



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Special Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Monday 11 May 2026
Virtual

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1. WELCOME

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Damian Ferrari

Councillors: Megan Phelan, Simon Tol, Rebecca Wardlaw, Tanya Kehoe

Chief Executive Officer: Jim Nolan

Director Asset and Development Services: Douglas Gowans

Director of Corporate and Community Services: Jacinta Erdody

Manager Finance: Glenn Kallio

EA to CEO and Councillors: Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

Senior Communications Officer: Fiona Henderson

Communications Officer: Helen D'Costa

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari read the livestream preamble.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar, Wotjabaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Nations, whose lands and waters the Pyrenees Shire operates on. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders, and recognise and respect their customs, stewardship and continuing connection to Country.

4. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. ITEMS FOR DECISION

6.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1.1. 2026/27 DRAFT BUDGET AND 10 YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

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

File No: 32/08/18

PURPOSE

This report presents the Council with the Pyrenees Shire Council draft Budget for the 2026/27 financial year and the draft 10-year Financial Plan covering the years 2026/27 to 2035/36 for Council to consider placing the documents on public exhibition and inviting submission.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides that a Council:

- Must prepare and adopt a Budget for each financial year and the subsequent three years by 30 June each year – Section 94(1)(a)
- Must develop or review the Financial Plan – Section 91(4)
- Must develop the Budget, any Revised Budget and 10-year Financial Plan in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy – Section 96(1)(b)
- Must develop the Budget, any Revised Budget and 10-year Financial Plan in accordance with the financial management principles – Section 96(1)(a)
- Must prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by the next 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years – Section 93

If endorsed for consultation, the draft Budget 2026/27, and draft 10-year financial plan (final draft to be tabled at meeting) will be made publicly available, and Council will invite written submissions from Tuesday 12 May 2026 until 9.00am Wednesday 10th June 2026. The documents will be made available at Council's customer service centers and via Council's website.

The Revenue and Rating Plan was adopted for a four year period, as there are no proposed changes to the four year Plan there is no requirement to put this Plan out for public comment.

This report includes a recommendation that the Council, in accordance with sections 55, 91, 94, and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) endorses the release of:

- Draft Budget 2026/27; and
- Draft 10-year financial plan.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Draft Budget for 2026/27 and draft 10-year Financial Plan (final draft to be tabled at the meeting) have been prepared taking into consideration the rate cap set by the Victorian Government of 2.75% alongside current economic factors including rising costs, particularly in areas such as construction, materials, insurance, utilities, salaries and service delivery.

The rate cap applies to the overall general rate revenue raised across all property types in the municipality. However, the change in the level of rates charged for individual properties may vary from the 2.75% rate cap, based on the movement in the valuation of individual properties because of the yearly revaluation of properties as determined by the Victoria State Government.

This budget has been prepared considering the financial viability of the Council over the life of the 10-year Financial Plan. In response to ongoing economic challenges council will continue to carefully review its services and how services are delivered now and into the future. This will include looking for efficiencies, prioritizing spending and planning responsibly to ensure Council can continue to deliver essential services and key projects into the future.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

- 5a. Foster values driven inclusive culture, which is responsive, accountable and aligned to priority.
- 5c. Ensure timely, clear and consistent communication underpinned by transparency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

It is recommended that the Council, in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy, advertise the draft Budget 2026/27, and draft 10-year financial plan for public comment, invite public submissions and provide for those who wish to speak to their submission the opportunity to do so before the Council. The council is required to consider all submissions prior to adopting the draft Budget and draft 10-year financial plan.

The purpose of the community engagement is to:

- Demonstrate accountability and transparency through clear and accessible communications to ensure our strategic priorities and financial decisions are understood.
- Explain how Council's decisions represent value for money while supporting the needs of the community.
- Build trust and confidence in Pyrenees Shire Council by aligning with community values and priorities.

To achieve this, officers will promote the opportunity for community to provide feedback on the draft Budget. Details regarding the draft budget will be promoted in the following channels:

- Pyrenees Shire Council Digital and Social Media Channels
- Print Media
- Broadcast Media
- Face-to-face engagement
- Direct Communications.

Members of the community who prepare a written submission can request to speak to their submission at the 15 June 2026 Meeting of Council.

Once the community engagement period has closed and any supporting verbal submissions have been heard, Council will further consider proposals within the financial constraints and alignment to strategic objectives.

Council will then hold a Special Meeting of Council on the 22 June 2026 where they may adopt the draft Budget 2026/27 and draft 10-year Financial Plan with or without amendment. The Council must adopt the 2026/27 Budget by 30 June 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Circulated separately.

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications associated with this report have been accounted for within the Draft Budget 2026/27.

CONCLUSION

This report presents the draft Budget 2026/27 and draft 10-year Financial Plan based on the ongoing delivery of current services and service levels. The draft Budget 2026/27 and draft 10-year Financial Plan, as tabled, provide guidance on how Council intends to deliver its strategic objectives over the next twelve months and maintain financial sustainability over the next 10 years which will include ongoing review of services.

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. Gives Public Notice in accordance with sections 55 and 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) of Council's intention to adopt the draft Budget 2026/27, and 10-year Financial Plan prepared in accordance with section 94 of the Act, at a Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm Monday 29 June 2026.
2. Gives public notice seeking submissions on the proposals contained in the draft Budget 2026/27, and 10-year Financial Plan. Written public submissions will be accepted for 28 days ending 5.00pm Monday 15 June 2026.
3. Gives public notice that any person who wishes to be heard in support of a written submission provided to Council should indicate in the written submission that they wish to appear before the scheduled Council Meeting on Monday 22 June 2026, to verbally present their submission either personally or via a person acting on their behalf at a meeting.

CARRIED

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Special Meeting of Council - 11 May 2026 closed at 6:09 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari