completion of Technical Audits and Asset Condition Assessments, which provide guidance for short-term asset management and maintenance to ensure the continued functionality of the pools.

The next phase of this planning process will require funding to undertake more detailed investigations and to develop a comprehensive feasibility study and business case. A summary is provided in Table 5.

Table 5: Staged approach

STAGE		TIMELINE	STATUS
1	Asset condition audits	Complete	Complete
2	Part 1 invasive inspection (plant & equipment) – see Note 1	Submissions received	Budgeted 25/26
3	Leisure needs assessment – community engagement – see Note 2	Dec 25 – Feb 26	Budgeted 25/26
4	Part 2 invasive inspection (pool tanks & underground infrastructure) – see Note 1	Jun / Jul 26	Budget bids 26/27
5	Options identification to inform Strategy – see Note 3	Aug / Dec 26	Budget bids 26/27
6	Future business case and advocacy plan for funding to implement the Strategy		Budget bids 26/27

Note 1: Invasive asset inspection and lifespan modelling: undertake intrusive inspections to provide accurate life span and cost modelling for each facility. This will include:

- concrete coring,
- plant and equipment condition assessment,
- leak detection,
- geotechnical reporting and other associated engineering tests.

Outcomes will support a lifespan estimate of current infrastructure, development of cost and lifespan forecasts.

Note 2: Community Leisure Needs Analysis: community engagement program to understand community need / aspirations for pools provision, and other leisure activities.

Note 3: Options identification: development of medium to longer term option analysis to support the direction for future pool asset provision. This could include:

- Pool and other leisure asset provision options,
- Facility components and concept plan/s,
- Capital cost estimates,
- Financial operating models,
- Funding Strategy.

Also, as part of the Part 2 invasive inspection (Stage 4) the pools will have to be emptied. This is the opportunity to undertake additional work such as the pool liner replacement at the Beaufort Pool and also the hydrostatic valve installation at the Avoca Pool which would be subject to available budget.

With Stage 1 complete, staff have budgeted for Stage 2 and Stage 3 within the current financial year, however will need to seek additional funding to complete Stages 4 to 6.

Based on the outcomes of Stages 1 - 5, it is recommended that a future business case and advocacy plan be developed to pursue both internal and external funding opportunities—including from state and federal governments. This should also explore broader partnerships and potential regional collaborations to support any proposed developments.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5c. Ensure timely, clear and consistent communication underpinned by transparency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Community feedback across the season was consistently positive, particularly regarding:

- The professionalism of staff.
- Water quality and pool temperature.
- The range and quality of community events and programs.

The Friends of the Pool groups in Avoca and Beaufort played a key role in facilitating local engagement. The Avoca Friends of the Pool's Season Pass Initiative, which fully subsidised passes for all families connected to the local primary school and childcare centre, significantly enhanced access for families.

Council staff will engage with the community during the summer season to understand user satisfaction and also about past leisure activities and future needs to get active.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

In 2024–25, Council adopted an aquatics budget of \$555,706. Total actual expenditure was \$609,039 resulting in a overspend of \$53,333. A summary is provided in Table 6.

Table 6: 2024-25 – Operational and Maintenance Budget

ACCOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUALS	VARIANCE
BEAUFORT	\$184,476	\$254,899	- \$70,423
AVOCA	\$180,520	\$222,575	- \$42,055
LANDSBOROUGH	\$85,710	\$128,948	- \$43,238
MAINTENANCE*	\$105,000	\$2,617	\$102,383
TOTAL	\$555,706	\$609,039	- \$53,333

* Actual maintenance expenditure was costed against individual assets to provide true cost of individual pool expense.

Table 6 provides a summary of costs attributing to the variation, but can be summarised against two primary outcomes:

1. Increasing maintenance - demands associated with ageing infrastructure and plant. As assets continue to deteriorate, more frequent and unanticipated urgent repairs are required, placing pressure on operational budgets.
2. Contract service fee - Council's decision in August 2024 (post budget adoption) to extend its operational contract with Belgravia Leisure for a further two years. This extension resulted in a contract increase of \$57,903.00 (a 16.46% rise) driven by several key factors.

Table 7: Additional Operational Costs

ITEM	VARIATION	COMMENTARY
CONTRACT	\$57,903.00	Increase to operations contract, due to: • Compliance with Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO) required two lifeguards on-site at Landsborough.

		- A 5% increase to the Fitness Industry Award affected wage costs. - Increase in Belgravia funded local staff qualifications to support workforce availability. - Chemical costs rose by approximately 50% due to state-wide issues with supply, transport, and disposal.
UNANTICIPATED WORKS	\$10,188.41	Pump replacement at Beaufort
UNANTICIPATED WORKS	\$8,188.60	Water breach (between shell and liner) investigation and rectification works at Beaufort
UNANTICIPATED WORKS	\$941.00	Installation of fence supports at Beaufort
COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT USERS	\$2,900.00	Support transportation options to alternative facility for booked school swimming carnivals (primary and secondary)
REOPENING / YOUTH CELEBRATIONS	\$2,327.33	Commitment to fund the Beaufort pool reopening program following closures period
UNANTICIPATED WORKS	\$12,202.47	Chemical dosing unit replacement at Avoca
UNANTICIPATED WORKS	\$4,360.00	Heat Pump – Pump replacement at Avoca

Considering the range of unanticipated work and the contract price increase, officers have contained expenditure and delivered on their commitment to support safe facilities. This outcome reflects a measured and responsive approach to budget management under challenging and unpredictable conditions.

With both increased attendances and expenditure, the average subsidy per pool visit in 2024–25 was \$70.41. Subsidy rates per facility are detailed below:

Table 8: Subsidy Rate Per Visit – 2024/25

VENUE	VISITS	EXPENSE	SUBSIDY / VISIT
BEAUFORT	4,602	\$268,016.95	\$58.24
AVOCA	3,505	\$222,551.57	\$63.49
LANDSBOROUGH	457	\$106,679.00	\$233.43
TOTAL	8,564	\$603,009.52	\$70.41

It is noted that Avoca's subsidy per visit decreased by \$20 with improved attendance and no closure days. Beaufort's subsidy increased by \$2, due to extended facility closures. While Landsborough's rate rose by \$45 due to staffing requirement of resourcing two lifeguards at all times and ongoing low attendance.

Regional Benchmarking

Comparing our aquatic facilities with those of similar regional councils can reveal operational strengths and areas for improvement. Reviewing key indicators like cost per visit and visitation rates supports informed decisions on future investments, service planning, and community engagement. However, without detailed local context, this data should be viewed as indicative only.

Utilising 'Know Your Council' performance dashboard data, a sample of other councils who are similar in size and operations for the 2023–24 season contributes to understanding how we manage costs and how much the community uses the pools:

Table 9: Know Your Council Comparison

COUNCIL	PYRENEES	LODDON	BULOKE	HINDMARSH
SUBSIDY / VISIT	\$72.79	\$47.85	\$51.56	\$105.58
VISITATION PER CAPITA	1.0	1.9	2.8	0.8

The cost per visit in Pyrenees' facilities for 2023-24 was \$72.79, which is greater than Loddon Shire (\$47.85) and Buloke's (\$51.56) subsidy rate, but less than Hindmarsh's rate of \$105.58 per visit. Our current expenditure is generally in line with councils of similar size, asset age, and scale.

When comparing visitation rates compared to the number of residents, Pyrenees residents visited on average once per person during the 2023-24 season. This is less than Loddon (1.9 visits per person) and Buloke (2.8 visits per person), but slightly better than Hindmarsh (0.8 visits per person). This does not account for analysis of travel times, transport disadvantage, and access to larger regional assets or alternate forms of leisure in these shires.

While the benchmarking data presented is based on publicly available information, it should be noted that further investigation into the specific operating models, management arrangements, and service levels of each council would be required to fully understand the implications of these comparisons and how they might inform future decision-making.

CONCLUSION

Council recognises the role and value of public swimming pools in the social, health, and recreational wellbeing of the community, and continues to invest significantly in their seasonal delivery. Council continues to balance challenges associated with its ability to maintain and develop ageing pool infrastructure, ensuring that the cost of managing and operating the pools is proportionate to demands from other equally important services.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the end of year pool report for the 2024/2025 season.
2. Council considers future budget initiatives to complete proposed staged works.
3. Support officers to explore funding opportunities to undertake the more detailed investigations and to develop a comprehensive feasibility study and business case.

MOTION

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the end of year pool report for the 2024/2025 season.
2. Council considers future budget initiatives to complete proposed staged works.
3. Support officers to explore funding opportunities to undertake the more detailed investigations and to develop a comprehensive feasibility study and business case.
4. Considers the option of Council managing the pools in place of contractors.

CARRIED

11.3.4. 2025/26 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

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: Jacinta Erdody – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 32/24/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider some additional budget considerations post the initial adoption of the 2025/26 Budget based on community submissions.

BACKGROUND

Although Council only recently adopted the 2025/26 Budget, through the public exhibition process there were a number of specific items that were identified that Council have sought further consideration of for the current year budget, including:

- Waubra Community Asset Committee Maintenance;
- Waubra Recreation Reserve Masterplan Detailed Design of priorities;
- Avoca Residential Lot Planning; and
- Fees and Charges relating to business items and facility hire.

As part of the budget adoption, there was a new initiatives allowance to the value of \$250,000 which these additional considerations can be funded within.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Further details regarding the identified budget considerations are outlined below:

Waubra Community Asset Committee (CAC) -Minor Maintenance - \$30,000

In consideration of the 2025/26 budget submission made by the Waubra Community Asset Committee, in which numerous funding requests were made, the following is suggested in order to support the CAC to meet their most urgent minor maintenance and operating expenses.

It is recognized that the Waubra Recreation Reserve has a number of maintenance matters that need to be completed to assist and enable the effective operation of the facility whilst retaining fair and accessible user fees for regular users of the facility. Some of the minor maintenance matters which have been put forward by the CAC include:

- Repairs and commissioning of bore to enable maintenance of the oval;
- Installation of retaining wall at the tennis courts; and
- A range of various smaller maintenance based improvements.

