



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Monday 17 August 2026

Council Chambers

Beaufort Council Offices,
5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

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

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1. WELCOME

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Damian Ferrari

Councillors: Megan Phelan, Simon Tol, Rebecca Wardlaw

Chief Executive Officer: Sally Jones

Director Asset and Development Services: Douglas Gowans

Director of Corporate and Community Services: Jacinta Erdody

EA to CEO and Councillors: Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

Senior Communications Officer: Fiona Henderson

Communications Officer: Helen D'Costa

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari read the livestream preamble.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

4. APOLOGIES

Cr Tanya Kehoe

5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 July 2026 as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising (items taken on notice) from the previous meeting held 20 July 2026.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Chris Johnston of Beaufort

Question one:

I'm the current president for Business for Beaufort and resident of the town. Strong advocate for tourism and economy of the town and district. I'd like to present this submission or question, probably both. The trees in Neill Street, I believe that these particular trees are getting right out of hand, they are too large. First of all, they are deciduous trees which makes a lot of clean up at one point in time during the year for council, blocking drains and that sort of stuff. Therefore, putting extra load on outdoor staff, unnecessary load. They block the shop windows, one in particular, the craft shop looking from the supermarket across to the craft shop, you actually can't see the front of the craft shop at all, no façade, when it is in full bloom. The tree outside the supermarket, the roots are actually lifting the kerbing and making water pool there, that's not going to get any better, it is one of the larger trees and it holds that water there.

Recently there has been planter boxes put around those trees, I felt that these planter boxes were a little bit unnecessary where maybe some little plants put in there to make it look colourful. On numerous occasions those planter boxes have been backed into and broken, and council staff have had to repair them, so more maintenance again. The islands themselves where the trees are, take up valuable car parks and back when it was first put to council and these were put in place there were various outdoor staff members, back in a time when they were employed here, were against it for those reasons, the wrong trees and taking up car parks. This is probably the better time of the year to remove them if you were going to remove them because there's no leaves on them, I see a greater advantage of removing these trees. They don't provide that much shade, only for the compactor bins that require solar to operate. In particular, the one outside the supermarket, it was placed there for two weeks, and it didn't get any sunlight because of that tree and then had to be removed. It would suggest that that was probably a waste of council's time. I would like council to consider doing something about this because I can see some advantages in it, I would also like council to consider an onsite meeting to discuss this matter.

Response:

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

There is a fair bit to that question which I am a little bit unprepared for, I think it is best to take that question on notice.

Mr Tony Briody of Lexton

Question one:

I've just heard today about the Burnbank creek and the recent floods. I am a bit sorry, there were a few people that wanted to come over tonight and they couldn't, they had other engagements and said if I could just speak on their behalf, it really doesn't affect our farm but it affects the township of Lexton and if I could just shortly go through it with you. The two floods, the one previous and this one, fairly big but not that bad, I've seen a lot worse in my time. Our rainfall records go back to 1870 at home, and I can show you enormous amounts of rainfall that's come through and off our hills. The other day we had six abandoned cars, one of them people had to be removed from the car with the fire trucks, and it was really serious. What I'm trying to tell you is the floods themselves, in my time have not been that bad at Lexton. There have been some really bad ones, but enormous amounts of rain, a lot more rain than what we had the other day. I'm talking about the creek itself, the creek itself I've got photos, it shows you the bed of the creek. There are suckers about 20 meters high in the bed of the creek and then there is debris scattered right around and it is just blocking the creek. What happens in those situations, it just spreads the water sideways, if the water can't get away, then you are in trouble.

As a young bloke I worked on dozers a long time ago, we did a lot of work with streams and dams and levy banks so I know what I am talking about and it is just sad that we had to spend \$200,000 on a consultant fee and we have come up with what we have come up with and it is not working and it's not going to work. In the past we've cleaned the creek out, we would get an excavator in every few years and we cleaned it out. In our country up in the hills, we've put in six silt traps and there were 6,000 tonnes of blue metal and we made these silt traps and pipe structures and whatever and it has worked really well but up in the hills the creeks were a lot deeper. Down at Lexton it narrows out and it flattens out so the creeks are not as deep and in actual fact they are rising so the silt is building up and it is pushing the water sideways and in my time, years ago the old fence right around the Toll Bar park, when we put it up about 30-40 years ago it never got up to the Toll Bar Park but the last two floods it has pushed right up, actually the second flood we had a while back it wiped out the fence that we had there, it just shows you what's happening, I don't know what can be done and I don't know, can we have another look at it.

I really feel sorry for the people that are in Lexton itself. It is really serious, the other day we had nearly three drownings at Lexton. They did do a little bit of work on the creek the other day just from the bridge down and they only just trimmed the edge but it is the floor of the creek that is the worry and that's what we've got to really look at and it is sad, it's really hard to get the message across.

Also, Cemetery Road, that's got a fair bit of water damage and flood damage from the other day but I don't know how were going and how far we are on the list to get it sealed up to the cemetery, it would be really good and I reckon we owe it to all of our people that have gone before us. I'm on the cemetery trust, were really doing a good job there and improving things but the road leading up, I think it is one of the only ones in the shire that hasn't got a sealed road going to the cemetery.

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari

Thank you for taking the time to come and speak to us, it is important and we have to deal with some agencies and it is very frustrating at times, we would love to do some more work but there's very strict guidelines, not applied by us but have to be adhered to by us, it is very frustrating that we can only do minimal work.

Mr Briody

I understand, I think there is four different denominations, the shire, North Central Catchment Authority and then the first nations and also DEECA. All these different organisations to deal with and they are a lot stricter now, even at home you have to be really careful, and you have to get permits to do anything.

Response:

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

On Cemetery Road and the upgrade to a seal, council is actually considering a report tonight that has Council's Ten-Year Asset plan, there is a section in annexure two of that which lists a whole range of roads that have been identified by council and the community that could benefit from an upgrade to a seal. I take Mr Briody's point that it may be the only cemetery that doesn't have a sealed road to it but there are obviously a lot of considerations for council. We currently don't have a large budget to upgrade gravel roads to sealed roads, but when opportunities come, we do have a list and a priority list that council can consider when those particular issues come about.

On the recent Lexton flood, I can confirm that council did undertake some work prior to the flooding to remove some of the vegetation and we did seek permission from the CMA and cultural heritage to remove, we were limited in what we could do and there is some further work that we are still planning to do. I take Mr Briody's point that if you have a deeper channel that will mean that more water will stay in the channel but there are limitations on what council can get permission for, and there are sensitivities around cleaning creek beds out, even with the vegetation that is there, I

know some people have some strong opinions on cumbungi which often grows on the base of creeks and there are some limitations on what we can do on the creek bed itself but I take Mr Briody's point. The flood study did model reducing the amount of vegetation in the Burnbank Creek at Lexton which showed that it did have a positive effect on flood levels in the town and that is why council committed to undertaking the work that we have recently done.

Mr Peter Wingfield of Burnbank

Question one:

Just in regard to what was just said about budget and money, the shortage of money. My question is, do you think that the grant funds that you get for doing roads are used wisely or properly. I say this in light of Stud Farm Road; it was washed out last year. It had a band-aid put on it, it has washed out again this year, and I guess it will get another band-aid. How long do we keep putting band aids on a job that can be fixed quite easily by doing it properly once and you won't have to go back. If you want to see how to do it, go north of Evansford and have a look at the road from there to the culvert at Lexton Road, it is perfect, the way the sides of the road should be. Stud Farm Road is a bus route, it was dangerous, I even rang Christians Bus company and warned them about the condition of the road, you couldn't get off the road, especially from Retallicks road to the bore on top of the hill and from the bore, down the hill on the other side. There is still water running down it now. I don't know if everybody here drives around, where is most of the potholes on the roads, a meter from the edge, the reason being, the edge of the roads just aren't kept clean, the grass just grows up and up, the soil builds up, the water stays on the road, soaks under the road, and then you've got potholes. That's my main question, spend your money more wisely, we know it is short but do it once, do it properly. I don't know how far you are allowed to go off the road but they are road reserves and a road is no good without drains, a lot of water over the roads is caused by lack of drainage, that needs a little excavator to go along and do a lot of drain cleaning and take the soil away, not keep pushing it up against the edge of the road, blocking the water from getting off and you will save yourself, I believe thousands over the period of time.

The bridge in Evansford, the road was done beautifully, two months later they dig it up to put a bridge in, I can't see how that is good use of public money, to do a brand new road, two months later rip it up and it is still not finished so I think they need to look because one bridge wasn't tarred over, the other one was, it says to me that they knew the money was coming for the bridges so why did they do it or not do the fixing of the road until they had done the bridge. I feel it is a thing that has been up my nose for a long time, the poor use of funds on some jobs by not doing it once and doing it properly. I don't know if you people use some of our rate money to do those little repair jobs because if you wait for a grant, you might be waiting for 6 months, that's why I say, go and have a look at the road from Evansford to Talbot Junction and that's what the edges of all of our roads should be like. Perfect, they've just graded it now, gravelled off, water runs off, there's not a bit of water on the road. You go to the other side, and the road is half under water.

Response:

Mr Douglas Gowans thanked Mr Wingfield for the question and provided the following response: Thank you for those insights, I understand and council does take its use of public funds really seriously. I understand sometimes it might look like we've spent money on one thing and had a different bucket of funding that hasn't aligned to that and that was the case in Evansford. I fully understand that it could look like a misuse of public money, but we had to wait for approval for some funding for those culverts so there was a timing issue between those two roles, I fully take on board those comments and we will attempt to do a lot better going forward. It is also worth noting that this last rainfall and storm event did have impacts in the shire that go beyond councils financial means through its normal budgetary funds and we do rely on the national disaster recovery funds to undertake repairs and we try where possible, when we replace something under that fund, to put it back in a better state, that is more resilient to the weather impacts that we are getting. We're not always successful in getting that betterment funding but we will continue to try and advocate for that.

Mr Trevor Davey of Waterloo

The bird flu problem in Australia is getting pretty bad, all the chicken farms have been shut down in Victoria, they're into lockdown, they have already uncovered some cases that are pretty bad closer to Melbourne and I was wondering what the shire will be doing to protect the community from this, if they are able to or if they should do and the other thing is, I think last night we lost penguins on Phillip Island, we lost 170 seagulls, we've lost all these and it is moving fast so I just wanted to know where you are at with that.

That follows onto the second part of this question, in 2018 Pyrenees Shire released a new local law and it was built around the environment and it covered key environmental issues and facilities and in that law it basically brought law number two and three together to combine it and it was actually a really good move from an environment point of view but what's interesting is I think when you look at the four key points in that law which is now called the general law 2019, they talk about dangerous and unsightly land, they talk about waste and open air burning, camping and temporary dwellings and shipping containers as well as animal management. Well, that's the main reason I talked about the bird flu, do not misunderstand this, I was in China in 2015 when bird flu escaped and to be honest with you, something like 25,000 people were sick within a matter of weeks, it moves fast and it doesn't go just within birds. Within that law, it talks about dangerous and unsightly land. I travel the entire shire every month and I have seen a lot every month, I can't get over the amount of rubbish and junk that is on properties at the moment, car bodies, just absolute filth, it is incredible and it is closing in on Beaufort really hard, we chatted about this a couple of months back. The other thing is shipping containers, they're everywhere and they are just popping up everywhere and we were supposed to have some sort of strong arm about reducing those. That's my question, where are we at.

Response:

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

Councils' role is to ensure that we are providing the state message around bird flu and health impacts, that we are making sure that message is getting out into the public. You'll see that we've had a number of posts on our social media and in our noticeboards that clearly point to the state and national directives around bird flu and what to do. Some of the key messages are don't touch or pickup dead birds, report them, there is a 1800 number reporting line if you come across dead birds, it is often up to the land manager to be responsible for birds in the area. We understand that it is going to be really upsetting if we find a lot of birds in public areas and there is sometimes an amenity issue that may require the land manager and in some cases that might be council, to undertake some cleanups and there is obviously some clear rules around PPE requirements to do that. The clear message is that if you do have to pick them up, in the first instance it is suggested to avoid picking them up, if you do, they can actually go into the general waste, the suggestion is to double bag them and don't directly handle them. That is the message but if they are dead in an area that they can decompose in, that is also the advice, if possible, just leave them alone. I understand that might have some other implications into predator animals and I know that the Department of Ag are looking at those impacts as well. Council will be clear on its message and keep promoting what the state message is around bird flu. You're right, it has the potential to have some really big impacts on industries including chicken industries within the shire, it is a really concerning and potentially an economic impact as well as the impact on wild birds.

In terms of Councils general law, moving onto your second question, Councils local law is a clear set of rules that can be utilised to get amenity outcomes, we understand that amenity is up to individuals interpretation and we often act where we receive complaints, especially where that amenity impact is where someone is neighbouring a property that they think is in a poor state of repair or if it has got a shipping container that is unsightly. We have limited resources so therefore we are not necessarily going out of our way to look at every issue that could potentially be an amenity issue but we are trying to address amenity issues where they are an issue for individuals, there is only so much that we can do but we do want people to be responsible when it comes to

unsightly premises and encourage people to do the right thing when it comes to making sure they abide by the local law.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

9.1.1. UPDATE ON EMERGENCY TREE WORKS POST STREATHAM YALLA-Y-POORA FIRE EVENT

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Noel McKeegan – Environment and Sustainability Coordinator

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

File No: 28/14/50

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the removal of fire-impacted trees on road reserves and privately held land identified as posing a significant risk to road infrastructure following the January 2026 fire event (AGRN 1242).

BACKGROUND

On Friday 9 January 2026, a grassfire started 5km north of Streatham between Yalla-Y-Poorra Road and Eurambeen-Streatham Road, burning through approximately 19,300 Hectares, inflicting severe property and stock losses in and around the communities of Carranballac, Skipton and Stoneleigh. Trees on roadside reserves were also impacted by the fire.

Following a preliminary assessment by Council Officers on Monday 12 January, an experienced arborist (Ben Kenyon – Homewood Consulting) was engaged to assess tree conditions and risks on affected roadsides.

In the week beginning 19 January 2026, 17 roads totalling approximately 40km were inspected. Of approximately 4,400 roadside trees impacted, 1,294 were deemed as presenting a heightened level of risk to road safety. This includes trees on road reserves and private land.

Pinus radiata was the dominant species assessed. *Pinus radiata* is recognised as very fire sensitive, and tree death following a fire event of this severity is considered almost certain.

Based on the recommendations in the Homewood Report, Council engaged contractors to remove trees identified as hazardous to road infrastructure. Trees assessed as posing the highest risk and trees on high traffic roads were removed first to prioritise road safety and minimise exposure to financial risk in the absence of clear funding commitments from external agencies for trees classified as "moderate" risk.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

As of 31 July 2026, 1,293 trees assessed as presenting a heightened level of risk to road safety have been removed. Of these, 1086 have been removed by Council and 207 trees on private land have been removed by landholders as part of clean-up operations.

Of the approximately 3,100 fire-impacted trees not identified as hazardous to road infrastructure in the Homewood report, an estimated 422 remain on Council-managed road reserves. It is estimated that of these trees, approximately 244 are fire-impacted pine trees on Council-managed road reserves that are not expected to recover. The remainder are eucalyptus species which are likely to recover. The majority of the pine trees are located on Carngham-Streatham Road. As there is no available funding source for the removal of trees in this category, in some cases landholders have undertaken removal of trees on road reserves at their own expense, with Council officers providing advice and assistance to expedite the process as far as practicable.

Debris from approximately 50 trees felled immediately after the fire as part of the DEECA-managed response has also been documented on the road reserve on Carngham-Streatham Road.

While the 244 fire-impacted pine trees on Council-managed road reserves do not pose an immediate risk to road users, they will likely decay over time and impact fence lines as well as degrade the amenity of the area.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Council has kept the community informed of proposed works and progress throughout the recovery period through noticeboard articles, community recovery committee meetings and direct engagement with fire affected property owners.

ATTACHMENTS

1. BD K 26-02-13 5661 Pyrenees Fire Skipton [9.1.1.1 - 78 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Removal works have been funded through the Victorian Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Claims submitted to date have been 100% successful, with an approved value of \$284,000. Claims for recently completed emergency tree removal works to the value of approximately \$120,000 are currently being processed.

Debris on the road reserve and trees not assessed as hazardous to road infrastructure are not eligible for funding under DRFA. Allocating other available recovery funds or seeking alternative external funding sources to remove these trees may not be possible under funding guidelines and may create a financial risk around equity, given that several landholders have already undertaken removal at their own expense.

CONCLUSION

Fire-impacted trees posing an immediate and ongoing risk to road users have been removed within the required DRFA timeframe. An estimated 422 fire impacted trees remain on Council-managed road reserves.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

9.1.2. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY REPORT AUGUST 2026

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Rachel Blackwell – Manager Planning and Development Services

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

File No: to be added

BACKGROUND

This report was prepared to give the Council a summary of activities within the Planning and Development Department, for April – June 2026 and for the 2025-2026 financial year.

The Planning and Development team is responsible for administering a range of regulatory functions identified within the following Acts, Regulations, Codes and Standards:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Planning and Environment Regulations 2015
- Building Act 1993
- Building Regulations 2018
- National Construction Codes
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Water Act 1989
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Food Act 1984
- Tobacco Act 1987
- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Domestic Animals Regulations 2015
- Country Fire Act 1958
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Road Safety Act 1986
- Protection of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
- General Local Law 2019

PART A: PLANNING

Planning Permit Data	April	May	June	2025-2026 Financial year
Permit applications received	10	6	10	103
Permits granted	1	4	4	56
Permits refused	0	0	0	0
Estimated cost of works	-	\$1M	-	\$17M
Applications decided within 60 statutory days (%)	100%	100%	100%	91.38%

Planning Enquiries — April to June 2026

During the April to June 2026 quarter, the Planning Team received approximately 560 enquiries. Of these enquiries:

- Approximately 144 related to current planning permit applications or existing planning permit matters; and
- Approximately 399 were pre-purchase or pre-application enquiries.

- 17 calls related to draft planning scheme amendment C52pyrn.

Pyrenees Planning Scheme Draft Amendment C52 –Pyrenees Flood Related Planning Controls

In March 2026, the Minister for Planning conditionally approved draft Amendment C52 to the Pyrenees Planning Scheme to proceed to public consultation. Formal consultation on the amendment was undertaken in June and July 2026. The formal consultation period closed on Monday the 27 July 2026.

The consultation included a total of 1600 letters sent to owners/occupiers affected by the draft amendment. Six drop-in sessions were held across the shire where council officers and the relevant catchment management authorities met with the local community to discuss how they may be impacted by the amendment. The consultation sessions were very well attended by 122 community members, many of which have a good understanding of flooding within their area and were generally supportive of the proposed amendment.

At the conclusion of the consultation period, a total of 20 submissions were received. Of these submissions 6 were in support of the proposed amendment, with 14 raising concerns. common concerns include:

- Disagreeing with the flood extent
- Engineering/mitigation issues
- Not supporting of government/controls
- Concerns with the ordinance
- Property prices/insurance concerns.

The team in consultation with the CMAs is currently reviewing each submission and providing a detailed response to each landowner for their consideration.

A report is being drafted for the Minister for Planning which will detail the consultation undertaken as part of the original flood studies, the planning scheme amendment, submissions and how they have been addressed.

If the Standing Advisory Committee process proceeds, it is anticipated to be undertaken in October/November 2026. The Committee will provide advice on flood studies and planning scheme amendments as part of a new state-led approach to flood risk management, aimed at reducing costs and administrative burden for councils.

Planning Scheme Review

The planning team has commenced the planning scheme review. A Planning Scheme Review is a regular review process that ensures these rules are working effectively. Council is required to formally review the planning scheme every four years and report its findings to the Minister for Planning as per section 12B of the Planning & Environment Act 1987.

The purpose of the Review is to assess how well the current planning scheme is working and whether it continues to reflect local needs while aligning with State Government policy. The review helps to respond to current and emerging trends and identify gaps.

It is important to note that the planning scheme review cannot change zoning rules or planning controls for individual properties.

PART B – BUILDING

	April	May	June	Financial YTD
BUILDING ACTIVITY				
Private Building Permits	13	10	15	156
'Property Info Cert' issued	25	22	22	316
Building Notice/Order issued	12	0	2	38
Building Inspections	8	7	14	94
Report & Consent	5	0	1	20
Pool Registers	2	1	1	20

Pools

The team has been working with the owners of pools to achieve compliance where required child safety barrier certification has not been obtained. The focus has been on engaging with property owners to support compliance with pool safety requirements and ensure outstanding matters are addressed.

Bushfire Recovery

The team has been working with landowners in Carranballac and the recovery team to address building notices and orders issued following the January fire event. Approximately 50 per cent of damaged and unsafe buildings have now been cleaned up, with remaining properties progressing as demolition support becomes available.

Part C – Environmental Health

Task				
Officer Activity	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
Food Surveillance				
Food premises mandatory assessments	3	8	16	80
Food premises critical or major outcomes	0	0	0	5
Total new food premises	0	0	0	8
Total closed food premises	0	0	0	9
Streatrader mandatory assessments	1	0	0	5
Streatrader new applications	3	1	0	28
SOT processed	24	7	18	206
Statutory food samples sent for analysis Class 1	0	0	0	0
Statutory food samples sent for analysis Class 2 & 3	10	0	0	14
Unsatisfactory food samples	0	0	0	0
Food complaints received	0	0	0	4

Food complaints justified	0	0	0	0
Food recalls actioned	4	5	4	76
PHW Surveillance				
PHWA premises mandatory assessments	1	1	6	20
PHWA premises critical or major outcomes	0	0	0	0
Total new PHWA premises	0	0	0	1
Total transferred PHWA premises	0	0	0	1
Total closed PHWA premises	0	0	0	1
PHWA premises complaints received	0	0	0	0
PHWA premises complaints justified	0	0	0	0
Unregistered rooming house complaints received	0	0	0	0
Outbreak investigation referrals	0	0	0	1
Single case incident referrals	0	0	0	0
Anaphylaxis investigation referrals	0	0	0	0
Pool water and chemical testing conducted	0	0	0	7
Unsatisfactory pool water samples	0	0	0	2
Nuisance investigation & general enquiries				
Noise complaints	1	2	2	5
Odour complaints	0	1	0	2
Smoke complaints	0	0	0	0
Bees/wasps complaints	0	0	0	0
Vermin/pests complaints	0	0	0	0
Asbestos complaints	1	0	0	1
Other nuisance complaints	0	0	0	0
Total enquiries/phone call backs received- all types	10	13	15	74
Caravan Park Surveillance				
Caravan park mandatory assessments conducted	0	1	0	1
Tobacco Education & Surveillance				
Tobacco retailer visits conducted	0	1	1	10
Eating establishment visits conducted	0	3	0	5
Outdoor area visits conducted	0	0	4	10

Test purchase days conducted	1	0	0	2
Test purchase visits conducted	7	0	0	16
Test purchase sales made	0	0	0	0
Tobacco complaints	0	0	0	1
Domestic Wastewater Management				
Septic tank applications received	3	1	2	33
Waste water inspections conducted	6	10	2	61
Septic tank permits to install issued	3	5	0	32
Septic tank approvals to use issued	0	5	1	25
Septic tank requests for plans received	0	0	0	1
Waste water complaints	0	0	1	2
DWMP compliance checks conducted	15	22	0	97
DWMP compliance checks serious non-compliances	0	0	0	0
Planning Referrals and Health Planning				
Planning referrals commented on	2	4	7	47
Environmental health planning (hours)				126
Enforcement action taken				
Food Act notices issued incl. S19, S19W	0	0	0	0
PHW notices issued incl. improvement and prohibition	0	0	0	0
Official warnings issued	0	0	0	1
Number of infringements issued	0	0	0	0
Total value of infringements issued (\$)	0	0	0	0
Other				
Emergency callouts	0	0	0	1
Councillor requests	0	0	0	0

Food Sampling

Over the quarter, the Environmental Health team has focused on delivering the food sampling program, which involves testing food samples from local businesses to assess microbiological safety, allergen management, and environmental compliance.

This year's results have been positive, with officers providing targeted education and support to business owners to address areas of concern and promote ongoing improvements in food safety practices.

Tobacco Test Purchasing

In April, the Council conducted its Tobacco Test Purchasing Program. This compliance initiative, undertaken under the Tobacco Act 1987, involves trained minors attempting to purchase tobacco products or e-cigarettes to assess whether retailers are complying with legislation that prohibits sales to people under 18.

Council is pleased to report that all Pyrenees businesses tested successfully complied with the requirements.

In relation to community concerns regarding the supply of illegal tobacco, suspicious activity involving tobacco can be reported directly to Tobacco Licensing Victoria. Reports can be made anonymously.

Complaints

The team has been addressing a number of noise and odour complaints across the shire and has been working with residents to understand and resolve their ongoing concerns.

PART D – COMMUNITY SAFETY AND AMENITY

ACTIVITY - Animals

	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	Total FYTD
Cats Registered	N/A	N/A	446	-
Dogs registered	N/A	N/A	1775	-
Cats impounded	3	1	1	41
Cats reclaimed	0	0	0	2
Cats Euthanised	1	1	1	33
Cats Adopted/Rehomed	2	0	0	6
Dogs impounded	2	4	6	31
Dogs Reclaimed	2	3	5	28
Dogs Surrendered	0	0	1	2
Dogs Euthanised	0	0	0	1
Dogs Adopted/Rehomed	0	1	0	2
Stock impounded	2	0	0	13

ACTIVITY - Infringements

Infringement Type	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	Total FYTD
Domestic Animals Act	3	1	5	45
Local Laws	0	2	4	13
Road Safety Act	0	3	5	36
Environment Protection Act	0	0	0	3
Impounding of Livestock Act	0	0	0	2

CFA Act	0	0	0	42
Planning & Environment Act	1	0	0	1
Road Management Act	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Infringements Issued	4	6	14	142
Prosecutions	0	0	1	5

ACTIVITY – Customer Action Requests & Permits

Customer Action Requests (Excludes several RecFind Docs.)	47	38	45	763
Local Law Permits	5	3	3	115

Animal Registration Renewals

Following the distribution of renewal notices, text messages, and several social media posts, the CSA team has commenced follow-up activities for outstanding cat and dog registrations.

This process includes visiting properties to confirm whether animals are still being kept at the address and taking enforcement action where required.

Blue Gum Plantation Harvesting and Burning Off

Several plantation burns were recently undertaken, resulting in hazardous smoke conditions that affected visibility for motorists travelling along major roads. Council received several reports from the community and referred the matter to the EPA and VicRoads for further investigation.

Council continues to work with the EPA on this matter. A key concern is the ongoing management of the burn sites, including the potential for underground fires to reignite and cause a bushfire event in the months ahead.

Illegal Dumping

A trailer load of rubbish was illegally dumped along the roadside in Waterloo. The matter was reported to Council, and an investigation was undertaken to identify those responsible.

The waste was traced back to a solar panel installation company. Businesses found to be littering are subject to significantly higher penalties than individuals. The company was contacted and directed to remove the illegally dumped rubbish, which they subsequently completed.

The company was also issued an EPA Infringement Notice in the amount of \$6273.00

Native Vegetation Removal Court Outcome

In June, Council officers attended Maryborough Magistrates' Court in relation to a prosecution concerning the unauthorised removal of a significant amount of native vegetation from land at Evansford.

Council officers undertook extensive investigations and gathered evidence over several months to support the prosecution. At the hearing, the accused pleaded guilty to the offence. Given the seriousness of the vegetation removal, the Court imposed a fine of \$10,000 and ordered the accused to pay Council's costs.

This is a positive outcome, particularly given the seriousness of the offence and the significant time and resources invested by Council officers in investigating and preparing the matter for prosecution.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

Officers consulted with the community on the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan throughout June and July. This included attending the Beaufort and Avoca Markets, as well as visiting resource centres, which proved to be successful.

The feedback received was positive, with a significant number of surveys being completed. Officers are now reviewing the survey responses and submissions received to help inform the final plan. The plan will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption in September.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

- 1b. Community safety and wellbeing.
- 1c. Population growth through strategic planning.

Pillar 2 - Economy

- 2a. Support growth and diversification of new and existing businesses.
- 2b. Coordinated and facilitated planning for fostering business and tourism growth.
- 2c. Support community events and visitor economy.

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

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

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

- 4a. Plan, build, and maintain essential infrastructure.
- 4c. Support and facilitate appropriate land use.
- 4d. Advocate for fair renewable energy development.

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 of building trust.
- 5c. Ensure timely, clear, and consistent communication underpinned by transparency.
- 5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

9.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

9.2.1. OUTSTANDING AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

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: 32/04/04

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an update on the implementation of recommendations arising from internal audit reviews and outlines the current status of outstanding management actions.

BACKGROUND

Internal audit plays an important role in strengthening Council's governance, risk management and internal control environment. Recommendations arising from internal audit reviews are recorded in the Outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations Register and monitored until agreed management actions have been completed or otherwise resolved.

The Audit and Risk Committee receives regular updates on the register and provides oversight of management progress in implementing agreed actions.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations Register has been reviewed and updated for the August 2026 reporting period.

Progress updates have been obtained from responsible officers across the organisation and incorporated into the register to reflect the current status of each recommendation. The CEO and Executive Leadership Team will continue to review and improve current commentary regarding outstanding actions to ensure appropriate and achievable timeframes are provided within future reports.

The register provides an important governance tool for monitoring the implementation of audit recommendations, supporting organisational accountability and ensuring that opportunities identified through internal audit are translated into measurable improvements across Council's operations.

A summary of the current implementation status is provided below.

Audit Recommendation Status	High risk	Moderate risk	Minor risk	Total
Not yet commenced		1		1
In progress – On track			3	3
In progress – Behind schedule		19	19	38
Completed		1	5	6
TOTAL	0	21	27	48

Governance will continue to work collaboratively with responsible officers to monitor progress, support implementation of outstanding actions and report regularly to the Audit and Risk Committee.

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 community is informed through the publication of this report within the Council Agenda.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Audit Action Report August 2026 [9.2.1.1 - 6 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Timely implementation of internal audit recommendations strengthens Council's governance framework and assists in mitigating strategic, operational, financial and legislative risks. Regular monitoring of outstanding recommendations supports continuous improvement and promotes accountability for the implementation of agreed management actions.

CONCLUSION

Council's internal audit program provides valuable assurance over the effectiveness of governance, risk management and internal controls. Ongoing monitoring of outstanding recommendations ensures agreed improvements continue to be implemented, and that management remains accountable for addressing identified risks in a timely manner.

The Outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations Register demonstrates Council's commitment to continuous improvement and sound governance practices, with progress continuing to be monitored through the Audit and Risk Committee.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

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

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
6 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
7 July 2026	AusAlert Overview Meeting	Online
7 July 2026	Business for Beaufort AGM	Beaufort
8 July 2026	Carranballac Recreation Reserve PWG Meeting	Stoneleigh
10 July 2026	CEO Farewell	Beaufort
13 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
17 July 2026	MAV Regional Meeting	Online
17 July 2026	Skipton Fire Brigade Awards Night	Skipton
20 July 2026	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
24 July 2026	Western Highway Action Committee Meeting	Online
30 July 2026	Skipton-Streatham Community Recovery Network Meeting	Streatham
31 July 2026	Ballarat Light Car Club AGM	Ballarat

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
2 July 2026	Community Network Recovery Meeting	Skipton
6 July 2026	Council Briefing	Online
8 July 2026	Carranballac Recreation Reserve PWG Meeting	Stoneleigh
10 July 2026	CEO Farewell	Beaufort
13 July 2026	Council Briefing	Online
20 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
23 July 2026	RCV Committee Meeting	Online

Cr Simon Tol – Ercildoune Ward		
1 July 2026	Amendment C52 Community Session	Waubra
2 July 2026	Constituent Meeting	Raglan
3 July 2026	Constituent Meeting	Waubra
4 July 2026	Beaufort Football Netball Club	Beaufort
6 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
7 July 2026	Business for Beaufort AGM	Beaufort
8 July 2026	Constituent Meeting	Raglan
9 July 2026	Constituent Meeting	Lexton
9 July 2026	Constituent Meeting	
10 July 2026	Meeting with Joe McCracken	
10 July 2026	Meeting with Bev McArthur	
10 July 2026	CEO Farewell	Beaufort
11 July 2026	Waubra Football Netball Club	Waubra
13 July 2026	Constituent Meeting	Evansford
13 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
17 July 2026	The Red Series Event	Ballarat

18 July 2026	Waterloo AGM	Waterloo
19 July 2026	Mt Bolton AGM	Learmonth
20 July 2026	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
25 July 2026	Christmas in July Event	Raglan
27 July 2026	ABC Interview	Telephone
28 July 2026	Constituent Meeting	Evansford
31 July 2026	Ballarat Light Car Club AGM	Ballarat

Cr Megan Phelan – De Cameron Ward		
6 July 2026	Council Briefing	Online
11 July 2026	Landsborough Hub	Landsborough
13 July 2026	Council Briefing	Online
17 July 2026	The Red Series Event	Ballarat
20 July 2026	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
27 July 2026	Barkly Hall Committee of Management Meeting	Online

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw – Avoca Ward		
6 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
13 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
17 July 2026	The Red Series Event	Ballarat
20 July 2026	Citizenship Ceremony	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
20 July 2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
24 July 2026	Avoca Food Pantry AGM	Avoca
26 July 2026	Avoca Riverside Market Meeting	Avoca
31 July 2026	Streatham Christmas in July Event	Streatham

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Simon Tol

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

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

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name		Council Briefing	
Meeting Date		6 July 2026 commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 7.00pm	
Meeting Location		Council Chamber, Beaufort	
Items Discussed		1. Local Government Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities) Bill 2026 2. Old Beaufort Primary School Land 3. 2026/2027 - the year ahead 4. Swimming Pools	
ATTENDEES			
Councillors		Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Tanya Kehoe (virtual) Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)	
Apologies		Nil.	
Staff		Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Diana Dixon (Manager Community Wellbeing and Partnerships) item 4	
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	13 July 2026 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 7.00pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Lexton Flood Study Planning Scheme Amendment 2. Swimming Pool Operations 3. Working Together Moving Forward 4. Councillor Question Time		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Tanya Kehoe (virtual) Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)		
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Douglas Gowans (Acting Chief Executive Officer) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Diana Dixon (Manager Community Wellbeing and Partnerships) item 2		
Visitors	Amy Bell, NCCMA – item 1 Camille White, NCCAM – item 1		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	20 July 2026 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Beaufort Swimming Pool Inspection 2. Social Media Policy 3. Budget Considerations 4. Councillor Question Time		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Tanya Kehoe (virtual) Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan		
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Douglas Gowans (Acting Chief Executive Officer) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Fiona Henderson (Senior Communications Officer) item 1		
Visitors	Nil.		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

12. ITEMS FOR DECISION

12.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

12.1.1. ADOPTION OF REVIEWED TEN YEAR ASSET PLAN

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Tim Day. **Manager Assets**

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

File No: 06/12/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to notify Council that an internal review of the 10-Year Asset Plan has been undertaken in year two of its adoption and is presented to Council for endorsement.

BACKGROUND

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

The Plan must include information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council.

In October 2025, the Ten-Year Asset Plan was presented to Council. This August 2026 revision reports work completed and minor changes applicable to the coming financial year.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The August 2026 revision to the Ten-Year Asset Plan includes minor changes only.

The Ten-Year Asset Plan has been updated to include:

- revisions to the budget amounts to align with the latest long term financial plan;
- minor revisions to the listed projects based on changes to condition assessment;
- minor revisions to the order of works to reflect program efficiencies;
- Works completed in the last financial year
- identification of the impact of the January 2026 fire event.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 10 YR Asset Plan - Draft 08-2026 [12.1.1.1 - 26 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The Ten-Year Asset Plan is a statutory requirement of Council required by the *Local Government Act 2020*. The revised Ten-Year Asset Plan 2025-2034 is provided for endorsement by Council.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council endorses the revision made to the Ten-Year Asset Plan.

CARRIED

12.1.2. RURAL COUNCILS VICTORIA CAMPAIGN

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 44/06/22

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement to support Rural Councils Victoria advocacy campaign ahead of the 2026 Victorian election.

BACKGROUND

Rural Councils Victoria has developed a comprehensive election platform.

The headline call is for the next government to establish a \$1billion Rural and Regional Victoria Productivity and Growth Fund.

Funding would be delivered across four complementary streams:

1. Community wellbeing and local places renewal
2. Economic development
3. Council sustainability and
4. Housing supply.

The \$1billion would be for commitment over four years following the state election.

RCV is also advocating for more funding for roads and council sustainability, reforms to enhance councillor safety, and a genuine reform of the ESVF.

Further information is available on RCV's website: <https://ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au/Invest/>

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Pyrenees Shire Council is a member of the advocacy alliance of Rural Councils Victoria (RCV).

In direct consultation with regional representatives, RCV has developed a statewide advocacy platform calling for greater investment in rural communities and a stronger long-term partnership between state and local government.

A formal, public-facing campaign will support this advocacy platform. While largely driven by RCV centrally, Council is being asked to support local delivery and promotion of the campaign.

The campaign will be non-partisan. It will not endorse any political party or election candidate.

RCV want all those in positions to affect change to know about the campaign and be persuaded to support RCV's policy proposals.

To achieve this, RCV will:

- Raise awareness of the importance of rural Victoria.
- Be open about the challenges and struggles facing rural Victoria.
- Show the impact on 'real people', and how their lives could change for the better.
- Highlight known solutions – priorities for investment and reform.
- Drive community participation in the campaign.
- Secure commitments from candidates and political parties.

RCV's targets for advocacy include:

- The government – Ministers, MPs, decision makers, powerbrokers.
- The opposition – Liberal and National Party leaders, MPs, staff
- Crossbench and candidates – RCV want everybody to be persuaded to support them.
- Local community members – people within Pyrenees Shire.
- The wider Victorian community – all Victorian voters.

RCV's Key campaign messages are:

- Rural Victoria needs more respect, support, and investment.
- Strong rural communities support a stronger Victorian economy.
- If you respect rural Victoria, you need to invest in rural Victoria.
- This election, rural Victoria deserves better.
- Let's back rural communities..
- Victoria can't thrive unless rural Victoria thrives.

RCV is seeking support from Council to install co-branded signs at key infrastructure or development sites that illustrate the need for Victorian Government investment in rural communities.



It is proposed for signage to be considered to be installed in the following prominent locations in Pyrenees Shire:

- Within the precinct of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park adjoining the Beaufort Skipton Rd
- At the Avoca Swimming Pool on the Pyrenees Highway
- At either the Landsborough Swimming Pool or the Landsborough Bowls Club.

Other locations that align with the RCV campaign and Council's own state election priority areas could include:

- Promoting library funding at both Pyrenees Shire Resource Centres – Avoca Information Centre and Beaufort Community Resource Centre
- Recreation reserves across the Shire including specific identified projects at Waubra and Avoca

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1d. Foster partnerships, support volunteers and build capacity.

Pillar 2 - Economy

2c. Support community events and visitor economy.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Supply and installation costs per sign has been estimated at approximately \$1000 per site dependent upon the size of the signage. Council support is being sought to authorise the utilisation of funds of up to \$5000 to support this campaign potentially utilising advocacy budgets within the Councillor and CEO expenditure accounts.

CONCLUSION

Supporting Rural Councils Victoria's 2026 advocacy campaign provides Council with an opportunity to reinforce its commitment to advocating for an increased investment in regional communities. The installation of signage at key locations strengthens the collective voice of rural councils and highlights the importance of continued state government investment in rural infrastructure.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. Endorse the key advocacy priorities in Rural Councils Victoria 2026 election platform.
2. Supports calls for the establishment of a dedicated \$1 billion Rural and Regional Victoria Productivity and Growth Fund, as detailed in the Rural Councils Victoria election platform.
3. Endorse the localities for campaign signage to include localities in Avoca, Beaufort and Landsborough.
4. Endorse a budget of up to \$5,000 to support the campaign.

CARRIED

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Tol

- Thanked Sally, interim CEO who is doing a great job.
- Attended the B4B event and congratulated them on the excellent work it continues to do for the local community, particularly its fundraising and community support initiatives.
- Attended an AGM at Waterloo and acknowledged the significant work being undertaken to support the community. The impressive facility provides a valuable space for local residents and community activities.
- Attended the Mount Bolton Lions Club AGM and recognised the important contribution the club makes across the broader area, including cutting firewood, assisting with home renovations and supporting people in need.
- Acknowledged the valuable contribution made by local community groups and volunteers. These organisations provide essential support to their communities.
- Attended an event at the Ballarat Light Car Club, which is building a facility in Lexton. It was encouraging to see investment coming into Lexton.
- Attended the Red Series event, which showcased local wineries and products. The event was well attended and provided a great opportunity to promote local businesses and producers.

Cr Phelan

- Attended the event promoting local wineries and was pleased to see strong representation from wineries across the Pyrenees.
- Attended the Barkly Hall Committee of Management meeting and acknowledged the dedication of local volunteers working to support their small community.
- Noted the committee's plans for both indoor and outdoor community events, aimed at bringing residents together and the return of the historic church bell to its previous owners in Barkly, following its time at the local primary school.
- Regularly attended the Landsborough Hub and recognised the importance of its coffee mornings as a place for residents to connect and socialise.
- Attended a recent citizenship ceremony and enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this important community occasion.
- Noted that I will be taking four weeks of leave.

Cr Wardlaw

- Attended the AGM of the Pyrenees Food Pantry and acknowledged the outstanding work of the volunteers who provide free food to people in need on a fortnightly basis.
- Commended the professionalism, care and welcoming approach of the Pyrenees Food Pantry volunteers, who ensure people can access support without stigma.
- Noted that the Pyrenees Food Pantry is currently seeking a new premises after being required to leave its current location. Recognised the growing demand for the service and expressed hope that a suitable new location can be identified with Council's assistance.
- Attended the Avoca Riverside Market and met with Central Highlands Water to discuss its five-year water plan for the Central Highlands region.
- Raised the ongoing need for additional water access points in and around Avoca and acknowledged that the issue is being considered as part of Central Highlands Water's planning.
- Attended the Christmas in July event in Streatham, held in response to the January fires.
- Reflected on the importance of the event in bringing together people who had lost homes and possessions in the fires. It was particularly moving to hear about the loss of family history and treasured personal items.
- Commended the organisers for creating a positive and supportive event where people could share their experiences, reconnect and enjoy an evening together.
- Noted the significant progress made in replacing fencing across fire-affected areas and acknowledged the tremendous work undertaken by the community and those involved in the recovery.
- Thanked Council's outdoor teams for their tireless work following the recent floods, particularly their efforts to clear the entrance to the Natte Yallock Football Ground so the club could play on Saturday.
- Acknowledged that the outdoor teams' efforts were greatly appreciated by the local sporting community.

Mayor Cr Ferrari provided Cr Kehoe's activity report in her absence:

- Attended the Community Network Recovery meeting.
- Attended Council briefings and Council meetings.
- Attended the Carranballac Recreation Reserve PWG meeting.
- Attended the CEO farewell.
- Attended the RCV Committee meeting

Cr Tol

- Attended Lexton early in the morning of the recent flooding and acknowledged the CFA's attendance, diverting traffic and managing the situation.
- Acknowledged the efforts to assist people whose vehicles were affected by floodwaters and to safely turn large trucks around on the highway.
- Commended everyone involved in the flood response for their efforts under challenging conditions and thanked those who worked to protect the community.

Cr Wardlaw

- Acknowledged the efforts of the CFA in attending a serious car accident in Avoca and their efforts in managing that situation.

Cr Ferrari

- Attended Council briefings and meetings throughout the month.
- Attended the B4B AGM and thanked the organisation for the invitation and acknowledged the significant community work undertaken by its volunteers.
- Attended the Carranballac Recreation Reserve Project Working Group meeting. The meetings remain ongoing and will continue for as long as necessary.
- Attended the MAV Regional Meeting.
- Attended the Skipton CFA Awards Night and acknowledged the outstanding contribution of local CFA volunteers.
- Recognised Ian Nash for 60 years of volunteer service with the CFA, noting that he remains an active member. Acknowledged this as an exceptional contribution to the community.
- Recognised the broader contribution of CFA volunteers across the municipality, including their response to fires, road accidents, medical emergencies, fallen trees and other incidents. Acknowledged that volunteers regularly leave their personal commitments to assist others without seeking payment or recognition.
- Extended sincere thanks to all volunteers across the municipality for their ongoing contribution. Noted that many community services and activities would not be possible without their dedication.
- Attended a citizenship ceremony at which three local residents became Australian citizens. Congratulated the new citizens and acknowledged the significance of the decision to become Australian citizens and remain part of the local community.
- Continued involvement with the Western Highway Action Committee and advocacy for improvements to the municipality's section of the Western Highway. Mr Gowans attended the most recent meeting on behalf of Council.
- Attended the Skipton Streatham Community Recovery Network meeting, which will continue as recovery work progresses.
- Attended the Ballarat Light Car Club AGM which was enlightening.
- Acknowledged the significant work undertaken by Council's outdoor teams and the broader Council organisation in responding to the recent floods.

- Recognised that much of the response occurs behind the scenes, including extensive coordination, meetings, planning and operational work by both indoor and outdoor staff.
- Thanked all Council staff for their ongoing efforts and commitment to the flood response and recovery, noting that the work continues well beyond the initial emergency response.
- Thanked Alana Burge, Council's Tourism Officer for her outstanding and significant efforts in nominating Avoca in the recent Tiny Towns Awards. Avoca was a finalist in the awards.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

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

15.1 - Tender Evaluation Report Motor Grader

CARRIED

The live streaming of Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17 August 2026 stopped at 7.15pm to consider confidential items.

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17 August 2026 closed at 7.23pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari