



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Monday 20 July 2026
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	4
7. BUSINESS ARISING	4
8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	4
9. ITEMS FOR NOTING	5
9.1. Economic Development and Tourism.....	5
9.1.1. Economic Development Update	5
9.2. Corporate and Community Services.....	13
9.2.1. Audit and Risk Committee June 2026	13
9.2.2. Customer Request Overview 2025/26	15
9.3. Chief Executive Office.....	22
9.3.1. Local Government Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities) Bill 2026....	22
10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS	24
10.1. Councillor Activity Reports - June 2026	24
11. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS.....	27
11.1. Assembly of Councillors - June 2026	27
12. ITEMS FOR DECISION	29
12.1. Corporate and Community Services.....	29
12.1.1. 2026/27 Budget Considerations.....	29
12.1.2. Recreation Strategy Funding Approval	32
12.1.3. Swimming Pool Operational Review Season 26/27	36
12.1.4. Chief Executive Officer - Financial Delegation	41
12.1.5. Council Plan Progress Report 2025/2026	43
12.2. Chief Executive Office.....	45
12.2.1. Carranballac Recreation Reserve - Temporary Facilities	45
13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS	47
14. CLOSE OF MEETING	47

1. WELCOME

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

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

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

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar, 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

5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 June 2026;
- Closed Meeting of Council held 15 June 2026;
- Special Meeting of Council held 22 June 2026;
- Special Meeting of Council held 29 June 2026; and
- Closed Special Meeting of Council held 29 June 2026

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising (items taken on notice) from the previous meeting held 15 June 2026.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Participation

- Members of the community are encouraged to participate in public Ordinary Council Meetings by asking questions or presenting a submission.
- This can be done by attending in person or by submitting in writing, prior to 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting, online through Council's website, by mail or hand-delivered.
- If a question or submission is submitted in writing, this will be read by the Chair during public participation, stating the person's name and township.
- Question time will be held first, followed by public submissions.
- 30 minutes is allowed for the total period of public participation. Time extensions may be allowed at the discretion of the Chair subject to the provisions of the Governance Rules.
- A person may ask a maximum of two questions at any one meeting.
- The Chair will allocate a maximum of five (5) minutes to each person who wishes to address Council or ask question(s).
- The Chair, Councillor, or Council officer to whom a question is referred may immediately answer the question or take the question on notice for answering at a later date.
- There will be no discussion or debate with public attendees however Councillors may ask questions of the attendee for clarification.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

9.1.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Presenter: Douglas Gowans – Acting 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 councilors on recent activities of the Economic Development and Tourism team over the June quarter of 2026.

BACKGROUND

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

- Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees (SWNP) water supply project
- Beaufort Lake Caravan Park
- Economic Development and Investment Attraction Strategy
- Resilient Agriculture Project
- Beaufort off leash dog park
- The digital connectivity plan
- Business support
- Events and tourism campaigns

Fire recovery support has also been ongoing in addition to the abovementioned project work to support members of Councils recovery team and address the needs of those communities impacted during the Streatham to Skipton fire in January.

SWNP Water Supply

The Preliminary Business Case and Traditional Owner Water Assessments by Dja Dja Wurrung have now been completed and funding acquittals submitted to the Victorian Government.

The next phase of the project requires the support of the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to complete due diligence pre-construction investigations as the next step towards funding the investment ready construction phase of the project.

More specifically the costs of these investigations are estimated to cost \$5 million and include:

- geotechnical investigations to better understand ground conditions along pipeline corridors
- detailed pipeline alignment and hydraulic design
- environmental approvals and environmental water planning
- cultural heritage investigations and Traditional Owner engagement
- planning approvals pathway and land access negotiations
- refinement of cost estimates and delivery schedules.

Early geotechnical investigations are particularly important given experience from other regional pipeline projects where higher-than-anticipated rock excavation has resulted in construction cost increases.

Completion of this stage will enable the development of a fully developed project design and delivery plan, providing greater confidence in project costs, environmental outcomes and delivery timeframes.

Council has been undertaking advocacy to both the Victorian and Commonwealth Government Ministers about this priority project in partnership with Central Goldfields and Northern Grampians Shire Councils.

Beaufort Lake Caravan Park

The final stages of Phase One of the parks redevelopment were completed in June 2026.

Further works have been undertaken recently to:

- Asphalt the entry to the park
- Remove two ensuite blocks to make way for additional powered sites. Further work is required to commission the new sites at the time of developing this report

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
- Internal road upgrades

Stage 3

- Construction of a replacement all abilities camp kitchen with recreation room
- DDA compliant and renovated amenities block
- Replacement of four more 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 (subject to detailed plans and costings and approvals by Department of Transport).
- 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

- Install additional studio block of three to four studios

Economic Development and Investment Attraction Strategy

The draft Pyrenees EDIAS was placed on public exhibit following the May Council meeting and further consideration of public submissions remains pending at the time of this report.

A workshop with the consultant and Councillors has been scheduled for August.

Resilient Agriculture Report

Pyrenees Shire Council was the sponsor and project lead of this region wide project with Federation University being engaged to undertake this project.

The final report and its recommendations were presented to Council at the May Council meeting and a resolution being passed that Council:

1. Notes the report.
2. Endorses the recommendations in the above mentioned report in particular where these align to the objectives of the 2026 Economic Development Strategy.
3. Collaborates with regional organisations such as the Central Highlands Regional Partnership, Grampians RDA and GBAC to implement actions which respond to recommendations of regional importance.

Beaufort Off Leash Dog Park

Council received funding approval of \$111,000- from the Victorian Government to develop a dog park in Beaufort in mid-2025.

Since completing concept plans in consultation with the local community in late July 2025 site investigations have included:

- Testing for soil contamination
- Engaging a Cultural Heritage Consultant in September 2025 due to the site being located within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity. An inception meeting was held with traditional owners in early 2026, preliminary site investigations and subsequent complex site investigations have been completed and Cultural Heritage Management Plans drafted and lodged with Aboriginal Victoria at the beginning of July. The outcome of these is expected by September 2026.
- In the interim development of detailed designs and procurement documentation has been progressed in readiness for CHMP approvals so that works can commence as soon as possible.

Digital Connectivity Plan

Council has long been advocating for improved mobile phone coverage for the Lexton community and following recent planning approval of a new Telstra tower there, construction has now commenced.

NBNCo also held the official launch of a new telecommunications tower at Waterloo at the end of April.

In November 2025 NBN Co and Amazon announced an agreement to deliver high-speed, wholesale fixed broadband to customers in parts of regional, rural and remote Australia via Project Kuiper's low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite technology.

Project Kuiper is Amazon's satellite broadband business that will provide fast, reliable internet to customers around the world. Amazon is planning to launch its service in Australia from the middle of 2026.

Business Support

Business Support Overview

The Easter and King's Birthday long weekends delivered a welcome boost to businesses within the visitor economy, with many reporting strong trading conditions and solid accommodation bookings throughout April. However, many small retail and hospitality businesses experienced a noticeable decline in trade during June compared with the same period last year, reflecting the ongoing challenges facing the economy.

Key Initiatives

Grounded: Business Clarity Workshop Series

Council partnered with Grounded to deliver a free four-week Business Clarity Workshop Series throughout May, supporting local businesses to strengthen their financial confidence, planning and long-term sustainability.

- Six Beaufort businesses participated in the program.
- Participants reported improved financial literacy, greater business confidence and clearer strategic direction.

Participant feedback included:

- *"I don't feel like I'm walking blind anymore. I have much greater clarity in what I am doing right and what I need to improve."*
- *"I had no clue if I was making a profit and I now have the ability to work that out."*
- *"More power and tools to make changes. More encouraged to ask for the price I need to stay viable."*
- *"Permission to not feel guilt, and an improved sense of my worth in the business."*
- *"Feeling energised, excited and creative."*

Next Steps:

As part of Council's partnership with Grounded, Pyrenees Shire Council will receive 25 complimentary places in the online Business Clarity Program when it launches in September 2026 (valued at \$6,250). These places will be offered to local businesses, providing flexible access to professional development that can be completed at a time convenient to participants.

A detailed program outcomes report is attached.

Small Business Bus

The Small Business Bus visited Beaufort on 11 May 2026, providing free one-on-one business mentoring and advice to local businesses.

- **Location:** Beaufort Band Rotunda
- **Participants:** 5 local businesses

Pyrenees Wine Growers Pop-Up Cellar Door (Ballarat)

The six-month Pyrenees Wine Growers Pop-Up Cellar Door at The George Hotel concluded during the quarter. Following its success, The George Hotel has elected to continue operating a dedicated wine bar featuring Pyrenees and Grampians wines on Friday and Saturday evenings, complemented by wood-fired pizzas. This ongoing initiative will continue to increase exposure of the Pyrenees wine region to new audiences, strengthen regional tourism partnerships and support local producers.

Upcoming Business Development

Business Victoria Workshop – Social Media and Content Marketing

- **Date:** Wednesday 23 September 2026
- **Time:** 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
- **Venue:** Avoca Visitor Information Centre

This workshop will provide local businesses with practical skills to improve their social media presence, develop engaging content and strengthen their digital marketing capability.

Spendmapp May Report: [May 2026 Spending Summary - Pyrenees Shire Council](#)



Events

Pyrenees Shire Events Overview

The April to June quarter concluded the 2025/26 events season with a diverse calendar of events that attracted visitors, supported local businesses and showcased the Pyrenees Shire.

Key events included:

- **Pyrenees Unearthed Wine & Food Festival**
The festival recorded its strongest attendance in recent years. Despite wet weather later in the day, visitor numbers and event atmosphere remained positive. Council provided \$4,000 through the Tourism Sponsorship Program, along with in-kind support including event umbrellas, barriers, bunting, mulch and watering of the river flats prior to the event. Through ongoing collaboration with the Pyrenees Wine Growers, the festival has developed into a financially sustainable event that is no longer reliant on external grant funding.
- **Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally**
The annual Steam Rally was again well supported, although wet weather on the Sunday impacted attendance, with the majority of visitors attending on Saturday. Council supported the event through a \$5,000 Tourism Sponsorship.
- **Pace the Pyrenees**
A successful new trail running event was held over the King's Birthday long weekend, based at the Goldfields Recreation Reserve with courses through the Beaufort Lake precinct and Trawalla State Forest. The event attracted approximately 170 participants across distances ranging from 2 km to 50 km over two days. Many participants stayed locally, resulting in increased bookings at the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park and benefiting

local businesses. Event organisers were pleased with the inaugural event and have indicated their intention to return in 2027. Council supported the event through a \$4,000 Tourism Sponsorship.

Event Support (April to June 2026)

- 6 formal event applications received
- 5 events requiring formal applications were delivered during the quarter
- 39 events across the Shire received marketing and promotional support

Tourism

Digital Statistics – April - June 2026

Facebook

	Organic Posts Reached	Organic Page Visits	New Followers	Paid Ad Reach
Apr – June 2026	157,683	2,286	143	40,305
Apr – June 2025	56,735	1,136	49	25,102
Last Quarter Jan - Mar 2026	106,841	1,507	122	31,315

Instagram Organic Posts

	Posts Reached	Page Visits	New Followers	Paid Ad Reach
Apr – June 2026	549	141	39	
Apr – June 2025	2,719	269	65	
Last Quarter Jan-Mar 2026	16,365	130	49	12,100

Visit Pyrenees Website

- 18,516 Users
- 14.2K was from a direct search, 3.5K organic search, 488 Referrals, 251 Socials
- Most visited pages were Home page, Pyrenees wineries, What's On, things to do, Winery Accommodation

Analysis of platform performance

Over the reporting period, Facebook page views increased while Instagram views declined. This likely reflects changing user behaviour and differences in Meta's platform algorithms. Facebook continues to perform well for tourism content, particularly among visitors researching destinations and events, while Instagram increasingly prioritises highly engaging short-form video and content that generates strong watch time, saves and shares. The results suggest our audience remains active on Facebook for travel inspiration and planning, while Instagram content may need to evolve further towards more Reels, behind-the-scenes experiences and interactive storytelling to improve organic reach.

Tourism Report Summary

The April to June quarter marked the transition between two major destination marketing campaigns, with April concluding the successful **Play in the Pyrenees campaign** before the launch of the annual **Road to Red** winter campaign in May.

April was one of the busiest months on the tourism calendar, attracting strong visitor interest through a diverse range of events and experiences. The Easter long weekend generated significant visitation across the shire, complemented by several easter themed events. One of the regions major events, Pyrenees Unearthed was hosted in April as well as ANZAC Day commemorations and our regular winery events, art exhibitions and local attractions also continued to draw visitors, providing a vibrant calendar that showcased the region's food, wine, arts and community spirit.

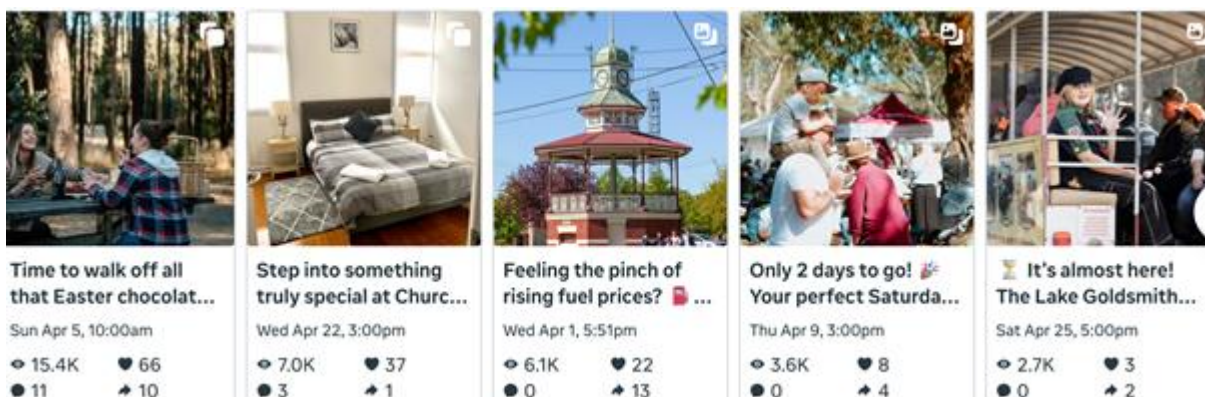
With the arrival of cooler weather, the marketing focus shifted in May and June to the **Road to Red campaign**. This seasonal campaign encourages visitors to experience the Pyrenees during winter by enjoying the region's renowned wineries, cosy cellar doors, open fireplaces, premium red wines, local produce and welcoming country hospitality. Promotional activity highlights the unique appeal of winter in the Pyrenees, encouraging longer stays and showcasing experiences that are best enjoyed during the colder months.

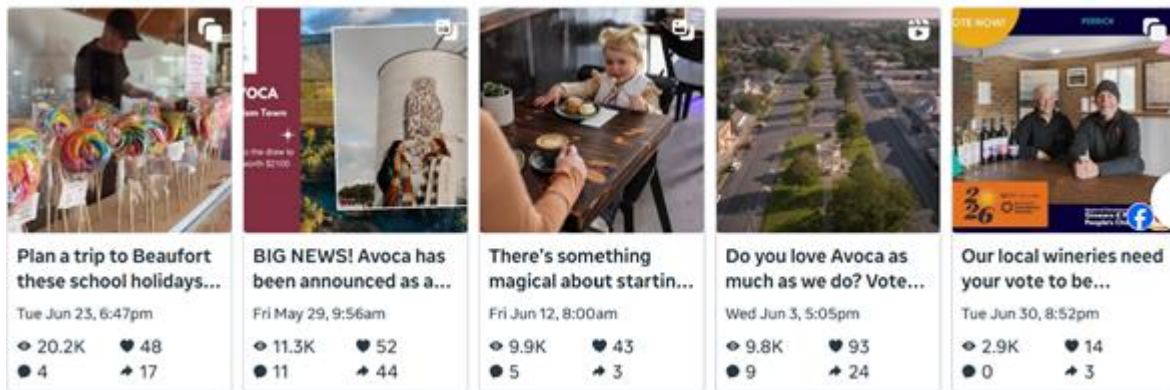
Throughout the quarter, marketing efforts continued to promote the breadth of visitor experiences available across the municipality, including wineries, accommodation providers, walking trails, local events, museums, galleries, cafés and unique attractions. Social media, digital marketing and industry partnerships remained key channels for increasing destination awareness and inspiring visitation during both campaign periods.

The transition between campaigns ensured the Visit Pyrenees brand maintained a consistent presence, promoting the region as an attractive destination across all seasons while supporting local tourism operators and businesses.

The quarter also saw a strong response to Avoca's participation in the Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards. A coordinated promotional campaign, including social media activity and the release of a dedicated promotional video, encouraged residents, visitors and supporters to vote for Avoca. The campaign generated strong engagement across social media platforms and contributed to an increase in traffic to the Visit Pyrenees website during the public voting period, further raising the profile of Avoca and the wider Pyrenees region as a visitor destination.

Top Posts





ISSUE / DISCUSSION

This report is for information only.

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.

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

- 3c. Support local industries and communities in adapting to climate change.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ground Advisory Workshop Series Final Outcomes Report [9.1.1.1 - 10 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Following completion of phase one of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park development further investment of an estimated \$3 million is being sought to complete stages two 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.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report

9.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

9.2.1. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE JUNE 2026

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: 32/04/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with an update of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting M020 held on 16 June 2026.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* Section 54 requires Council to establish an Audit and Risk Committee. The existing committee has three independent members and the Charter was most recently reviewed and adopted at the March 2025 meeting and subsequently adopted by Council in April 2025. The charter was adopted for a period of two years.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A copy of the draft minutes from June 2026 is attached for Council information. An overview of the June 2026 meeting included:

- A report from the CEO which covered topics such as the CEO Resignation, Financial Sustainability, Strategic Documents on public exhibition, an update on the Streatham Yalla-Y-Poorra Fire, the multi Enterprise Agreement, Community Satisfaction Survey outcomes and an update on the Burke Street Workers Accommodation project;
- Regular reports and updates were received from Council's External and Internal Auditors;
- Financial, Compliance and Governance reports were provided inclusive of an update on outstanding audit actions;
- The annual self-assessment audit of the Audit and Risk Committee; and
- An updated Workplan of reports to future meetings and progress towards previously identified reporting.

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

1. 2026.06.16 - M 020 - MINUTES - Audit Risk Committee Meeting - 16 June 2026 [9.2.1.1 - 14 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial and risk matters were addressed within reports presented to the Audit and Risk Committee.

CONCLUSION

Council continues to hold the Audit and Risk Committee meetings in accordance with our legislative obligations and approved Charter. This report provides an overview of the topics discussed at the June 2026 meeting. Any queries relating to the meeting may be directed to the designated Councillor representatives.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the information contained within this report and its attachment.

9.2.2. CUSTOMER REQUEST OVERVIEW 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: Colette Steinhardt – Manager Governance and Performance

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

File No: 16/24/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of statistical information on the contacts made with officers by our community during the 2025/26 financial year.

The report presents information on Customer Action Requests (CARS), Information and Communications Technology (ICT), cyber security assurance, and communications and digital engagement to support Council's oversight of service delivery and operational activities.

BACKGROUND

Customer enquiries and requests are received through a variety of channels, including telephone, email, Council's website, in person at Council offices and the Snap Send Solve application.

Requests requiring investigation or action are recorded within Council's Customer Action Request System (CARS) and allocated to the appropriate service area for response.

CARS supports the management and monitoring of a broad range of operational matters, including road and drainage maintenance, parks and reserves, building maintenance, local laws and other Council services. Telephone messages are also recorded within the system to assist with monitoring customer enquiries and officer responses.

In addition to customer requests, Council's customer service functions are supported by information technology systems, cyber security controls and digital communication platforms. Together, these systems support the delivery of customer services, community engagement and the secure management of information.

This report provides Council with an overview of activity across these areas for the 2025/26 financial year, using information available from Council's operational systems and business areas.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

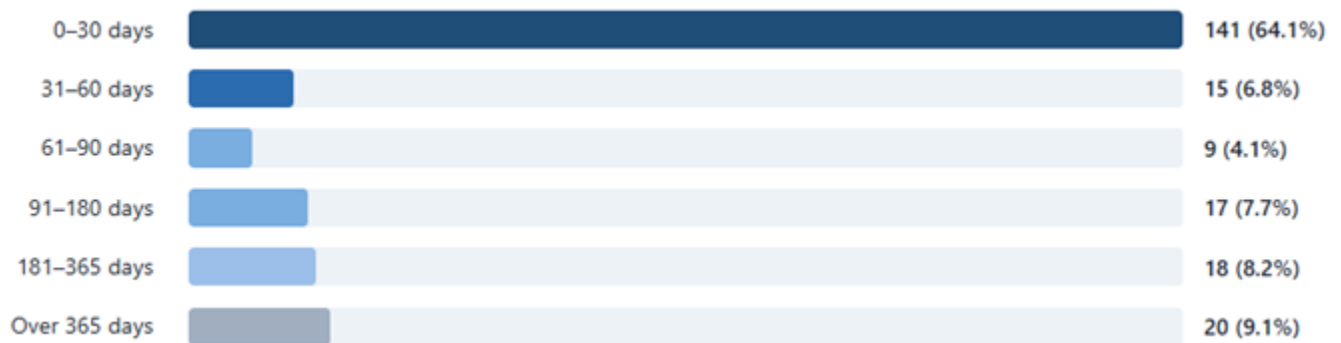
This report provides an overview of customer service and related operational activity during the 2025/26 financial year.

1. Customer Action Requests (CARS)

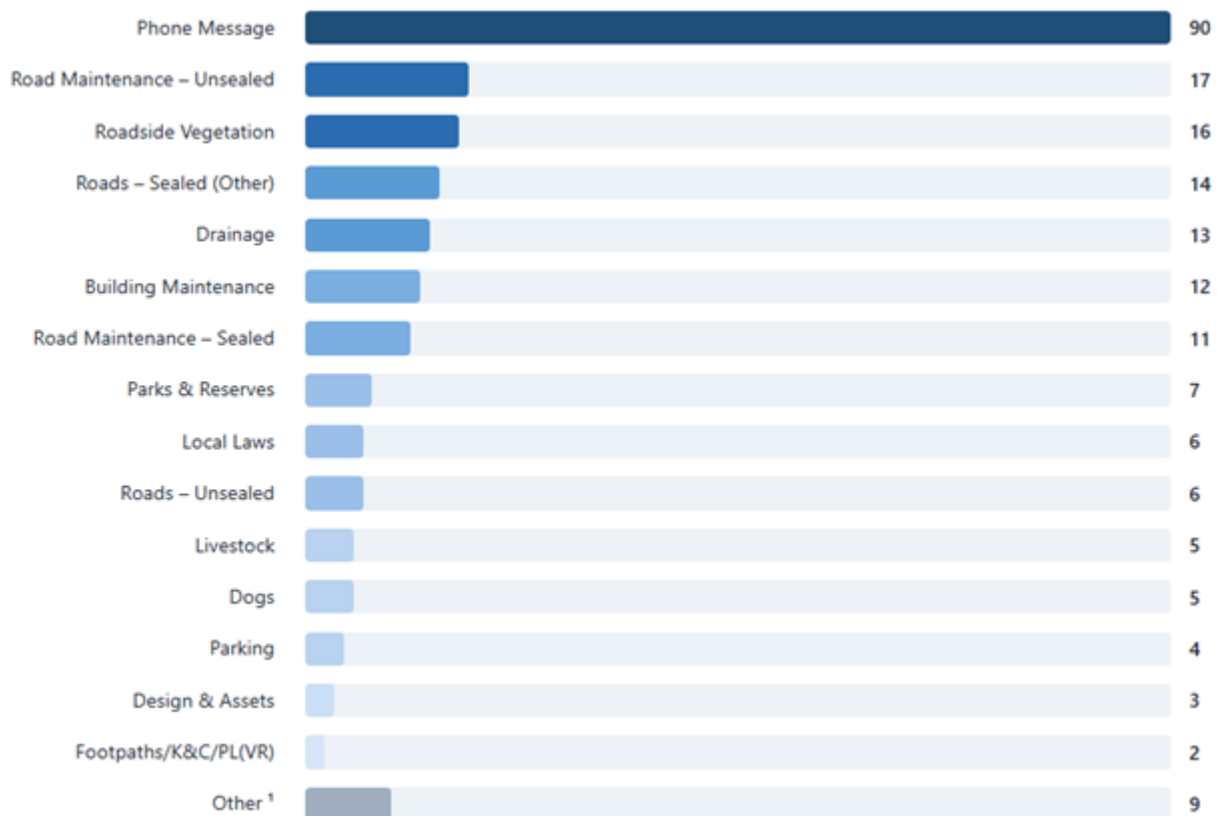
1.1 Open Requests as at 30 June 2026

Customer Action Requests (CARS) are requests received from community members for Council to investigate or action matters relating to Council services, infrastructure and assets. Requests are recorded within Council's Customer Action Request System and allocated to the appropriate service area for investigation and response. As at 30 June 2026, there were 220 open CARS.

The following analysis provides a snapshot of open Customer Action Requests as at 30 June 2026, including the age profile of requests, the types of services requested and when outstanding requests were originally logged.

FIGURE 1: OPEN REQUESTS BY AGE – 30 JUNE 2026**Observation:**

At 30 June 2026, 141 of the 220 open Customer Action Requests (64.1%) had been open for 30 days or less.

FIGURE 2: OPEN REQUESTS BY SERVICE TYPE – 30 JUNE 2026

K&C = Kerb and Channel – the concrete kerb and gutter/channel along the road edge.

PL(VR) = Property Line / Vehicle Crossing (or Vehicular Crossing) – the crossover / driveway crossing from the road, over the kerb/channel and footpath, to the property boundary.

¹ Other comprises Streetlights (2), Natural Disasters (2), Building Compliance (2), Council Cleaning (1), EPA – Litter (1) and Environmental Health (1).

Open Customer Action Requests were distributed across a range of Council service areas. The largest category of open requests related to Phone Messages (90), followed by Road Maintenance – Unsealed (17), Roadside Vegetation (16), Roads – Sealed (Other) (14) and Drainage (13).

TABLE 1: WHEN OPEN REQUESTS WERE LOGGED – 30 JUNE 2026

Month Logged	Open Requests
June 2026	141
May 2026	13
April 2026	11
March 2026	6
February 2026	6
January 2026	5
December 2025	6
November 2025	2
October 2025	2
September 2025	1
August 2025	3
July 2025	4
Subtotal 2025/26 financial year	200
Prior to 1 July 2025	20
Total open at 30 June 2026	220

Observations:

- 200 requests (90.9%) were logged during the 2025/26 financial year, while 20 requests (9.1%) pre-dated the reporting period.
- Open Customer Action Requests at 30 June 2026 were predominantly recent, with 64.1% having been open for 30 days or less and 90.9% having been logged during the 2025/26 financial year. Council will continue to monitor open Customer Action Requests and work with service areas to support timely investigation and closure of requests.

1.2 CARS Received by Ward 2025-26

TABLE 2: CARS BY WARD RECEIVED BY MONTH 2025-2026

Ward	Jul 25	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 26	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Avoca	29	34	29	23	31	28	26	31	25	28	9	21	314
Beaufort	69	51	44	83	86	67	95	76	61	54	57	77	820
De Cameron	21	15	26	20	17	16	20	26	15	16	8	11	211
Ercildoune	23	15	24	18	12	19	15	14	9	6	8	18	181
Mount Emu	21	19	26	19	32	20	23	16	15	16	15	21	243
Unassigned to a ward	127	146	149	160	142	148	192	173	193	160	129	177	1896
Total by month	290	280	298	323	320	298	371	336	318	280	226	325	3665

Observation:

Customer Action Requests were received across all Wards throughout the 2025/26 financial year. January 2026 recorded the highest number of requests received (371), while May 2026 recorded the lowest (226). Requests recorded as Unassigned to a ward accounted for 1,896 requests (51.7% of all requests received) and predominantly comprised telephone and administrative enquiries that were not associated with a specific property or geographic location.

TABLE 3: HISTORICAL COMPARISON 2024/2025 - 2025/2026 – MONTHLY VOLUME

Year	Jul 25	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 26	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2024-25	354	265	236	251	279	169	273	290	274	270	266	241	3168
2025-26	290	280	298	323	320	298	371	336	318	280	226	325	3665
Change	+497 requests year-on-year												

OBSERVATION:

Despite a 15.7% increase in Customer Action Requests received compared with 2024/25 (3,168 to 3,665), Council closed 3,530 requests during the reporting period, representing 96.3% of requests received. At 30 June 2026, 220 Customer Action Requests remained open, 20 of which related to prior year.

1.4 Snap Send Solve

Snap Send Solve requests are also recorded within Council's Customer Action Request System (CARS) and are included within the overall CARS statistics reported in this report.

TABLE 5: SNAP SEND SOLVE REQUESTS BY MONTH – 2025-2026

Category	Jul 25	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 26	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Council Controlled	7	7	12	26	27	19	42	21	22	18	13	19	233
Reassigned (Non-Council)	4	2	5	7	5	9	5	7	1	1	4	9	59
Total Snap Requests	11	9	17	33	32	28	47	28	23	19	17	28	292

OBSERVATION:

Peak activity in January 2026 (47 requests, 42 Council-controlled). 79.8% of Snap requests were Council responsibility.

2. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**Cyber Security Assurance**

Council's ICT environment supports the delivery of customer services through secure digital communications, business systems and cyber security controls. The following information, derived from Council's Mimecast email security reporting, provides an overview of email activity and cyber security assurance for the 2025/26 financial year.

TABLE 6: EMAIL TRAFFIC & CYBER PROTECTION – 2025/26 COMPARED WITH 2024/25

Metric	2025/26 Total	2025/26 Avg / month	2024/25 Avg / month	Change
Legitimate emails received	264,503	22,042	24,250	-9.1%
External emails sent	125,132	10,428	8,800	+18.5%
Emails rejected (cyber protection)	171,015	14,251	7,700	+85.1%
Rejection rate	–	31.15%	~32%	-0.85pp
Total inbound volume	435,518	36,293	–	–

FIGURE 4: AVERAGE MONTHLY EMAIL TRAFFIC**Observations:**

- Rejected email traffic increased significantly during 2025/26, with the average number of rejected emails more than doubling compared with 2024/25. Approximately 39.3% of all inbound email received by Council during the reporting period was intercepted through automated cyber security filtering before reaching users.
- Email volume trends: Legitimate inbound email decreased by 9.1% to an average of 22,042 emails per month, while outbound external email increased by 18.5% to an average of 10,428 emails per month. Total inbound email volume increased primarily due to higher volumes of email intercepted by Council's automated cyber security controls.
- System protections: The majority of rejected emails were identified through automated reputation and authentication checks before reaching Council users.

3. Communications and Engagement

Council's website and digital communication channels continue to play an important role in providing information to the community, promoting Council initiatives and supporting access to Council services.

At 30 June 2026, Council's Facebook page had 4,664 followers. During the 2025/26 financial year, Council published 1,027 Facebook posts.

Council's Facebook content recorded 2.5 million content views during the reporting period. Content views measure the number of times Council's posts, videos, stories and advertisements were displayed or played. This differs from 38,100 Facebook page visits, which measure the number of times users visited Council's Facebook page directly. As users can view Council's content in their

Facebook news feed without visiting Council's Facebook page, content views are significantly higher than page visits.

Table 7: DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT 2025/2026

Metric	2025/2026
Website page views	214,031
Website users	82,726
Contact Us page views	4,458
Customer enquiry form submissions	21
Facebook content views	2,500,000
Facebook content interactions ^{1*}	15,600
Facebook link clicks	5,000
Facebook page visits	38,100
New Facebook follows	873
Facebook followers (30 June 2026)	4,664

¹ Likes, reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies across posts, stories, reels and advertisements.

Table 8: FACEBOOK DATA – 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

	Number of posts	Followers	Change	Reactions	Comments	Shares
July 2025	75	3,953	(+.53%)	450	55	51
August 2025	67	3,972	(+.48%)	763	166	76
September 2025	68	3,991	(+.48%)	356	86	54
October 2025	92	4,036	(+1.13%)	1073	135	82
November 2025	77	4,128	(+2.25%)	1532	388	144
December 2025	73	4,171	(+ 1%)	933	140	77
January 2026	147	4,375	(+5.2%)	2,408	256	389
February 2026	95	4437	(+1.4%)	1,417	282	106
March 2026	103	4477	(+0.9%)	1,338	164	89
April 2026	84	4542	(+1.45%)	752	82	84
May 2026	52	4500	(-.92%)	732	68	93
June 2026	94	4664	(+3.64)	1,375	188	120

Observations:

1. Council's website recorded 214,031 page views from 82,726 users during the reporting period, representing an average of 17,836 page views per month compared with approximately 15,000 per month during 2024/25.
2. The Contact Us page received 4,458 page views, with 21 customer enquiry forms submitted through the website.
3. The most frequently viewed website content related to employment opportunities, events, waste services and Council contact information. Common website search terms included Budget, Tenders, Rates, Council Plan and Public Notices, reflecting the information most frequently sought by the community.

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

This report did not require any community engagement or consultation, other than that provided via this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risks are discussed in the body of the report.

CONCLUSION

The information presented in this report provides Council with an overview of customer service and related operational activity during the 2025/26 financial year, including Customer Action Requests, Information and Communications Technology, cyber security assurance, and communications and digital engagement. Collectively, these indicators support Council's oversight of service delivery, operational activity and opportunities for continuous improvement.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

9.3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

9.3.1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES) BILL 2026

Presenter: Presenter: Douglas Gowans – Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Presenter: Douglas Gowans – Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: -

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities) Bill 2026. The Bill was recently presented to Councillors at a briefing session for information and discussion.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities) Bill 2026 was introduced into the Victorian Parliament by the Minister for Local Government in the week commencing 15 June 2026.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Bill proposed a range of amendments to the *Local Government Act 2020* to strengthen governance, accountability and integrity across local government.

The key objectives of the Bill are to:

- enhance the integrity and governance standards of Councils;
- enable the prescription of a Fair Jobs Code;
- make provision for the appointment of a Local Government Fair Jobs Code Regulator;
- enable the monitoring, assessment and review of a Chief Executive Officer's compliance with the Fair Jobs Code by the Regulator;
- make related and consequential amendments to support the implementation of the Fair Jobs Code; and

The following provisions will commence on the day after Royal Assent:

- Part 1 of the Bill (including the objectives outlined above); and
- Division 1 of Part 2.

The remaining governance reforms will commence on or after 1 July 2027, including:

- introduction of mandatory Model Governance Rules;
- revised requirements relating to CEO employment and remuneration policies;
- establishment of a CEO Employment Matters Committee with an independent chair;
- strengthened conflict of interest provisions, including prohibiting a councillor from influencing others after declaring a conflict of interest and requiring the CEO to report certain matters to the Chief Municipal Inspector;
- mandatory procedures for managing alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, serious misconduct and disputes between two or more councillors;
- powers for the Minister to direct a council to deal with councillor disputes, including prescribing mediation processes and approved mediators; and
- implementation of the Fair Jobs Code framework, including new annual reporting obligations requiring the CEO to submit a compliance report to the Local Government Fair Jobs Code Regulator by 31 October each year for the preceding financial year.

The Bill proposes significant amendments to the legislative framework governing Victorian councils. Collectively, these reforms are intended to strengthen governance, accountability and integrity, while introducing new compliance and reporting obligations that will have operational, administrative, and governance implications for councils.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note this report.

10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**10.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - JUNE 2026**

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
01/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
02/06/2026	Minister Meetings – Parliament House	Melbourne
05/06/2026	Pyrenees Art Exhibition Opening Night	Beaufort
10/06/2026	MAV Pre-Briefing – National General Assembly	Virtual
10/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Virtual
11/06/2026	Waubra Playground Official Opening	Waubra
14/06/2026	The Strength of Women Book Launch	Cave Hill Creek
15/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
15/06/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
16/06/2026	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Virtual
18/06/2026	GBAC Delegation to Parliament House (Minister Meetings)	Melbourne
19/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Beaufort
19/06/2026	Streatham, Carranballac, Skipton Fire Photo & Art Exhibition Opening	Skipton
22/06/2026	ABC Interview	Phone
22/06/2026	Emergency Management Commissioner Visit	Carranballac
22/06/2026	Constituent Meeting	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Beaufort
23-26/06/2026	National General Assembly	Canberra
29/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
29/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Virtual

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
01/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
10/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Virtual
15/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
15/06/2026	Council Meeting	Virtual
18/06/2026	RCV Committee Meeting	Virtual
19/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Beaufort
19/06/2026	Streatham, Carranballac, Skipton Fire Photo & Art Exhibition Opening	Skipton
22/06/2026	Emergency Management Commissioner Visit	Carranballac
22/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Beaufort
23/06/2026	Amendment C52pym Information Session 1 (GHCMA)	Lake Goldsmith
25/06/2026	Streatham-Skipton Fire Recovery Network Meeting	Skipton
29/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
29/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Virtual

Cr Simon Tol – Ercildoune Ward		
01/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
09/06/2026	Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee Meeting	Virtual
10/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Virtual
11/06/2026	Waubra Playground Official Opening	Waubra
15/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
15/06/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
19/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Beaufort
24/06/2026	Amendment C52pyrn Information Session 2 (GHCMA)	Raglan
29/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
29/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Virtual

Cr Megan Phelan – De Cameron Ward		
01/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
10/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Virtual
14/06/2026	The Strength of Women Book Launch	Cave Hill Creek
15/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
15/06/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
19/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
22/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Virtual
29/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
29/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Virtual

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw – Avoca Ward		
01/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
02/06/2026	Minister Meetings – Parliament House	Melbourne
10/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Virtual
15/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
15/06/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
16/06/2026	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Beaufort
18/06/2026	VAGO Audit Committee Forum	Virtual
19/06/2026	Councillor Meeting	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
22/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Beaufort
23-26/06/2026	National General Assembly	Canberra
29/06/2026	Council Briefing	Virtual
29/06/2026	Special Meeting of Council	Virtual
30/06/2026	Second Information session on the WJJWJ People Land Use Activity Agreement	Virtual
30/06/2026	Amendment C52pyrn Information Session 3 (NCCMA)	Avoca

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

11. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - JUNE 2026**

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	1 June 2026 commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 7.00pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Gender Equality Action Plan 2. Risk Policy & Risk Appetite 3. Interim CEO Recruitment Project Plan		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe (virtual) Cr Rebecca Wardlaw		Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) – items 1 and 2 Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Norman Prueter (Manager People and Culture) – 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		15 June 2026 commenced at 4.30pm and closed at 5.45pm	
Meeting Location		Council Chamber, Beaufort	
Items Discussed		1. Interim CEO Recruitment	
ATTENDEES			
Councillors		Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan	
Apologies		Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer)	
Staff		Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services)	
Visitors		Tony Runic, Hunt & Hunt	
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	22 June 2026 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Permanent CEO Recruitment Workshop 2. Councillor Question Time		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan		
Apologies	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer)		
Staff	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.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name		Council Briefing	
Meeting Date		29 June 2026 commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 5.53pm	
Meeting Location		Virtual	
Items Discussed		1. Swimming Pools	
ATTENDEES			
Councillors		Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe 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)	
Visitors		Brooke Atkins, LARCAN	
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

12. ITEMS FOR DECISION

12.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.1.1. 2026/27 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

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 decision on reinstatement of Room and Hall Hire fees for the 2026/27 financial year and consider the various elements of the budget submission which was received during the public exhibition phase of the 2026/27 Budget.

BACKGROUND

Room and Hall Hire Fees

At the July 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council resolved to:

“Waiver the Room and Hall Hire facility fees as defined within the body of the report for local community based organisations which are utilizing the facilities for the purpose of social connection and broader health and wellbeing activities that enabled participation from broader community with an estimated waiver value of \$30,000”.

2026/27 Draft Budget Submission

Further, as part of the public exhibition period of the 2026/27 Draft Budget one formal budget submission was received and as part of the formal adoption of the budget Council resolved to:

“5. A further report be presented to a future Council meeting dealing with the issues raised in the budget submission to provide strategies on how the issues raised maybe addressed”.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Room and Hall Hire Fees

A review of the Room and Hall Hire facility fees for the 2025/26 financial year resulted in 20 different community groups utilizing some of Council facilities over the 12 month period with a total waiver value of \$31,060. Feedback from Community Groups has reported that the fee waiver had been useful in supporting financial sustainability of the groups.

The waiver also resulted in some community groups moving from more formal agreements to the casual hire model to realise the saving opportunities that this waiver provided. As we move forward with some challenging financial realities it would be prudent to re-instate Room and Hall Hire fees and ensure that fees are charged in accordance with the Room and Hall Hire fee schedule of rates and where appropriate, leases or licenses be renegotiated in accordance with the recently adopted Lease and License Policy.

2026/27 Draft Budget Submission

During the public exhibition period of the 2026/27 Draft Budget, one community submission was received seeking Council to consider funding and future planning improvements to the Avoca River precinct, recreational areas and community infrastructure that supports tourism, accessibility, community wellbeing and economic development. Within the submission a number of suggestions were made, some of which related to areas that are not Council controlled or managed land and relevant engagement and consultation would need to occur with DEECA and DJAARA.

Below is a table summarising elements of the submission and potential considerations:

Suggestion	Officer Response	Council consideration	Funding
Installation of inclusive communication boards at playgrounds and recreation areas.	Some communication boards across the municipality are installed by Council whilst others are installed by other communities or businesses. This proposal requires broader community engagement and prioritization to ensure a consistent outcome for all communities.	Council will need to determine the prioritization of this proposal against initiatives already defined within the Council Plan and budget. Funding source would need to be determined.	Currently there is no budget allocated for this initiative
Installation of Recycling and Glass bins alongside existing public waste bins and additional bins along the river camping area to cater for visitor numbers during peak periods	Experience to date with recycling bins installed in public places has resulted in contamination that then affects the entire load of recycling.	Council would need to determine the priority of this initiative and consider a trail location rather than a large roll out to monitor success of initiative.	This initiative could be supported within existing funded waste budget.
Additional picnic tables at river flats	The river flats are not currently council controlled/managed land. Approval would be required from DEECA and DJAARA.	Council will need to determine the prioritization of this proposal against initiatives already defined within the Council Plan and budget. Funding source would need to be determined.	Currently there is no budget allocated for this initiative, approximate cost \$2,000 per table
Replace and/or upgrade Avoca River Nature Trail signage	Further investigation is required to understand who installed signage.	Council will need to determine the prioritization of this proposal against initiatives already defined within the Council Plan and budget. Funding source would need to be determined.	Currently there is no budget allocated for this initiative.
Investigate dedicated walking loop around Avoca River precinct.	The river flats are not currently council controlled/managed land. Approval would be required from DEECA and DJAARA.	Council will need to determine the prioritization of this proposal against initiatives already defined within the Council Plan and	Currently there is no budget allocated for this initiative.

Suggestion	Officer Response	Council consideration	Funding
		budget. Funding source would need to be determined.	
Establish an outdoor community gym near the skate park	The river flats are not currently council controlled/managed land. Approval would be required from DEECA and DJAARA.	Council will need to determine the prioritization of this proposal against initiatives already defined within the Council Plan and budget. Funding source would need to be determined.	Currently there is no budget allocated for this initiative.

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 Draft Budget was advertised in accordance with public exhibition requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020* and details of new budget initiatives are included within this report. All hall hire fees were included within the draft 2026/27 Budget through the Fees and Charges schedule.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

To continue to provide a waiver of Room and Hall Hire fees would continue to have approximately \$30,000 revenue removed from the budget. However, there may be a broader community social connection and growth opportunity if the waiver was extended for a further financial year.

Inclusion of any of the initiatives sought through the draft budget exhibition period would have an impact on already prioritized work and would result in increased expenditure within the 2026/27 budget. However, the proposed changes may improve our social wellbeing and tourist experience within the Avoca region.

CONCLUSION

The suite of new initiatives proposed through the 2026/27 Draft Budget would all potentially have an impact to our communities and visitor experience within the Avoca region. However, there may be impacts to already scheduled work due to resource commitments in addition to potential increases to budget expenditure to deliver any of these proposals.

The re-instatement of the Room and Hall Hire fees supports the budget revenue sources beyond Council's rates income to deliver against community expectations.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Re-instate the Room and Hall Hire fees for the 2026/27 financial year.
2. Consider the proposals received within the budget public exhibition period and determine prioritisation and incorporation into the current year budget.

12.1.2. RECREATION STRATEGY FUNDING APPROVAL

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: Diana Dixon – Manager Community Wellbeing and Partnerships

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

File No: 56/08/10

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to submit an application to Sport and Recreation Victoria's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) 2026-27 Strategic Planning Stream to support funding to develop a new Recreation, Sport and Active Communities Strategy.

The report also seeks Council's commitment to allocate the required co-contribution within the 2027/28 Financial Year, should the funding application be successful.

BACKGROUND

Recreation plays a fundamental role in creating healthy, connected and resilient communities. Access to quality recreation opportunities, facilities and open spaces supports the key pillars to improve community wellbeing across all ages and abilities. By incorporating access to support physical activity, opportunity for social connection, and access to inclusive participation options, recreation supports broader community outcomes by encouraging inclusion, fostering community pride and leadership and contributes to the economic vitality and liveability within Pyrenees.

As local communities evolve, Pyrenees Shire has an important role to play in planning for current and future recreation needs to ensure services, facilities and infrastructure remain accessible, equitable and responsive. Council's Recreation Strategy has the opportunity to provide a clear, evidence-based framework to guide investment, prioritise resources, respond to changing community expectation and support sustainable decision making. Aligning recreation planning with Council, funding body, and Active Victoria guidelines and the needs of local community, the strategy aims to maximise the health, social and economic benefits that community and grassroots recreation delivers to current and future generations of Pyrenees communities.

Council's current Recreation Strategy was delivered in 2017 and has provided strategic direction for recreation participation, infrastructure planning and investment across the municipality. This strategy is due to expire in 2027.

Since the Strategy was adopted, the municipality has experienced changing recreation trends, evolving community expectations, demographic change and increasing financial pressures associated with the delivery, maintenance and renewal of recreation infrastructure. In addition, the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with recent drought, flood and bushfire events, have reinforced the important role recreation plays in supporting physical and mental wellbeing, community resilience and social connection. Combine these elements with an ageing recreation and aquatics asset portfolio and increasing maintenance and capital delivery costs, and the need for clear and planned strategic direction becomes evident.

This expiration of the current agreement presents an opportunity to renew the strategy to align with current community needs, methodologies and practices and to formalise a guideline for recreation planning in alignment with regulatory requirements across the next decade. This intergenerational strategy would ensure long term financial and resource planning and set clear priorities for Council actions across the next decade.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The LSIF is a competitive funding program open to Victorian Local Government Authorities. The program offers funding across three streams including:

- Community Facilities
- Community Sports Lighting
- Planning

Each Local Government Authority can apply for only one project within the planning stream in any given funding round. It is proposed that the Recreation, Sports and Active Communities Strategy becomes the Pyrenees application for the planning stream in the current submission round, closing 28 July 2026.

The proposed project will deliver a comprehensive review of recreation participation, infrastructure provision and future community needs across the municipality. Through extensive community and stakeholder engagement, the Strategy will identify participation trends, barriers and opportunities while establishing priorities for infrastructure investment, activation of existing assets, partnerships and advocacy.

A key outcome of the project will be the development of a contemporary evidence base that enables Council to make informed decisions regarding recreation infrastructure, asset renewal, service delivery and long-term financial planning. The Strategy will seek to maximise community participation through improved activation, utilisation and management of existing assets while identifying strategic opportunities where future infrastructure investment is justified.

Importantly, the Strategy will support a balanced approach to future recreation investment by recognising Council's financial capacity and the ongoing lifecycle costs associated with recreation infrastructure, and the need to engage external funding to enable project delivery. Strategic alignment with funding body priorities, such as Active Victoria, and matching this to clearly outlined community need and priority will strengthen Council's ability to secure funding opportunities in future.

This body of work will specifically deliver against a defined initiative within the Council Plan 2025-2029, identified as 1B.1 which is defined as:

"Review, conduct and develop an updated Recreation Strategy inclusive of:

- Leisure needs community engagement;
- Utilisation, inclusivity and accessibility of recreation facilities that ensure safe spaces and environments inclusive of Aquatic facilities;
- Transport networks which support activation (walkability, etc)"

This report seeks Council endorsement to proceed with an application to Sport and Recreation Victoria's (SRV), Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) to develop the renewal of Council's Recreation, Sport and Active Communities Strategy. To enable this development a Council co-contribution of \$40,000 is required in the 2027/28 budget. Endorsement is sought for commitment of this co-contribution should the application be successful.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.

Pillar 2 - Economy

2c. Support community events and visitor economy.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

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

Should partial funding be secured through the LSIF, the project will include a comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement program designed to obtain robust and representative community needs, inclusive of all demographic profiles across the municipality.

Some examples of those engaged would include residents from across all townships and rural communities, current recreation participants, non-participants and groups that traditionally participate less in sport and recreation, sporting clubs, reserve committees, schools, community organisations, State Sporting Associations, regional sporting bodies, government agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

Community feedback will directly inform the development of the Recreation, Sport and Active Communities Strategy, associated Action Plan and Advocacy Framework.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The redevelopment of the Strategy requires focused resource and expertise not currently available within Council resources. While a request for quote is yet to be undertaken, a total budget of \$80,000 is proposed throughout a timeline of 18 months to project completion.

Should Council be successful in obtaining LSIF funding, a competitive procurement process will be undertaken to engage a suitably qualified consultant to deliver the project in accordance with the Project Initiation Brief and Consultant Brief.

Successful funding submission could result in up to \$40,000 being grant funded within the 26/27 financial year to enable project initiation, with the Council co-contribution to be engaged in the final stages and payment milestones of project delivery in the 27/28 financial year. A commitment to this co-contribution is required to enable application to the fund.

This Strategy will enable long term facility, activation and investment planning for the organisation across aquatic, leisure and recreation facilities. This planning will enable equitable and transparent decisions to be made, ensuring alignment to community recreation priorities.

CONCLUSION

The redevelopment of the Recreation, Sport and Active Communities Strategy represents an important opportunity for Council to establish a contemporary evidence base for clear, equitable and strategic recreation planning across the municipality.

The Strategy will guide future participation initiatives and activations, infrastructure investment, asset management, advocacy and partnership development while ensuring recreation planning remains aligned with Council's financial capacity and broader strategic objectives.

Utilising the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund planning stream will provide an opportunity to leverage external funding to undertake this important strategic planning project.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse an application to the current Local Sports Infrastructure Funding round for "Development of Recreation, Sport and Active Communities Strategy".
2. Commit to funding the required co-contribution for this project in the 2027/28 financial year up to an amount of \$40,000 (subject to successful application).

12.1.3. SWIMMING POOL OPERATIONAL REVIEW SEASON 26/27

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: Diana Dixon – Manager Community Wellbeing and Partnerships

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

File No: -

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council decision on service delivery model for the 2026/27 season and provide an update on reviews currently being undertaken across Pyrenees Swimming Pools.

BACKGROUND

Pyrenees Shire Council (PSC) acknowledges the importance of community swimming pools as a social, wellbeing and public health asset for the Pyrenees Community.

The management of municipal swimming pools across regional Victoria presents a unique set of challenges and responsibilities due to increasing budget constraints, seasonal nature, ageing infrastructure, workforce shortages and community expectation of service delivery. The ongoing management of these facilities requires a planned and balanced approach to financial sustainability, equitable and meaningful access for community, public safety requirements, regulatory compliance, auditing and delivery of community services that improve community wellbeing outcomes.

PSC pools are currently managed under an operational contract with Belgravia Leisure. This contract is a three-year contract with the option to extend by three one-year periods and was initially entered into in August 2022. At the completion of the 2023/24 season a contract extension of two years was endorsed by Council, ensuring operational services of municipal swimming pools until August 2026, leaving one additional year extension option available for Council to exercise.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Detailed reviews of all PSC pools are currently being undertaken to enable a planned, measured, equitable and financially responsible approach to future long term pool operations and maintenance.

Council have engaged the services of aquatic specialists Larcan Pty Ltd and Mechanical Plumbing Services to undertake reviews relating to Pyrenees Shire Swimming Pools.

Larcan Consulting were appointed in May 2026 to review operational models for aquatic services across Pyrenees Shire. The aim of this review is to assess current performance and value of the external management contract in place, and to compare other service delivery models for the ongoing management of these facilities.

Mechanical Plumbing Services (MPS) have been engaged to provide Council Officers with a full asset registry and maintenance plan, alongside invasive shell testing and condition assessments across all PSC aquatic facilities.

Delivery of the above reports in full is expected in the coming months and together, alongside community satisfaction survey results and operational data, will provide considerations to enable long term strategic and financial planning for these facilities.

With full reports and testing not yet complete and our current contract due to expire in August 2026, a decision on the 2026/27 season is required to enable season operations. This report provides information to enable informed decision making in this process and present a range of options.

Detailed information has been provided in relation to budget, contractual costs and conditions to support Councillors in understanding the complexities of the swimming pool operations. To support the information that underpins some of the options, below is some further details and considerations:

Bather (Patrons) Supervision (Lifeguards)

In alignment with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations it is common practice to have one appropriately qualified lifeguard per body of water to accommodate best practice supervision of bathers, with larger bodies of water attracting additional resourcing. Where multiple lifeguards are present, the supervising lifeguard should be over the age of 18 years. Any supervising lifeguard must be able to recognise, reach and respond effectively to a distressed swimmer within 30 seconds of sighting.

Within Pyrenees Shire contract negotiations these guidelines have led to the following lifeguard provision:

Beaufort Pool – 3 lifeguards

Avoca Pool – 3 lifeguards

Landsborough – 2 lifeguards

A review of lifeguard allocations to reduce staffing costs at smaller, lower patronage facilities could be completed as part of renegotiation process to reduce costs to council. However, there would need to be further review and consideration of the risks to Council and Community, community supports available and logistics of the day-to-day pool operations to ensure a suitable operational model that focuses on community wellbeing is endorsed and agreed.

Operating hours and season dates

Current contract cost is based upon historical season operating data. Hourly and weekly rates are noted within the contract for any extension to dates or hours agreed. Renegotiation of season opening days or hours of operations is likely to attract these additional costs.

The defined contracted Aquatic Season within the contract is from the first Saturday in December through until the second Monday in March each year (Labour Day) and calculations were initially based on 100 days of operation, with extensions based on historical data. The pools are not opened on Christmas Day. In recent years at Council request, the pool opening has been occurring on the last Saturday in November through until Labour day.

Under the existing contract the following hours of operation are deemed our standard hours of operation:

Details	Opening time	Closing time	Total Hours	Location
Monday to Friday (non school holidays)	1.00pm	7.00pm	6 hours x 5 days = 30 hours x 2 sites = 60 hours	Avoca and Beaufort
	3.00pm	7.00pm	4 hours x 5 days = 20 hours	Landsborough
Weekends, Public Holidays and School Holidays	11.00am	7.00pm	8 hours x 2 days = 16 hours x 2 sites = 32 hours	Avoca and Beaufort
	1.00pm	7.00pm	6 hours x 2 days = 12 hours	Landsborough
Lap swimming (Tuesday and Thursday)	6.30am	8.00am	1.5 hours x 2 days = 3 hours x 2 sites = 6 hours	Avoca and Beaufort
Total Hours per week			49	Avoca
Total Hours per week			49	Beaufort
Total Hours per week			32	Landsborough

	130	Grand Total
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Attendance over the past three years at our aquatic facilities has been:

Venue	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Avoca	2,443	3,505	3,086	9,034
Beaufort	5,156	4,602	5,011	14,769
Landsborough	454	457	786	1,697
Total	8,053	8,564	8,883	25,500

2026/27 Season

Noting the existing contract commitment coming to an end in August 2026, operational service delivery across the 2026/27 season needs to be decided to enable appropriate actions to be taken to ensure preparedness for the upcoming season.

There are four options available to enable seasonal delivery for 2026/27. All operational models are explored in further detail within the Service Delivery work being undertaken by Larcan.

Option 1: Negotiate and exercise extension of existing contract

The current contract allows for one further year extension to be exercised which would cover the 2026/27 season and some negotiation could be considered to existing provisions. The final date of the contract would then extend to 30 August 2027. This option enables continuity of service for community while allocating space and time for Council officers to complete effective review of final reports, consultation, planning, procurement or recruitment and set up of systems for the ongoing delivery of services.

Due to existing relationship with provider and their familiarity with facilities it would accommodate a faster negotiation process and deployment of service delivery requirements. Items that could be negotiated for the 12 month extension which would more broadly support Pyrenees Shire and our community may include:

- Extended seasonality and operational hours (Eg; extra hour after lap swimming for defined programs);
- Review of opening temperature thresholds;
- Review of maintenance thresholds (Eg: Grounds keeping, Advertisement);
- Consideration of programs both for older adults and learn to swim;
- Changes to number of Lifeguards considering potential risks associated with this change;
- Consideration of entry fee's going to Council or being waived.

Noting that some negotiations may result in an increased contract cost to Council.

Option 2: Complete open tender process for delivery of operational services for the 2026/27 season only

The short timeline of option two is not a common approach for operational delivery, yet, will ensure operational services continue for the season under the delivery of an external contractor. This option presents both financial and service quality risks in the delivery of services due to short timelines of contract, ability to familiarise with facilities and timeline for recruitment processes involved post award. The significant resource, time and financial investment required by contractors may impact the quality of application received and inflated pricing for delivery in one twelve month period.

Budget impacts for this option are unpredictable due to this uncommon approach of this option for contractors. Impacts to community may be felt through service delivery quality due to provider unfamiliarity and pressured timelines to recruit and provide services. There is also a risk that no providers submit a tender to operate the aquatic facilities for a single year, leaving Council unable to operate pools for the coming season.

Option 3: Hybrid service delivery model for 2026/27 season only

This option refers to Council entering into an operational or lease agreement with a nominated, legal community entity.

Under this model, the impact on both community group and Council resourcing would be significantly increased for the 26/27 season. Council budget and resource allocation would be required to implement this model. The short timeframe for delivery of this would impact on risk to community due to poor planning, training, induction and operative process would be greatly increased, leading to poor quality of service and increased risk of incidents. Initial consultations with Friends of the Pools groups has noted that these groups prefer to stay within a supporting role, with no appetite to manage the operations of these facilities over the long term.

Further exploration of this model could be completed within full reporting of service models, however is not recommended for season 2026/27 service delivery, to allow for further community consultation and to enable best practice approaches for implementation of this model should it be considered in future.

Option 4: All operational and facility maintenance provided in-house

In-house delivery for the management of swimming pools is an approach used by a number of regional Councils across Victoria. This option allows Council full control over service operations and delivery while taking on full responsibility for facility maintenance, repair, and auditing.

This option would have significant budget and resource impacts in the short term with staff resources being required to create structure, policy and process for all pool operations that align with the Guidelines for Safe Operations, Water Quality Guidelines for Public Aquatic Facilities, and Council regulations. Further resources would be required in the recruitment, training, site induction and necessary professional development of staffing for each facility, management/administration staff and procurement processes for the delivery of seasonal maintenance activities. Full costings of this model are to be received in full delivery of reports. It is recommended, that under this model, long term thinking be committed and proper planning applied to allow for effective results to be seen in community wellbeing outcomes and for risk minimisation to be planned appropriately.

This option may present impacts to community for similar reasons to those outlined in Option 2 and 3. Service quality may be impacted in the short term due to the pressured timelines for delivery of services.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

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

Officers undertook a community satisfaction survey across January to March 2026 which will also be considered within the Service Delivery Review and the development of the Recreation Strategy which is inclusive of Council's Aquatic facilities.

This survey resulted in 195 responses, which were positive regarding the services and facilities provided. Overall satisfaction was rated at 4.16 out of 5, with programming quality at 4.05 out of 5. Key community priorities included safety and supervision.

Friends of the Pools groups at both, Avoca and Beaufort, alongside Council officers, internal stakeholders and current operator have been engaged throughout the consultation process for the full review of operational models report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Regional, seasonal outdoor facilities throughout the State are facing increasing financial pressure as a result of ageing infrastructure, escalating operational costs, and growing compliance requirements which outpace available funding. With many of these facilities now approaching their intended service life, significant capital investment is required to remain safe, compliant and operational. Costs of these facilities are further exacerbated with increases in costs of utilities, insurance, contractor services, chemicals, staff costs and daily operational maintenance items.

CONCLUSION

Seasonal outdoor aquatic facilities continue to provide significant health, recreation and social benefits to Pyrenees communities, supporting physical activity, community connection, water recreation activities and relief during periods of extreme heat. However, the increasing complexity and cost of operating these facilities is creating significant challenges for Council in maintaining sustainable service delivery.

While Council remains committed to providing safe and accessible aquatic services, it is essential that future operational models are informed by a realistic assessment of available resources, legislative requirements and community needs. Ongoing strategic planning, investment in workforce capability, and a risk-based approach to service delivery will be critical to ensuring aquatic facilities remain safe, compliant and financially sustainable into the future.

This report provides options for service delivery in the upcoming (2026/27) season, while providing a pathway to informed decision making over the long term.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Authorise Officers to enter into contract negotiations to exercise remaining one year extension option of our existing Service Delivery contract as defined within Option 1 of this report for the operation of Council's seasonal aquatic facilities for the 2026/27 swimming season.
2. Delegates authority to the Interim Chief Executive Officer to execute required contract extension documentation post negotiations.
3. Request details of contract negotiation outcomes be communicated to Councillors via a documented Briefing document.
4. Receive further briefings and reports, upon completion and delivery, regarding the operational and integrity reviews to support informed decision-making for future years.

12.1.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - FINANCIAL DELEGATION

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

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

File No: 32/26/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review and amend the financial delegations provided to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) through the Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer (S5).

BACKGROUND

The current financial delegation assigned to the CEO is \$300,000. While this limit has historically supported Council's operational requirements, it is now considered insufficient to meet the contemporary operational, financial and emergency management needs of the organisation.

There are three key circumstances where the current delegation limit constrains the efficient administration of Council operations.

1. Emergency Response and Natural Disaster Events

Recent emergency and natural disaster events have highlighted the need for increased financial authority to enable the timely authorisation of emergency works and critical contracts. The current delegation limit can delay the engagement of contractors and commencement of urgent works where the required expenditure exceeds \$300,000 and Council approval cannot be obtained until the next scheduled Council meeting.

Increasing the delegation limit would provide the CEO with the ability to authorise immediate response and recovery activities, ensuring Council can act promptly to protect public safety, critical infrastructure and community assets.

2. Authorisation of Contract Payments

Council regularly receives contract payment claims that exceed the current delegation limit of \$300,000. While the original contract has been approved by Council, individual progress payments can exceed the CEO's current delegated authority.

In these circumstances, payments must be referred to Council for approval prior to processing. This can result in unnecessary delays, administrative inefficiencies and potential reputational impacts with contractors and suppliers. An increase to the CEO's financial delegation would enable the timely processing of approved contractual obligations while maintaining compliance with legislative requirements and Council resolutions.

3. Corporate and Statutory Expenditure

Council is required to make a range of recurring corporate and statutory payments that can exceed the current delegation threshold. These include:

- Superannuation contributions
- Insurance and WorkCover premiums
- Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT)
- Taxation payments
- Payroll transfers
- Creditor payments
- State Revenue Office (SRO) payments

On a fortnightly basis, total payroll and associated statutory obligations can exceed the current financial delegation. Under the existing limit, these payments may require Council approval before processing, potentially delaying payments to employees, suppliers and government agencies.

In particular, payments to the State Revenue Office can exceed \$900,000 and are subject to strict legislative timeframes. Failure to process these payments within the required timeframe exposes Council to compliance and financial risks.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The increase in the Chief Executive Officers financial delegation does not enable the CEO to operate outside of the procurement policy or outside of contracts to be approved by Council. The proposal contained within this report is designed to improve the efficiency of the organisation and to ensure the compliance with legislation.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

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

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

5b. Work constructively and in partnership to solve issues early and deliver outcomes building trust.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial risks to this proposal as there is still the requirement to operate within the procurement policy, requirement to present contracts to the Council, and the requirement to adhere to the adopted budget.

CONCLUSION

The proposal put forward within this report is designed to increase the efficiency of the organisation and ensure adherence to legislation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolve to authorise the Chief Executive Officer be granted a financial delegation for normal operations of \$500,000.
2. Resolve to authorise the Chief Executive Officer be granted a financial delegation for emergency works of \$1,000,000.
3. Resolve to authorise the Chief Executive Officer be granted a financial delegation for corporate expenses as detailed in this report of \$1,000,000.
4. Resolve to authorise the Director Corporate and Community Services to amend the Instrument of Delegation (S5) to incorporate these amendments to the Chief Executive Officers financial delegation.

12.1.5. COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2025/2026

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: 16/20/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on delivery of the Council Plan 2025-2029, supporting initiatives and annual Performance Measures as at the end of year one of the approved plan.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Council adopted the Council Plan 2025-2029 at its Ordinary Meeting on 23 June 2025, and the initiatives identified to support delivery of the Council Plan on 15 September 2025.

The Council Plan 2025-2029 is framed around five pillars:

- Pillar 1: Support and grow Liveable Places, Connected Communities
- Pillar 2: Promote a Diversified, Thriving Economy
- Pillar 3: Preserve, promote and enjoy the natural environment
- Pillar 4: Planning and Building Infrastructure for current and future needs
- Pillar 5: Community-Centric Leadership and Proactive Service Delivery

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Work continues to implement the multi-year initiatives designed to support the delivery of the Council Plan 2025-2029. As we arrive at the end of the first year of progress, this report provides details of the progress made towards initiatives that were flagged to be delivered or commenced within the year and also shows the outcomes against defined Performance Measures as at the end of year one, of the four year plan.

It is noted that, since the adoption of the Council Plan and supporting initiatives that a range of factors impacting Council's ability to deliver the Council Plan have emerged which resulted in some adjustments to the timing of some initiatives at the April 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

In summary, a total of 31 initiatives were scheduled for the first year of the plan. It is important to keep in mind that all of these initiatives were marked as multi year initiatives. On this basis, the status of each of these initiatives at the end of year one of the plan is:

- 1 was completed
- 16 are in progress and on track
- 9 are in progress and behind schedule
- 5 were not commenced or deferred.

In relation to Performance Measure progress, a total of 34 measures were set through the development of the Council Plan and data has been provided against each of those measures.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This report serves as part of Council's regular communications to the community on the implementation of the Council Plan 2025-2029.

ATTACHMENTS

1. End of Year 1 Progress Report [**12.1.5.1** - 8 pages]
2. End of Year 1 Performance Measures [**12.1.5.2** - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial and risk implications associated with the delivery of the Council Plan are considered and managed at an initiative level and those initiatives flagged as requiring funding will be unable to progress unless suitable funding options are sourced and secured.

CONCLUSION

The delivery of the Council Plan remains foremost in the minds of all officers and business units and recognize the strategic direction of the Council Plan in that the successful delivery of the plan will result in achieving the strategic direction of Councillors.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the attached progress report against the Council Plan 2025-2029 and associated delivery initiatives.
2. Receives and notes the update towards defined Performance Measures at the completion of year one of the Council Plan.
3. Continue to review initiatives to ensure they remain aligned with Council's financial capacity and the priorities of Councillors.
4. Seek quarterly progress against year 2 Initiatives throughout the 2026/27 financial year.

12.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

12.2.1. CARRANBALLAC RECREATION RESERVE - TEMPORARY FACILITIES

Presenter: Douglas Gowans – Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 619018520

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider an allocation of up to \$20,000 towards the installation of temporary facilities at the Carranballac Recreation Reserve.

BACKGROUND

The January 2026 fire caused extensive damage to the Carranballac Recreation Reserve, including the destruction of the community hall, cricket clubrooms and more than 150 mature trees.

The Carranballac Recreation Reserve is located on Crown land under the management of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). DEECA has previously appointed a local community Committee of Management for the reserve.

Following the fire, a Project Working Group (PWG) was established to enable the Committee of Management, Progress Association and Council officers to work collaboratively on the restoration of the reserve and its facilities.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

At its June 2026 Ordinary Meeting, Council endorsed a community-led model for the rebuild of the fire-damaged facilities at the Carranballac Recreation Reserve.

Council's support includes a lump sum payout from insurance held over the facility.

Council officers are currently progressing the necessary arrangements to finalise the insurance payment and establish the required agreements that clearly define the roles, responsibilities and governance arrangements for the community-managed rebuild project. This approach will ensure the rebuild is community-led while providing appropriate oversight, accountability and approval processes.

The Carranballac community has established a Project Working Group comprising of representatives from the Committee of Management, Council, DEECA and other key stakeholders to guide the project.

Progress has already been made in restoring the reserve. Hazardous and fire-damaged trees have been removed, with a replanting program scheduled to commence shortly. BlazeAid has also commenced replacement of boundary fencing.

The Carranballac Cricket Club is currently making arrangements for temporary facilities to enable the 2026/27 cricket season to proceed with Council providing support where appropriate.

At a recent meeting of the PWG, the installation of temporary facilities at the reserve was identified as a priority to support ongoing community use while permanent facilities are being rebuilt.

The PWG has obtained quotations for the construction of a hardstand and the installation of electrical infrastructure to service the temporary buildings.

Council is therefore requested to consider allocating up to \$20,000 towards the installation of the required hardstand and power supply to facilitate the temporary facilities at the Carranballac Recreation Reserve.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Council officers have been working closely with the Carranballac community through the established Project Working Group. The Working Group includes representatives from the Committee of Management, the Carranballac Progress Association, DEECA and Council.

The need for temporary facilities has been identified by the Working Group and the Carranballac Cricket Club to ensure the reserve remains functional and available for community use during the rebuild period.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council is requested to allocate up to \$20,000 towards the installation of a hardstand and power supply to support temporary facilities at the Carranballac Recreation Reserve.

It is proposed that allocation will be funded from Council cash reserves and reimbursed by the future payment of the insurance lump sum. Any expenditure will be subject to Council's procurement requirements and approved budget limits.

The proposed works are intended to provide essential infrastructure to support temporary facilities while planning and delivery of the permanent rebuild progresses.

Failure to provide the supporting infrastructure for temporary facilities may delay the return of organised sporting and community activities at the reserve and adversely impact the ongoing recovery of the Carranballac community.

Providing the hardstand and power supply will reduce the risk of delays in establishing temporary facilities and support the continued use of the reserve while permanent infrastructure is reconstructed.

The proposed expenditure represents an interim investment that will assist the community throughout the recovery period while longer-term rebuilding works are progressed.

CONCLUSION

The provision of temporary facilities at the Carranballac Recreation Reserve is an important step in supporting the community's recovery following the January 2026 fire. While planning for the permanent rebuild continues under the community-led model endorsed by Council, the installation of a hardstand and power supply will enable temporary facilities to be established and the reserve to remain operational for community and sporting activities.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Allocates up to \$20,000 for the installation of a hard stand and power supply to support temporary facilities at the Carranballac Recreation Reserve funded through current cash reserves that will be reimbursed by the insurance lump sum payment.
2. Notes that the temporary facilities will support continued community and sporting use of the reserve while the community-led rebuild of the permanent facilities is progressed.

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council closed at _____