Although Council had not specifically allocated funds to the Waubra CAC, it has provided support through measures including meeting compliance costs associated with Bowls Club upgrade, town water usage and the development of Master Plan. Council has also previously undertaken major works such as the replacement of the bowling green. Council will continue many of these supporting elements moving forward, including working in conjunction with the CAC:

- To pursue the license for the bore previously drilled and whilst this in progress, Council will continue to meet the cost of the Central Highlands Water town water usage;
- Provide support to ensure users of the facility, fees and charges remain achievable by regular users and in compliance with relevant agreements and delegations; and
- To pursue a short term suitable Female Friendly change facility at the Reserve.

The allocation of this funding to the Waubra CAC will enable the CAC to prioritise how the CAC uses the funds. It does not remove the obligations of the CAC in relation to ensuring funding is expended in accordance with existing delegations to the CAC and any required notifications or approvals to Council prior to committing to or commencing works.

Waubra Recreation Reserve - \$60,000

Council Officers are currently working to finalise the Waubra Recreation Reserve Master Plan for Council to review and endorse to seek community feedback. Beyond the Master Plan, for Council to be in a position to seek relevant funding for priority projects identified within this Master Plan, more detailed design and costings will be required.

To enable Council Officers to undertake the required detailed design and costings for priority projects identified within the Waubra Recreation Reserve Master Plan this funding is required to ensure all available future grant opportunities can be sought.

Avoca Residential Lot Planning - \$100,000

Council owns land in Avoca that is marked as a future residential development opportunity. For this to become a reality, investigation and development planning is required in preparation for future subdivision. Council's intent is to undertake planning through 2 stages, with stage 1 predominantly focused on investigation, review and costing of the requirements to build a case for funding and to complete the Stage 2 design and construction of the development.

Stage 1 objectives are centered around undertaking preliminary investigations, confirming what work is required to resolve project compliance requirements, providing guidance sufficient (including cost estimates for Stage 2 tasks and works) and for the Stage 2 design brief to be finalised.

Fees and Charges – Local Law Business Support – (approximately) \$7,200

Council recognises the current economic and natural climate challenges not only impact on our Agricultural sector (farms) but have a significant flow on effect to our local businesses. Drought support measures for Primary Producers have recently been announced by the Victorian government. However, similar financial supports are not available to small businesses in our towns which are also impacted.

To support the continued activation of businesses during this period of drought, the waiver of the following Local Law fees are recommended:

- Display and Sale of Goods (clause 6.6) \$68 per application;
- Outdoor Dining Facilities (clause 6.8) \$70.00 per application; and
- Advertising Signs (clause 6.9) \$43.00 per application.

The waiver of the above fees will not remove the requirement that applicants will need to submit the relevant permit to be obtained but will waive the fee associated with the application. Based on the fees and previous year's income associated with these fees, it is anticipated that the waiver value will have an estimated impact of \$7,200 on Council's budget.

Once the drought is over and there has been a period of recovery, it is proposed that the above fees be reinstated.

Fees and Charges – Room and Hall Hire for Community Groups - (maximum estimate) \$30,000

To further support our local community to create more opportunities for local community-based organisations which provide opportunity for social connection and broader health and wellbeing activities

that is inclusive to our broader community, waiver is sought on hire fees (not bonds) associated with Room and Hall Hire facility.

The Room and Hall Hire fees that are being considered in this proposal are:

- Gunga Hub, Avoca Community Group booking fees ranging from \$30 through to \$78.75;
- Avoca Information Centre Community Group booking fees ranging from \$11 through to \$45;
- Avoca Community Centre (Senior Citizens Building) Community Group booking fees range from \$15 through to \$42.50;
- Beaufort Shire Hall Community Group booking fees ranging from \$19.50 through to \$106.00;
- Beaufort Community Resource Centre Community Group booking fees ranging from \$26.50 through to \$43.50; and
- Beeripmo Centre Community Group booking fees ranging from \$48 through to \$138.

The estimated value associated with this waiver is actual income from the 2023/24 year inclusive of both Community and Casual Hire fees. Unfortunately, current receipting does not differentiate between the two fee types. The waiver of the above fees will not consider the fee associated with Bonds or Security Deposits and normal booking conditions will apply. All Casual Use hire fees will apply as defined within the adopted Fees and Charges schedule.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5c. Ensure timely, clear and consistent communication underpinned by transparency.

5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The above proposals are being considered based on feedback through the community consultation phase of the 2025/26 Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The 2025/26 Budget allowed \$250,000 for new initiatives within the budget and therefore the above can be fully funded within the constraints of this budget allocation.

CONCLUSION

That based on the new initiatives budget allocation and after considering community feedback through the budget process, the above adjustments and allocations be made within the 2025/26 Budget.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council resolve to:

1. Allocate the following projects to be funded from Council's \$250,000 new initiatives budget:
2. Waubra Community Asset Committee – Minor Maintenance \$30,000 with defined conditions as detailed within the body of this report
3. Waubra Recreation Reserve – Detailed design elements of priority improvements from the Waubra Master Plan \$60,000
4. Allocate funds to undertake necessary planning for the proposed Avoca Residential Development site \$100,000
5. Waive the Local Law Business Support fees as detailed within the body of this report for the 2025/26 financial year with an estimated waiver value of \$7,200
6. Waive the Room and Hall Hire facility fees as defined within the body of this report for local community based organisations which are utilising the facilities for the purpose of social connection and broader health and wellbeing activities that enable participation from the broader community with an estimated waiver value of \$30,000.

CARRIED

11.3.5. LEASE - AVOCA CARAVAN PARK PROPERTY

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: Jacinta Erdody – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 32/24/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction, in the capacity of the Committee of Management for the property known as the Avoca Caravan Park, to re-commence negotiations into a lease with a lessee to manage and operate the site in accordance with the Departments expectations and industry standards.

BACKGROUND

The Avoca Caravan Park (Crown Allotment 14, No Section, Township and Parish of Avoca and part of Crown Allotment 12, Section 39, Township and Parish of Avoca) is Department property with the Pyrenees Shire Council as the Committee of Management (since 1987) who then sub lease the property to manage and operate the site in accordance with the Departments lease terms and industry standards. The existing sub-lessee has operated the site since June 2005 which has now brought the existing lease and any extension options to an end.

During this period, Council had one audit conducted on the site back in 2013 which raised some opportunities for how we structure the lease into the future to ensure that both Council and the lessee meet their obligations in relation to the site expectations from the perspective of the Department, Caravan Industry and Council's responsibilities as the Committee of Management.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

It is clear through the development of the Council Plan 2025-2029 that Council has a strong desire to create opportunities for inclusive communities where visitors and residents want to live, invest and thrive and this is reflected in both their vision and their strategic priorities.

The ongoing accessibility and range of accommodation options for tourists to visit across our local government footprint will be critical in stimulating our economy and achieving the priorities of the Plan. On this basis, the Avoca Caravan Park site is seen as one of many facilities which will enable this to occur.

In accordance with the DJAARA Land Use Activity Agreement (LUAA), Council as the Committee of Management of Crown Land must consider this agreement through the renewal of a lease to ensure that we meet the obligations of this agreement. Depending on the nature of how the renewal is classified (Routine (now), Advisory or Negotiation (a or b)), will depend upon the level of engagement and financial implication to Council into the future.

In addition to the obligations associated with the LUAA, Council also needs to ensure that it adheres to the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to lease renewals which includes a requirement for community engagement prior to entering into any lease which is of 10 years or more or where the lease has a market value of \$100,000 or more.

Engagement with the current sub lessee indicates that they have made progressive improvements to the park and still have a desire to continue operating the park and to work collaboratively with Council and the broader community to contribute to achieving the goals and aspirations of the Council Plan 2025-2029.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 2 - Economy

2b. Coordinated and facilitated planning fostering business and tourism growth.

Section 115(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, requires that “Council must include any proposal to lease land in a financial year in the budget, where the lease is above \$100,000 per year (or the market value of the lease is for \$100,000 per year), or the lease is for 10 years or more.”

Section 115(4) of the Local Government Act 2020, requires that “if any lease is subject to the above, and it was not included within the budget, Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with their Community Engagement Policy before entering into the lease.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

In accordance with Council’s legislative compliance with Section 115(4) of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy, relevant community engagement will be undertaken.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

As Committee of Management, there is no financial expense. Under the existing sub lease, income is well below the legislative framework. However, the lease has not been developed or considered in the context of a full market value lease. The annual lease fee that is paid to Council will need to be re-negotiated as part of the lease renewal and relevant benchmarking of like type facilities will need to be considered.

CONCLUSION

That Council support Officer Recommendations to proceed with the re-negotiating of a suitable lease for the property known as the Avoca Caravan Park and ensure that the lease meets Caravan and Camping standards and any overarching expectations of the Department.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with negotiations to enter into a suitable lease with existing sub-lessee which enables relevant extension options for both short term and longer term aspirations to be achieved.
2. Endorses the Chief Executive Office to determine appropriate engagement and action in accordance with the Land Use Activity Agreement (LUAA).
3. Approve any required public notice advertising in regards to the Local Government Act and Council’s Community Engagement Policy as deemed appropriate to the proposed renegotiated sub-lease.

MOTION

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council defer the decision on the Lease - Avoca Caravan Park property report to a future meeting of Council.

CARRIED

11.3.6. NP48 WILKERR ROAD HOMEBUSH

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: Emily Beaton – Revenue and Road Naming Officer

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

File No: 58/02/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to give notice of its intent to name an unnamed road in Homebush.

BACKGROUND

Road names can recognise and reflect culture, heritage, and landscape. Appropriate naming is essential to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services, therefore it is important that unnamed roads are rectified accordingly.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In accordance with Pyrenees Shire Council Policy “Principles on Road Naming” Clause 4.1(a), it is proposed to name the unnamed road Wilkerr Road. (refer attached Map)

This unsealed road runs in a North-Westerly direction, abutting five properties and may offer secondary access to these properties. There are no immediate requirements to update any property addresses in Council’s database.

To commence the naming of this road the following road name is proposed:

Wilkerr Road

The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (Djaara) have reviewed and responded to Council’s request to incorporate Traditional Owner Language in naming proposals, approving “Wilkerr” as part of this proposal.

Wilkerr is Traditional Owner Language for “dingo”.

Incorporating Traditional Owner Language is an important aspect of raising cultural awareness of the Dja Dja Wurrung people and offers opportunity to promote understanding of the link to land and the natural environment. This also aligns with Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2022 - Principle E – Recognition and use of Traditional Owner language.

The term “Road” describes a place where one may ride; an open way or public passage for vehicles, persons and animals; or, a roadway forming a means of communication between one place and another.

The name “Wilkerr” has been checked for duplication in the VicNames database and there were no duplicates found within a 30 km radius.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

1. N P 49 - Wilkerr Road - Map [11.3.6.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Costs for the naming of the road are able to be accommodated within the limits of the Council's operating budget.

The naming of new roads and accurate addressing is important to ensure that residents can be located by emergency services and to receive mail. To mitigate the risk of errors, Council needs to comply with the "Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, 2022" and the Australian Standard for Rural and Urban Addressing (AS/NSZ 4819:2011).

OFFICER RECOMMENATION

That Council:

1. Commences the naming process to name this unnamed road to "Wilkerr Road".
2. Gives public notice of the proposed naming of Wilkerr Road and asks for public submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
3. Writes to relevant surrounding property owners advising of the road naming proposal and invitation for public submissions.

MOTION

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. Commences the naming process to name this unnamed road to:
 - "Campbells Road" or
 - "Campbells Lane" or
 - "Williams Road" or
 - "William Campbell Road" or
 - "Willcam Road"
2. Gives public notice of the proposed naming and asks for public submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
3. Writes to relevant surrounding property owners advising of the road naming proposal and invitation for public submissions.

CARRIED

11.3.7. NP50 KATHLEEN STREET AVOCA

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: Emily Beaton – Revenue and Road Naming Officer

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

File No: 58/02/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to give notice of its intent to name an unnamed road in Avoca, between Homebush Road and Station Street.

BACKGROUND

Road names can recognize and reflect culture, heritage and landscape. Appropriate naming is essential to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services, therefore it is important that unnamed roads are rectified accordingly.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In accordance with Pyrenees Shire Council Policy “Principles on Road Naming” Clause 4.1(a), it is proposed to name the unnamed road Kathleen Street.

This unsealed road runs in a South-Easterly direction adjacent to three properties and acts as a secondary access point for these three properties (two residential and one industrial). It may be appropriate for two properties to be readdressed using the proposed street name “Kathleen Street”.

To commence the naming of this road the following road name is suggested:

Kathleen Street

The name, “Kathleen Street”, honours Nurse Kathleen Lucy Walker, born 1890 in Avoca. Daughter of William and Mary Walker, Kathleen served for three years during World War 1 in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). From June 1915 to November 1918, Kathleen was posted at Convalescent Depot, Harefield Park, London, England. Kathleen passed away in 1954 at her home in Brighton, Victoria. The road type “Street” refers to an open-ended public roadway in a town, city or urban area.

The use of a female commemorative name is in accordance with the Victorian Government’s Gender Equality Strategy which legislates that 70% of new commemorative names be that of women (also as per Principle G *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2022*).

The name Kathleen has been checked for duplication in the VicNames database and there were no duplicates found within a 15 km radius.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

1. NP50 - Kathleen Street - Map [11.3.7.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Costs for the naming of the road are able to be accommodated within the limits of the Council's operating budget.

The naming of new roads and accurate addressing is important to ensure that residents are able to be located by emergency services and to receive mail. To mitigate the risk of errors, Council needs to comply with the "Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, 2022" and the Australian Standard for Rural and Urban Addressing (AS/NSZ 4819:2011).

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. Commences the naming process to name this unnamed road to "Kathleen Street".
2. Gives public notice of the proposed naming of Kathleen Street and invites public submissions
3. Writes to relevant surrounding property owners advising of the road naming proposal and invitation for public submissions.

CARRIED

11.3.8. NP51 ROSE MARY WAY AVOCA

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: Emily Beaton – Revenue and Road Naming Officer

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

File No: 58/02/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to give notice of its intent to name a currently unnamed road in Avoca, between Davy Street and Camp Street.

BACKGROUND

Road names can recognise and reflect culture, heritage and landscape. Appropriate naming is essential to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services, therefore it is important that unnamed roads are rectified accordingly.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In accordance with Pyrenees Shire Council Policy “Principles on Road Naming” Clause 4.1(a), it is proposed to name the unnamed road “Rose Mary Way”.

This unsealed road runs in a South direction, offering additional access points to properties that have High Street and Napier Street as their main frontage/entry point.

To commence the naming of this road the following road name is suggested:

Rose Mary Way

The name, “Rose Mary Way”, honours Nurse Rose Mary Walker, born 1889 in Avoca. Like her sister Kathleen, Rose served for three years in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) during World War 1, from 24 June 1915 through to 25 November 1918. In addition to the Convalescent Depot, Harefield Park, London, Rose was also posted in Lemnos and Egypt. Rose passed away in Berwick, Victoria 1970.

The road type “Way” describes an access way between two street and is usually not as straight as an avenue or street.

The use of a female commemorative name is in accordance with the Victorian Government’s Gender Equality Strategy which legislates that 70% of new commemorative names be that of women (also as per Principle G *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2022*).

The name “Rose Mary” was checked for duplication in the VicNames database and there were no duplicates found within a 15 km radius.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

1. NP51 - Rose Mary Way - Map [11.3.8.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Costs for the naming of the road are able to be accommodated within the limits of Council's operating budget.

The naming of new roads and accurate addressing is important to ensure that residents are able to be located by emergency services and to receive mail. To mitigate the risk of errors, Council needs to comply with the "Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, 2022" and the Australian Standard for Rural and Urban Addressing (AS/NSZ 4819:2011).

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. Commences the naming process to name this unnamed road to "Rose Mary Way".
2. Gives public notice of the proposed naming of Rose Mary Way and asks for public submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
3. Writes to relevant surrounding property owners advising of the road naming proposal and invitation for public submissions.

CARRIED

11.3.9. ICT TRANSFORMATION - SHAREPOINT

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: Jacinta Erdody – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 16/20/35

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to enter into a contract for the upgrade of Council's Electronic Document Management system to a SharePoint environment which will overarch a number of other system changes previously approved within the Rural Council's Transformation Project.

BACKGROUND

Through the Rural Council Transformation Project which was a shared procurement process with the Central Goldfields Shire which received partial funding from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to support the shared approach, Council were able to plan and commit to a suite of system upgrades with a focus of 'best fit' systems that were within scope of a regional councils to not only acquire but support beyond implementation.

A key component of the Rural Council Transformation project was ensuring that the selected systems could integrate with other core daily business as usual systems including, but not limited to our Electronic Document Management System. To ensure ongoing compliance to Council's Record Management responsibilities, Council proposes to move to a SharePoint based Electronic Document Management system which will also result in efficiencies to officers day to day business.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The upgrade of our Electronic Document Management system to a SharePoint based environment has been budgeted for. However, initial investigations of this element of the project indicated that the total expense would be within the financial delegation of the Chief Executive Officer.

Further scoping of this upgrade and finalization of the final procurement process has resulted in a total project expenditure above existing financial delegations. To ensure compliance to financial delegated authority, Council approval is now sought to proceed with this system upgrade.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5c. Ensure timely, clear and consistent communication underpinned by transparency.

5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The existing IT Project budget contingency has sufficient funds to cover the additional unplanned \$30,000 expenditure.

CONCLUSION

That Council approve the overarching integrated Electronic Document Management System, SharePoint to proceed by providing authorisation of the relevant contracts by the Chief Executive Officer.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council:

1. Approves and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to award and sign relevant contract for the upgrade to the proposed SharePoint Electronic Document Management System to the value of \$330,000 which includes implementation, integration and licencing of the system/software.

CARRIED

11.3.10. PRIMARY PRODUCER SUPPORT PAYMENT PROGRAM

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: Jacinta Erdody – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 16/17/05

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council decision in relation to the distribution of the recently announced Primary Producer Support Payment Program which was announced on the 4 July 2025 by the Premier of Victoria.

BACKGROUND

On the 4 July 2025 the Premier of Victoria, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP announced the Primary Producer Support Payment Program (PPSP) which provided \$35.8 million to selected south west Victorian councils, of which Pyrenees is one of those Councils. The PPSP is part of the broader Drought Support Package.

The PPSP is being delivered on behalf of the Victorian Government through Local Government Victoria (LGV) within the Department of Government Services and in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. The funding allocated to Pyrenees Shire was equivalent to 40% (\$2,034,610) of the differential farm rate, based on the 2025/26 budget with an additional lump sum (\$101,731) to go to Council for administering the program.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The initial marketing of the program from the Government was around a 40% support payment to farm rated properties. While the funding allocation has been costed against rate relief, the Victorian Government provided councils with discretion to decide how to allocate the available funding to target the most severely drought affected farming businesses.

On this basis Council needs to decide on their approach to disburse the allocated fund, either through a 40% payment support on farm rated properties or, an alternative approach which Council would need to provide relevant supporting rationale and then relevant funding agreements can be issued. To propose an alternative approach that creates the intent of initial Government messaging would provide some significant challenges and potential criticism of Council.

Officers attended an online information session on 17 July 2025 to understand any further elements of the funding and it is worth recognizing that this program will not consider new properties that may become eligible for the farm rate during the financial year. The program will only apply to those properties that were categorized as farm at the time of Council's budget being adopted.

The hope of LGV was that Council would be able to incorporate any adjustments on their annual Rate and Valuation Notice. However, acknowledge that where this is not possible, Council will be required to provide further correspondence to relevant properties to advise them of relevant adjustments.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5c. Ensure timely, clear and consistent communication underpinned by transparency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

With Council rate notices expected to be arriving in mail boxes as early as the 18 July 2025, beyond the formal decision of Council to distribute the funds a further letter will be issued to relevant property owners to make them aware of the adjustment in accordance with the program.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The PPSP program will provide a support payment to the total value of \$2,034,610 against properties which are rated under the Farm differential rate at the time Council adopted the 2025/26 Budget. This amount equates to 40% of the total revenue generated from the Farm differential rate within budget documents.

CONCLUSION

On the basis that Council does not believe that they are in a position to determine whether one farming business property owner over another is more severely drought affected, it is recommended that Council distribute the PPSP program as it was promoted by the Victorian Government and apply a 40% Support Payment to those properties that are rated under the Farm differential rate within the 2025/26 Budget.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. Adopt the initial intent of the Primary Producer Support Payment Program and apply a 40% support payment to all properties rated under the Farm differential rate in accordance with the adopted 2025/26 Budget.

CARRIED

11.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

11.4.1. MEMBERSHIP - TIMBER TOWNS VICTORIA (TTV)

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 22/16/22

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider whether to continue membership with Timber Towns Victoria (TTV).

BACKGROUND

Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) is an incorporated Local Government Association formed in the early 1980s, representing the interests of municipal councils in relation to forestry on both public and private land. The Association's primary function is to provide a forum for local government to address the management of forests and forest industries and their impact on local communities.

With significant native and plantation forests within the shire, Pyrenees has seen a benefit to membership with TTV since it commenced. The key reasons for Pyrenees involvement have related to:

- Impact of timber haulage on the road network
- Other impacts of forestry practice and support for members regarding the implementation of the Code of Practice.
- Support and advocacy associated with employment within the sector important to rural and regional communities.
- Advocacy to government on relevant matters impacting Councils and communities.
- Research and provision of information for members on forestry related matters.

TTV is an active Committee holding regular meetings in person and virtually.

The Strategic Plan 2025-2027 for TTV is attached to this report.

Further information on TTV can be found on their website here: [Home - Timber Towns Victoria](#)
Membership also provides access to the TTV portal which has a range of other research and resources.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A key strategic priority for Timber Towns Victoria is the TIRES report (Timber Industry Road Evaluation Study) which aims to identify and quantify upgrades needed to the road network that supports the timber industry across Victoria. The study provides a detailed assessment of the projected works and costs for road infrastructure required to serve the needs of the timber industry.

The TIRES report has recently been reviewed and the 2023-27 TIRES Report is attached to this report.

The TIRES report is divided into the four regions – Northeast, Gippsland, Central Victoria and South West Victoria – with the overall outcome being a prioritised plan for upgrades required to the road network for the next five years. It places these works in a statewide economic context, with the report examining the economic benefits of the forest industry in Victoria to the State Government, local governments, industry, and the community.

Council's advocacy for road funding has in the past been supported by evidence from the TIRES research, and in particular in relation to the Raglan –Elmhurst Road which has progressively been upgraded over approximately 15-year period.

The recent TIRES review however has not identified and local roads in Pyrenees in need of upgrade in the immediate future.

The Victorian Government's decision to end logging in native forests has impacted business and employment in Pyrenees shire as reported previously to Council, and currently there is a transition underway. While the impact in Pyrenees has been somewhat less than in other Councils such as Wellington Southern and East Gippsland Shires, TTV has provided strong leadership in support of its member Councils on this matter. TTV has prepared a position statement and established a Transition Committee to monitor the process and impacts of the state's decision.

In October 2023, Council considered a report on TTV membership and resolved to continue membership, but to seek waiver of the membership fees for three years.

TTV considered the matter at its meeting on 7 December 2023 and deferred a decision until the AGM in August 2024 at which new membership fees were set at \$2500+ GST for the 2025/26 financial year.

There has not been a Pyrenees Councillor representative nominated on the TTV committee in 2024/2025. Officer involvement in the committee in recent years has been limited due to the need to manage workload.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

5a. Foster values driven inclusive culture, which is responsive, accountable and aligned to priority.

5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

ATTACHMENTS

1. TTV - 2025-2027 Strategic Plan [11.4.1.1 - 20 pages]
2. TTV - TIRES Report [11.4.1.2 - 12 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The annual membership fee with TTV for Pyrenees for 2025/2026 is \$2,750 (incl GST)

CONCLUSION

Pyrenees Shire Council has been a member of TTV for many years and the benefits of membership have been presented to Councillors to consider whether it should continue in the context of continuing financial constraints.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council discontinues its membership with Timber Towns Victoria given Council's ongoing financial constraints.

CARRIED

12. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Simon Tol

As you will see, I have been around to a few bits and pieces in June. It's been a terrific month of getting involved in the communities activity, particularly that meeting down at Bookar on the ESVF and I think we have achieved a bit of a result there that we have got a hold on the ESVF so that was well worthwhile and well supported.

My main concern that I want to raise tonight is the Western Highway, you know we have had 7 deaths in 12 months, and we discussed it in the briefing before, we have got to start to advocate fairly strongly to get a result down there. It's our first responders and our communities that are going to those accidents, it is also putting pressure on our arterial roads with the diversions and out the front of home the other night, we were just waiting for another accident. We have got to really push this and try to get some funding to get a result because there are plenty of us that travel that road and we do not want to be sitting here with a wreath on someone's desk talking about someone fairly close to us being lost there because of that being sitting there with inactivity for numerous years. I think we have to make that a priority, advocate for some funds to that and get something happening.

MOTION

Cr Tol / Cr Phelan

That Council advocate for completion of the duplication of the Buangor – Ararat section of the Western Highway.

CARRIED

Cr Megan Phelan

In addition to the usual Council meetings and briefings and getting down to Redbank and checking out the streetscape works and looking at the gallery precinct in Avoca, there are a couple of events, and I know that Cr Wardlaw will speak to these as well but there are two events that I attended that really stay to me to this day and they were both incredibly moving experiences.

One was attending the Terry Floyd memorial service and the other was seeing the 'Just a Farmer' film but with the community there in Avoca. You know it can sound a bit cliched where you hear about the community being resilient and coming together and supporting each other but I think we saw two real demonstrations of that, I mean particularly for Daryl Floyd in remembrance of his young brother Terry who was abducted, and his body has never been found. It was an incredibly moving service and recognition that young Terry's memory lives on and his brother's passion and commitment to commemorate his young life and also, in a different way, but recognising loss and grief, Just a Farmer really focused on farmer suicides and the ripple effect off those suicides, and it was really interesting. It was incredibly moving but also interesting to speak with some of the community members at that event who, women in particular, women who would have been close to my age maybe a bit older, and who were there with their husbands, husbands who I think were a bit older and all of the women I spoke to said of course I'm here to support the community, but it's my husband and I want to listen to this message because it is so much about men needing to open up and recognise the stresses that they're under. I thought it was really interesting that women raised that.

Incredibly important events, it was great to see community members come out and support those and to hopefully help us to continue to talk about child safety, keeping our loved ones close and safe and also recognition of this stresses that farmers are under and trying to get men in particular but not exclusively to just open up about how they are feeling. There was a doctor on the panel at the end, Dr Michael, was

encouraging those in the audience to just start practising staying I feel, I feel, I feel sad or I feel stressed, really encouraging people to open up so important messages.

Cr Wardlaw

Like everyone else I have been to lots of meetings, AGM's, Audit and Risk, those sorts of things that I had on my list.

The Terry Floyd Memorial which Cr Phelan has spoken very nicely about and I was lucky to be a part of it but I also felt more than that, it was a very very sombre and reflective afternoon but I wouldn't call it sad, It was just an appreciation of what may have happened and when at the second point Daryl laid the wreath at the same time that Terry vanished, in the same place that he vanished from, there was 100 of us standing there and you could have heard a pin drop, and this was outside, It was actually just an incredible thing to be a part of.

I was lucky to be the MC of Just a Farmer and that was also fantastic, coming together of people and then the panel at the end where we got to ask some questions. My big takeaway, and the thing that stood out to me the most is that you never actually know and appreciate what you mean to someone else, you know, you may think your worthless or what have you but someone else sees you in a totally different light. You may think you fail, someone else sees you as an amazing ambassador, they are the things that I took from it.

It has been a pretty good month in our ward and hopefully in everyone else's and I look forward to the next one.

Cr Ferrari presented Mayor, Cr Kehoe's activities in her absence:

Cr Kehoe

Save the bush rally down at Bookar, that was really important.

Attended Council briefings, RCV meetings, the Pyrenees Art Exhibition opening night which was fantastic, the Beaufort Primary School Drink Tap Water Fountain in partnership with Central Highlands Water, Special Council Meeting, National General Assembly, Audit and Risk Committee, GBAC Committee meeting with Minister Staikos – so that is really important, that Mayors get to those meetings if they can, just be recognised if nothing else, so it is really really important if they can put a name to a face.

Fat Farmers Feast, Terry Floyd Memorial, Beaufort Rotary change over lunch, Citizenship ceremony, which was fantastic, there was six new citizens which was absolutely fantastic and the council briefing. I cannot elaborate any further on some of those as that would have to come from Cr Kehoe.

Cr Ferrari

My events are similar things. I would just like to highlight the Pyrenees Art Exhibition opening night, just a fantastic night, they do such a great job, and they have that all setup there absolutely beautiful. We are just so lucky to have some very talented people amongst us, they're just extremely talented and artistic and you see some of the works and it is just mind-blowing, it is just fantastic, we are very very lucky and congratulations to the organisers of that event and also for the shire in the way that they have helped out as well.

I also attended the Terry Floyd memorial with all of the councillors. I found it quite touching, in fact, I found it a little bit eerie, it was to the day, 50 years previously, as Cr Wardlaw mentioned, when Daryl Floyd, Terry's brother laid the wreath, it was at the exact time and at the same location where Terry was last seen 50 years previously and you could have heard a pin drop, even the weather was a little bit eerie. I just thought it was really fitting and it's fantastic that he is recognised and hopefully some things can go Daryl's

way because he has been funding a lot of this out of his own pocket which I don't see as fair, but nonetheless, he has done a fantastic job, so keep your chin up Daryl, I had the pleasure of meeting him on that day too so that was really fantastic.

I attended the citizenship ceremony which we had six people become naturalised, citizens of Australia and they're all relatively local, they are local but I think one from Beaufort and a couple from Snake Valley. It is really good, it's fantastic and they love it, they get their certificate, they get to say few words and get a native plant and it's really really good so thank you to the Council for organising that as well.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.1.1(c) of Council's Governance Rules, and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the meeting be closed to the public in order to consider confidential items.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That the meeting be closed to members of the public in accordance with Section 4.1.1(c) of Council's Governance Rules, and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, in order to discuss the confidential reports listed below:

15.1 - Revised Banking Services

CARRIED

The live streaming of Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21 July 2025 stopped at 7.55pm to consider confidential items.

The live stream re-commenced at 7.59pm and the Chair chose to report on confidential items discussed in closed Council which are noted below:

- A discussion was held around Banking Services.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21 July 2025 closed at 7.59pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

2025 Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe