

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Monday 16 November 2026
Council Chambers
Beaufort Council Offices
5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

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

Photo Location: Avoca

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1. WELCOME

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

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

- As the meeting Chair, I give my consent for this 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 and Closed Meeting of Council held on 19 October 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 19 October 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. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

9.1.1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Assets and Development
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: -

This report was prepared to give the Council a summary of activities within the Planning and Development Department, for July– September 2026.

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	July	August	September	Quarter total
Permit applications received	7	9	6	22
Permits granted	5	5	11	22
Permits refused	0	0	0	0
Estimated cost of works	-	$1 Million	$1 Million	$2 Million
Applications decided within 60 statutory days (%)	100%	100%	71.43%	87.5%
Dwellings approved	2	1	4	7
Lots created	3	6	2	11
Other types of permits approved	*Dwelling extension *Dam	*2 sheds *Native vegetation removal	*Function centre * 4 sheds * 2 Dwelling extensions	

Pyrenees Planning Scheme Draft Amendment C52pyrn –Pyrenees Flood Related Planning Controls

Formal consultation on the Amendment C52pyrn 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.

At the conclusion of the consultation period, a total of 24 submissions were received. Of these submissions 6 were in support of the proposed amendment, with 15 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 draft Amendment and unresolved submissions have been referred to the independent Flood-related Amendments Standing Advisory Committee for consideration and advice. The Committee will conduct a public hearing.

The directions hearing was scheduled for 10.00am on Thursday the 29 October 2026. The main hearing is proposed or the week of the 23 November 2026 (Dates/time TBA).

PART B – BUILDING

BUILDING ACTIVITY	July	August	September	Financial YTD
Private Building Permits	20	10	11	41
'Property Info Cert' issued	20	24	22	66
Building Notice/Order issued	0	0	1	1
Building Inspections	4	12	4	20
Report & Consent	2	1	0	3
Pool Registers	2	1	4	7

PART C – COMMUNITY SAFETY AND AMENITY

ACTIVITY - Animals

	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026	Total FYTD
Cats Registered	-	-	-	**481**
Dogs registered	-	-	-	**1849**
Cats impounded	3	4	3	**10**
Cats reclaimed	0	0	0	**0**
Cats Euthanised	3	2	3	**8**
Cats Adopted/Rehomed	0	2	0	**2**
Dogs impounded	0	6	0	**6**
Dogs Reclaimed	0	0	0	**0**
Dogs Surrendered	0	0	0	**0**
Dogs Euthanised	0	0	0	**0**
Dogs Adopted/Rehomed	0	6	0	**6**
Stock impounded	11	3	4	**18**

ACTIVITY – Infringements & Local Laws Permits

Infringement Type	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026	Total FYTD
Domestic Animals Act	4	4	1	**9**
Local Laws	7	1	0	**8**
Road Safety Act	4	1	1	**6**
Environment Protection Act	1	0	0	**1**
Impounding of Livestock Act	0	0	0	**0**
CFA Act	0	0	0	**0**
Planning & Environment Act	2	0	0	**2**
Road Management Act	0	0	0	**0**
Other	0	0	0	**0**
Total Infringements Issued	18	6	2	**26**
Prosecutions	0	0	0	**0**
Local Law permits	7	1	7	**15**

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.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric
5d. Deliver high quality services with continuous improvement focus.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the activities within the Planning and Development Department for July–September 2026.

9.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

9.2.1. COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

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 update on the progress of implementing the Council Plan 2025-2029 through the delivery of identified initiatives and the progress for the period 1 July to 30 September 2026.

BACKGROUND
Following the End of Year 1 Progress Report, quarterly reporting continues to monitor delivery of Council Plan initiatives during 2026/27.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION
The attached Report covers 36 Council Plan initiatives, including five scheduled to commence in Year 2.

The attachment shows the status of each initiative and progress towards each initiative since the previous report.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE
Pillar 5 - Community-Centric
5c. Ensure timely, clear and consistent communication underpinned by transparency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES
Progress updates were sought from responsible managers. This report forms part of Council's regular communication with the community on delivery of the Council Plan 2025–2029. Engagement associated with individual initiatives is undertaken through the relevant projects.

ATTACHMENTS
1. Council Plan Progress Report - Q 1 [**9.2.1.1** - 8 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS
This report does not seek additional funding. Any financial implications arising from individual initiatives will be considered through Council's budget processes or separate reports.

CONCLUSION
The first quarter has seen continued progress towards delivering the Council Plan and its intended benefits for our community. While some work remains behind schedule, the focus for the coming quarter is to build on this progress. Council will continue to monitor delivery through quarterly reporting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Council Plan 2025–2029 Quarter 1 Progress Report for 2026/27.
2. Notes that officers will continue to present quarterly progress reports on delivery of the Council Plan 2025–2029.

9.2.2. MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

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 provide Council with Year 1 progress update on the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, Council finalised and commenced delivery of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029. This summary report shares examples of initiatives that are contributing to health and wellbeing outcomes and delivery of the plan.

The plan is implemented through 20 strategic goals across six priority areas. Council maintains several collaborative partnerships with external services, community houses and various networks and groups across the municipality to ensure these goals remain achievable and sustainable.

The first year of the plan has had a large focus on partnering, supporting and planning delivery of projects and programs that are responsive, empowering and resilience building for Pyrenees Shire communities. With 3 years of the plan remaining across the muti-year strategies, 18 of the 20 strategic goals are in progress and on track and 2 on track – behind schedule/deferred.

A wide range of innovative projects are occurring under each of the six priority areas with major initiatives highlighted within this summary report.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The following tables below outline the priority areas, Council's role to achievement, status and progress highlights.

Pillar 1: Encourage healthier eating					
Strategic Goal	Role	Multi-year initiative	Fund Status	Progress Status	Progress highlights
1.1 Supporting healthy diets with access to nutritious food and drink	Deliver and partner	Yes	Within budget	In progress - on track	*Development and promotion of Healthy Choices catering for Council functions policy. *Active member of Grampians Pyrenees Goldfields Food Alliance Network (GPGFAN) *Economic Development support and work with the Central Highlands Growers & Producers Hub. *Partnership with Regional Sports Assembly for club development activities. *Regular collaboration with Avoca and Beaufort Food Pantries to strengthen delivery and access to food for Community. *Provision of space for operations of food pantries. *Support and participation at 'chat
1.2 Increase rates of food security across the Shire	Partner	Yes	Funding required	In progress - on track	

					and chew' events delivered by Pyrenees Community House. *Delivery of Early Years education programs.

Pillar 2: Increase active living					
Strategic Goal	Role	Multi-year initiative	Fund Status	Progress Status	Progress highlights
2.1 Increase levels of physical activity undertaken by Pyrenees Shire residents.	Advocate, support, partner and deliver	Yes	Funding required for 2.1.1 and 2.1.4	In progress - on track	*Collaborations with Regional Sports Assembly and State Sporting Associations to deliver Club development and participation activities. *Approval received from Local Sports Infrastructure Fund for review and development of Community Sport, Recreation and Active Participation Strategy to assist strategic planning. *Conduit for clubs seeking funding opportunities for infrastructure upgrades. *Support and collaborate with Clubs and Community Asset Committees to ensure Council facilities are maintained to required and appropriate standards. *Lead and deliver Waubra Netball Facilities Project Development *Lead and deliver Swimming Pools operational service review *Lead and deliver Swimming Pools comprehensive structural testing and review. *Project Management support for the delivery of Waubra Playground Project. *Delivery of Supported Playgroups for early years activity.
2.2 Increase levels of physical activity undertaken by marginalised populations.	Advocate and partner	Yes	Funding required	In progress - on track	
2.3 Provide public spaces and infrastructure that encourages active living, which is safe and accessible by all.	Deliver and partner	Yes	Funding required	In progress - behind schedule	

Pillar 3: Creating a safer community					
Strategic Goal	Role	Multi-year initiative	Fund Status	Progress Status	Progress highlights
3.1 All residents feel safe, included and are treated equally with respect and dignity, and are free from family violence.	Support, partner and deliver	Yes	Funding required for 3.1.1 and 3.1.3	In progress - on track	*Ongoing provision of Escabags at Council centres in Avoca and Beaufort. *Support for the 16 days of activism campaign across the municipality.
3.2 Provide social and physical environments that improve perceptions of safety and enable	Support, partner and deliver	Yes	Funding required for 3.2.1 and 3.2.2	In progress - on track	*Collaboration with local community health network, emergency services and community house organisations to provide safe supports for

road and community safety.					community members. *Delivery of the Safer Together Program plan to build community resilience to natural disaster. *Support provided for delivery of L2P program across Pyrenees Shire *Active member of Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Alliance. *Support provided for drug and alcohol free youth events, via community and tourism grants for community events, school holiday programs and youth leadership development retreats.
3.3 Support minimistion of alcohol within the community	Partner	Yes		In progress – on track	

Pillar 4: Connecting our community and supporting mental wellbeing					
Strategic Goal	Role	Multi-year initiative	Fund Status	Progress Status	Progress highlights
4.1 All residents are respected and supported to be confident in contributing to community life.	Deliver and partner	Yes	Funding required for 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5 and 4.1.6	In progress - behind schedule/deferred	*Delivery of Tiny Towns funded Avoca Entrance Sculpture Project *Library program provision at Avoca and Beaufort Resource Centres. *Mobile Library outreach service to 11 towns *Engage Youth Leadership Programs - Year 9 & 10 *Epic Leaders Programs - Year 7 & 8 *DEI Project working group set to support specified events throughout the year. *Supporting Beaufort Mens Shed Redevelopment *Lead and support community recovery activities post natural disasters, inclusive of immediate physical and mental wellbeing response elements for impacted residents. *Delivery of community grants program to the value of $80,000 across 2025/26 and 2026/27. *Delivery Maternal and Family Health Program across 10 ages and stages. Record birth year of 69 births recorded. *Delivery of Supported Playgroup program across 4
4.2 A socially and emotionally well community	Partner and facilitate	Yes	Funding required	In progress - on track	
4.3 Support environments that foster a creative expression in arts and cultural experiences and lifelong learning opportunities that build social connections and self-development.	Facilitate and partner	Yes	Funding required for 4.3.1 and 4.3.2	In progress - on track	
4.4 Council provides welcoming and accessible places and spaces.	Advocate, support, partner and deliver		Funding required for 4.4.1, 4.4.3, 4.4.4	In progress – on track	

					locations. *Youth art competition delivered to support youth creatives. *Delivery of Seniors Festival events, maintenance of recreation and aquatic spaces inclusive of older adult programming. *Support for Community Asset Committees and Committees of Management to enable community events and facility planning.

Pillar 5: Supporting our population through all stages of life					
Strategic Goal	Role	Multi-year initiative	Fund Status	Progress Status	Progress highlights
5.1 Community has appropriate access to a range of services.	Advocate	Yes	Within budget	In progress - on track	*Seniors Festival program delivery. *Development of Community Strengthening Network *Development of Community Strengthening Framework and proposed policy suite. *Youth census delivery *Delivery of school holiday programs. *Delivery of digital literacy programs for older adults. *Mobile Library outreach service to 11 towns *Delivery of supported playgroup program across 4 locations *Delivery Maternal and Family Health Program across 10 ages and stages. Record birth year of 69 births recorded. *Support for Avoca and Beaufort Early learning infrastructure redevlopements. *Library program provision at Avoca and Beaufort Resouce Centres. *Immunisation program integration through Maternal and Family Health Service delivery..
5.2 Families have access to quality and affordable Early Years services that provide children and young people the best start in life.	Advocate, facilitate, partner, and deliver	Yes	Within budget	In progress - on track	
5.3 Children, young people and families are supported to thrive through transitions between programs and organisations including early learning and schools.	Partner, support, facilitate and deliver	Yes	Within budget	In progress - on track	
5.4 Fostering and inclusive and respectful ageing community that benefits from sharing knowledge, experience and contirubtions.	Advocate and partner		Within budget	In progress - on track	
5.5 A positive and socially inclusive community where the population actively ages through social connection.	Facilitate and partner		Within budget	In progress - on track	

5.6 A positive and ageing community that can easily access information and find supports to stay safe, connected and informed.	Partner and deliver		Within budget	In progress - on track	
5.7 Community places and spaces can be accessed, are safe, inclusive, which enable use by people of all ageas and abilities.	Partner and deliver		Within budget	In progress - on track	

Pillar 6: Being a climate resilient community					
Strategic Goal	Role	Multi-year initiative	Fund Status	Progress Status	Progress highlights
6.1 Strengthening a resilient and connected community that supports each other through challenges experienced in our natural environment.	Advoc Support, partner and deliver ate	Yes	Funding required for 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.66.1.8	In progress - on track	*Delivery of the Safer Together Project Plan including Resilient Homes Expo. *Continued delivery of recovery activities post AGRN 1108 (2024 Bayindeen) natural disaster event. *Support to Carranballac Recreation Reserve Committee of Management in rebuild activities post AGRN 1242 (2026 Streatham/Skipton) natural disaster event. *Delivery of relief, response and recovery activities post AGRN 1242 (2026 Streatham/Skipton) natural disaster event. *Delivery of response and planning for recovery activities post AGRN 1294 (2026 Avoca/Natte Yallock) natural disaster event. *Commenced flood mitigation works at Burnbank Creek, Lexton to improve flow (expected to be completed in early 2027). *Commenced revegetation project at Avoca Lions Park, in collaboration with Djaara and NCCMA.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE
Pillar 1 - People
1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.
1b. Community safety and wellbeing.
1d. Foster partnerships, support volunteers and build capacity.

Pillar 2 - Economy
2c. Support community events and visitor economy.
2d. Advocate for transport infrastructure, job creation and workforce development.

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment
3a. Preserve and manage biodiversity and natural assets.
3b. Mitigate risks, build community resilience and enhance responsiveness to natural disasters.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure
4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.
4b. Address communication disadvantage.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES
Engagement with community is an integral aspect of plan delivery. Community consultation occurs in both a general and specifically targeted nature throughout goal and project planning, development and delivery.

ATTACHMENTS
Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS
Many elements of the plan are delivered within existing operational resources and budget allocations, with external funding opportunities pursued where appropriate to support specific programs and projects. Strong partnerships and collaborative relationships with internal and external stakeholders remain critical to the successful implementation of strategy initiatives. Progress in some areas has required additional time to establish, maintain and strengthen these relationships, ensuring effective collaboration and long-term outcomes.

CONCLUSION
The Pyrenees Shire community has faced adversity within the first year of the plan due to natural disasters and a tightening fiscal environment.

Considering this, Council have continued to progress actions in collaboration and partnership with community to establish informed and practical wellbeing outcomes. With 3 years of this plan remaining across muti-year strategies and 18 of the 20 strategic goals in progress, the plan is well on track to delivering community outcomes that build resilience, connection and wellbeing.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the progress made in implementing the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 and the priorities identified for continued implementation.

10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

10.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - OCTOBER 2026

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
02/10/2026	Western Highway Action Committee Meeting	Horsham
05/10/2026	CEO Recruitment Discussion	Online
07/10/2026	Business for Beaufort Connections Matter Event	Beaufort
08/10/2026	Streatham – Skipton Community Fire Recovery Network Meeting	Stoneleigh
08/10/2026	MAV Delegates pre-State Council Briefing	Online
12/10/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
13/10/2026	Beaufort & Skipton Health Services AGM	Beaufort
19/10/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
19/10/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
20/10/2026	Local Government Minister Meeting	Online
20/10/2026	150th Anniversary of the opening of the Maryborough to Avoca Rail Line	Avoca
23/10/2026	MAV State Council Meeting	Melbourne
24/10/2026	Streatham, Carranballac & Skipton Fire Documentary & Book Launch	Skipton
25/10/2026	BlazeAid Farewell Event	Bradvale
26/10/2026	Mandatory Councillor Training	Beaufort
28/10/2026	RDV CEO Meeting	Beaufort
29/10/2026	Rural Council's Victoria AGM	Online
31/10/2026	Carranballac Cricket Club Season Opener	Carranballac

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
05/10/2026	CEO Recruitment Discussion	Online
08/10/2026	Streatham – Skipton Community Fire Recovery Network Meeting	Stoneleigh
12/10/2026	Council Briefing	Online
24/10/2026	Streatham, Carranballac & Skipton Fire Documentary & Book Launch	Skipton
25/10/2026	BlazeAid Farewell Event	Bradvale
26/10/2026	Mandatory Councillor Training	Online
29/10/2026	Rural Council's Victoria AGM	Online
29/10/2026	Comedy Night	Streatham
31/10/2026	Carranballac Cricket Club Season Opener	Carranballac

Cr Simon Tol – Ercildoune Ward		
05/10/2026	CEO Recruitment Discussion	Online
07/10/2026	Business for Beaufort Connections Matter Event	Beaufort
11/10/2026	Resilient Homes Expo	Lexton
12/10/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
13/10/2026	Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee Meeting	Online
19/10/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
19/10/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
26/10/2026	Mandatory Councillor Training	Beaufort

Cr Megan Phelan – De Cameron Ward		
05/10/2026	CEO Recruitment Discussion	Online
09/10/2026	Just a Farmer	Moonambel
10/10/2026	Fire Event	Landsborough
11/10/2026	Resilient Homes Expo	Lexton
12/10/2026	Council Briefing	Online
18/10/2026	Black Hawk Display	Barkly
19/10/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
19/10/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
23/10/2026	Avoca Art Show	Avoca
25/10/2026	BlazeAid Farewell Event	Bradvale
26/10/2026	Mandatory Councillor Training	Online

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw – Avoca Ward		
06/10/2026	CEO Meeting	Avoca
12/10/2026	Council Briefing	Online
19/10/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
19/10/2026	Council Meeting	Beaufort
26/10/2026	Mandatory Councillor Training	Beaufort
26/10/2026	CVGA Board Meeting	Online

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Councillor Activity reports for October 2026.

11. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - OCTOBER 2026

MEETING INFORMATION	
Meeting Name	Council Briefing
Meeting Date	12 October 2026 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 7.00pm
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort
Items Discussed	1. Pools Service Review and Delivery 2. Leading Roles – CEO Recruitment 3. Planning Application PA26050 Butler Street, Lexton 4. Upcoming Council Reports 5. Councillor Question Time
ATTENDEES	
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Simon Tol Cr Rebecca Wardlaw (online) Cr Megan Phelan (online) Cr Tanya Kehoe (online)
Apologies	Nil.
Staff	Sally Jones (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 1 Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance) – item 1 Rachel Blackwell (Manager Planning & Development Services) – item 3 Virginia McLeod (Senior Planner) – item 3
Visitors	Brooke Atkins (Larcan) – item 1 Mark (Leading Roles) – item 2

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION	
Meeting Name	Council Briefing
Meeting Date	19 October 2026 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.45pm
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort
Items Discussed	1. Organisation Update 2. Council Meeting Agenda Review
ATTENDEES	
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan
Apologies	Cr Tanya Kehoe
Staff	Sally Jones (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services)
Visitors	Nil

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION	
Meeting Name	Mandatory Councillor Training
Meeting Date	26 October 2026 commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 7.30pm
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort
Items Discussed	1. Councillor Professional Development
ATTENDEES	
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Tanya Kehoe (online) Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (online)
Apologies	Nil.
Staff	Sally Jones (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services)
Visitors	Michael Tudball – Tudball Quality Management

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillors for October 2026.

12. ITEMS FOR DECISION

12.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

12.1.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT ATTRACTION STRATEGY

Presenter: Sally Jones - 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
To seek council endorsement of the draft 2026-2031 Economic Development and Investment Attraction Strategy following a workshop with Council in August 2026.

To adopt the Action Plan for the period November 2026 to 30June 2028. The Action Plan aligns actions to the key priorities of the abovementioned Strategy. The draft Strategy (Section 1.4 page 2) identifies that “Annual Business Planning” is the primary delivery mechanism.

BACKGROUND
Council has developed a draft 2026-2031 Economic Development and Investment Attraction Strategy (EDIAS) to replace the “Towards 10,000 Economic Development Strategy” endorsed by Council in early 2020.

The draft Strategy is aligned to Pillar 2 of the 2025 – 2029 Council Plan and was developed through broad consultation, is informed by the background report that accompanies this report and which incorporates analysis of relevant economic data and research.

The draft Strategy was placed on public exhibition for a period of three weeks which closed at 9.00 a.m. on 9 June 2026.

To enable further consideration of the feedback received during this period, a workshop was held with councillors on 10 August 2026.

The draft Strategy has subsequently been updated to further reflect the importance of the wine industry to the local economy and particularly around Avoca and Moonambel. It also incorporates more recent economic data releases including The Valuer General Victoria January - December 2025 property sales data, Remplan and Spendmapp data updates.

The draft Strategy (Section 1.4 page 2) identifies that “Annual Business Planning” is the primary delivery mechanism.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION
After receiving three public submissions and following a workshop with councillors in August, there has been further refinement of the Draft 2026-2031 EDIAS to:

1. Highlight the importance of and support required for the tourism industry and particularly wine tourism in the northern area of Pyrenees Shire while recognising global influences and challenges for wine demand as acknowledged in the Victorian Wine Strategy 2025 - 2030
2. Incorporate more recent economic data that has been published since the draft strategy was placed on public exhibition in May – June 2026. These sources include The Valuer

General Victoria January - December 2025 property sales data, Remplan and Spendmapp data updates.

The draft Strategy (Section 1.4 page 2) identifies that “Annual Business Planning” is the primary delivery mechanism.

The Economic Development Department has prepared a draft action plan covering the period November 2026 to 30 June 2028 to align with Council’s budget cycles. The action plan outlines activities that address the priorities in the draft 2026-2031 EDIAS. Future action plans will be drafted annually for 12-month periods to align with cycles for the development of annual operating budgets.

Implementing the Business Friendly Council Program is identified as a key priority of the Action Plan. While a dedicated “Concierge” officer role is unavailable within existing budgets, investment and new business enquiry processes will be reviewed and enhanced where possible to provide improved customer experiences. Enhancements are also proposed to the Council website to allow more readily available access to information by potential investors and developers. This project is due to commence as soon as possible from funds within current operational budgets.

A further report to Council on the Business Friendly Council Program is proposed in March 2027.

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES
The consultation phase of the project has included

- Three meetings with an Economic Task Force comprising ten leaders from the Pyrenees business community
- Eleven community sessions at locations across the Pyrenees Shire
- Twenty individual consultations were conducted with business owners and managers, as well as representatives from schools and health organisations
- Consultation with traditional owners
- Discussion with State Government agencies
- A workshop with council staff
- The draft strategy being placed on public exhibition for a period of three weeks ending on 9 June 2026
- Three councillor briefings and a workshop in August 2026 following receipt of community submissions

ATTACHMENTS
1. Background Report V 5 [**12.1.1.1** - 64 pages]
2. Draft Pyrenees 2026-31 EDIAS 28102026 [**12.1.1.2** - 62 pages]
3. Draft EDIAS Action Plan Nov 2026 - June 2028 (V 2) [**12.1.1.3** - 4 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The draft 2026 - 2031 Economic Development Strategy has been funded within operational budgets.

The costs associated with delivering the actions outlined in the Strategy will be considered within annual operating budget allocations and available staff resources. Should additional funding be required to deliver the identified actions, this will be subject to consideration through Council's annual budget process.

CONCLUSION

A draft 2026-2031 Economic Development and Investment Attraction Strategy has been developed to replace the 2020 Towards 10,000 Economic Development Strategy and is aligned to Pillar 2 of the 2025 – 2029 Council Plan.

The draft 2026-2031 Strategy attached to this report encompasses background economic data and feedback from consultation of an Economic Task Force, industry, community, and council stakeholders which was placed on public exhibit during late May and early June.

Three submissions were received during the public exhibition period and a workshop was held with Councillors in August to further consider these submissions.

The draft Strategy attached to this report reflects feedback received at the Council workshop and incorporates more recently available economic data.

A draft action plan for the period November 2026 to June 2028 which aligns to the key priorities in the draft Strategy accompanies this report.

Implementing the Business Friendly Council Program is identified as a key strategic priority to enhance the customer experience with investment and new business enquiries and regulatory approval processes.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the 2026 - 2031 Economic Development and Investment Attraction Strategy
2. Adopts the November 2026 to 30 June 2028 Economic Development and Attraction Strategy Action Plan, noting that implementation of actions requiring additional funding will be subject to consideration and approval through Council's annual budget processes; and
3. Receives a report on the Business Friendly Council Program in March 2027.

12.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

12.2.1. PLANNING APPLICATION PA26050 BUTLER STREET, LEXTON

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Assets and Development
Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.
Report Author: Virginia Mcleod – Senior Planner
Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.
File No: PA26050

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider planning permit application PA26050 for the use and development of land for a dwelling and outbuildings at Butler Street, Lexton.

BACKGROUND

The application was lodged on 9 June 2026. The application proposes the use and development of the land for a dwelling and outbuildings. (**Attachment 1** – Application documents)

The application was advertised and referred to in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. One objection was received.

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. It is recommended that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit be issued.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Subject site

The subject site comprises two lots located to the north-east of the Lexton township, approximately 400 m west of the Sunraysia Highway. The location of the subject site is shown in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 – location of subject site

The subject site has a total area of 9.26 hectares and is bound by Butler Street to the south, West Street to the north, and an adjoining property to the west.

Properties around the subject site are of similar size with some developed for dwellings and others used for agriculture. Land immediately to the east includes licenced Crown land (unused road) that is heavily vegetated.

The subject site has scattered native trees and patches of native vegetation with two dams and waterway present in the southern part of the site as shown in **Figure 2**. A dwelling has been relocated to the site that is currently the subject of this planning permit application.

Access to the property currently exists along the eastern site boundary (on West Street). The land slopes east towards West Street.



Figure 2 - Subject site looking north

Zoning and Overlays

The subject site and surrounding properties are Farming Zone (**Figure 3** – Zoning map).

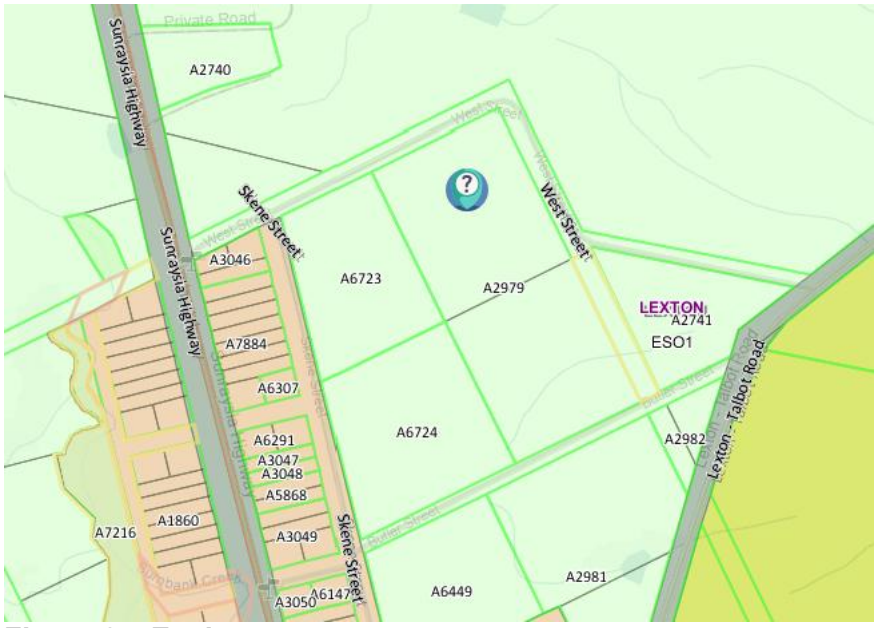


Figure 3 – Zoning map

The subject site is also affected by the Restructure Overlay – Schedule 17 (RO17 - Lexton Township Environs) and the Environmental Significance Overlay – Schedule 1 (ESO1 – Designated Water Supply Areas).

The subject site is within a Bushfire Prone Area.

The Proposal
The application seeks a planning permit for the use and development of the land for a dwelling and outbuildings (**Attachment 1** – Application documents)

The proposed dwelling is located to the south of the site with new access via Butler Street and is set back from all boundaries a minimum of 35 metres as shown in **Figure 4**.



Figure 4 – proposed dwelling location

The dwelling comprises a single-storey built form with timber exterior cladding and a sheet metal pitched roof. The dwelling contains three bedrooms, open plan living and a theatre room. The dwelling includes a perimeter verandah, with an overall building height of 5.7 metres.

A shed with floor area of 450 square metres is proposed to be located towards the centre of the site, accessed via the existing access from West Street. Two additional sheds are located close to the dwelling, both with floor areas of 54 square metres to be accessed via Butler Street.

The application was supported by a Land/Farm Management Plan (NR Links, dated 28/7/2026). This plan proposes outcomes for the site divided into areas including a conservation zone with revegetation, managing existing erosion along waterways and dams, and areas where grazing is suitable.

Response to Notice of Application
The application was required to be advertised pursuant to Section 52 of *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The following forms of advertising were undertaken:
- Notices sent to owners and occupiers of adjoining land
- Notice placed on the site.

One objection was received. The objection related to the location of the dwelling and the impact of this location on existing views. (**Attachment 2** - Objection)

Policy and Legislative Context

Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework

The following clauses are considered relevant to this permit application:
Clause 02 Municipal Planning Strategy

Clause 02.02 Vision

Clause 02.03-1 Settlement:

- seeks to facilitate compatible relationship between residential and non-residential uses, including the maintenance of appropriate environmental buffers.
- encourage consolidation of larger land holding to minimise rural land fragmentation.
- specific policies for Lexton encourage residential development within the township boundary.

Clause 02.03 -2 Environmental risks and amenity:
Bushfire

- Ensuring that fire risks are carefully considered throughout the planning and development process

Clause 02.03 -3 Natural Resource Management
Agriculture

- Protecting agricultural land from fragmentation and encouraging sustainable agriculture.
- Consolidating inappropriately subdivided rural land.

Water

- Restricting subdivision, land use, and development within water supply catchments.

Clause 11 Settlement
Clause 11.01-1R/L:

- Preserving and protecting features of rural land and natural resources and features to enhance their contribution to settlements and landscapes.
- Support rural use and restructuring of obsolete and defunct Crown Townships, fragmented rural land, and environmentally hazardous hilly land.

Clause 13 Environmental risks and amenity

Clause 13.02 Bushfire

- Give priority to the protection of human life by reducing the vulnerability of communities to bushfire through the consideration of bushfire risk in decision making at all stages of the planning process.
- Identify bushfire hazard and undertake appropriate risk assessment.

Clause 13.07-1S Land Use Compatibility
seeks to protect amenity and ensure that use and development is compatible with adjoining uses and avoid location uses in areas that may be affected to off-site impacts

Clause 14 Natural resource management
Clause 14.01 Agriculture

- aims to protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland
- Specific policy for Pyrenees Shire includes to encourage the effective restructuring of inappropriate subdivisions.

Clause 14.02 Water

- Protection proclaimed water supply catchment areas through restrictions on subdivision, land use, and development.

Clause 16 Housing
Clause 16.01-3S Residential Development – Rural residential development

- seeks to manage development in rural areas to protect agriculture and avoid inappropriate rural residential development.

Zoning
The subject land is in the Farming Zone (FZ).

A permit is required for the use of the land for a dwelling on a lot less than 40 hectares in size. A planning permit is also required for the development of the dwelling.

The decision to grant a permit, or not, requires consideration of the relevant policies of the Municipal Planning Strategy, Planning Policy Framework and the purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone.

Overlays
The subject land is affected by the Environmental Significance Overlay – Schedule 1 (ESO1). The purpose of ESO1 is to identify areas in Special Water Supply Catchments and other related area and ensure land in these areas is used in a manner that protects water quality and quantity.

A permit is required for buildings and works that generate wastewater and will not be connected to reticulated sewerage. The purpose and decision guidelines for ESO1 are considered in the assessment of this application.

The subject site is also affected by the Restructure Overlay – Schedule 17. The purpose of the Restructure Overlay includes to identify old and inappropriate subdivisions which are to be restructured, and to reduce the environmental impacts of dwellings.

A permit is required to construct or extend a dwelling and for buildings and works. The purpose and decision guidelines for Restructure Overlay are considered in the assessment of this application.

Clause 65 Decision Guidelines
Council must decide whether the proposal will provide an acceptable outcome in terms of the purpose and decision guidelines of the zone and overlay, and the direction outlined in the MPS and PPF.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
Under section 46 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, a mandatory cultural heritage management plan is required for a proposed activity if the regulations require the preparation of the plan for that activity.

If required, an approved cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) must be submitted to Council before deciding on a planning permit application.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* stipulate that unless an activity is specified as being an exempt activity, a cultural heritage management plan is required if:
a) all or part of the activity area for the activity is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity; and
b) all or part of the activity is a high impact activity.

The subject land (activity area) is not in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity, and the construction of a single dwelling is not specified as a high impact activity in the regulations. Therefore, a CHMP is not required for the proposed development.

Planning Scheme Amendment C52pyrn
Council is in the process of implementing Planning Scheme Amendment C52pyrn to introduce new flood-related controls into the Planning Scheme. This property is not affected by the proposed changes to the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

Assessment
The assessment of the planning permit application will consider how the proposal responds to the purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone, Environmental Significance Overlay – Schedule 1, Restructure Overlay – Schedule 17, relevant particular provisions and the strategic and policy direction outlined within Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.

Restructure Overlay
The provisions of the Lexton Environs Restructure Plan No 17 must be considered in assessment of this application. The objectives of this Plan include:

- To encourage the subdivisional restructuring of multiple-lot landholdings
- To prevent inappropriate development in the environs of Burnbank Creek.

Requirements for the development of land include:

- Not more than one dwelling may be constructed on or caused to exist on each Restructure Parcel except in the following circumstances...
- If the number of lots in a Restructure Parcel exceed the number of dwellings which may be constructed (including existing dwellings) then before any new dwelling is constructed one of the following actions must be taken:
  - lots which have no dwelling entitlement must be consolidated with another lot or lots for which a dwelling entitlement exists; or
  - an agreement is entered into under Section 173 of the Act which stipulates that such land may not have a dwelling;

The two lots that form the subject site are within Restructure Overlay Parcel as shown in **Figure 5.**

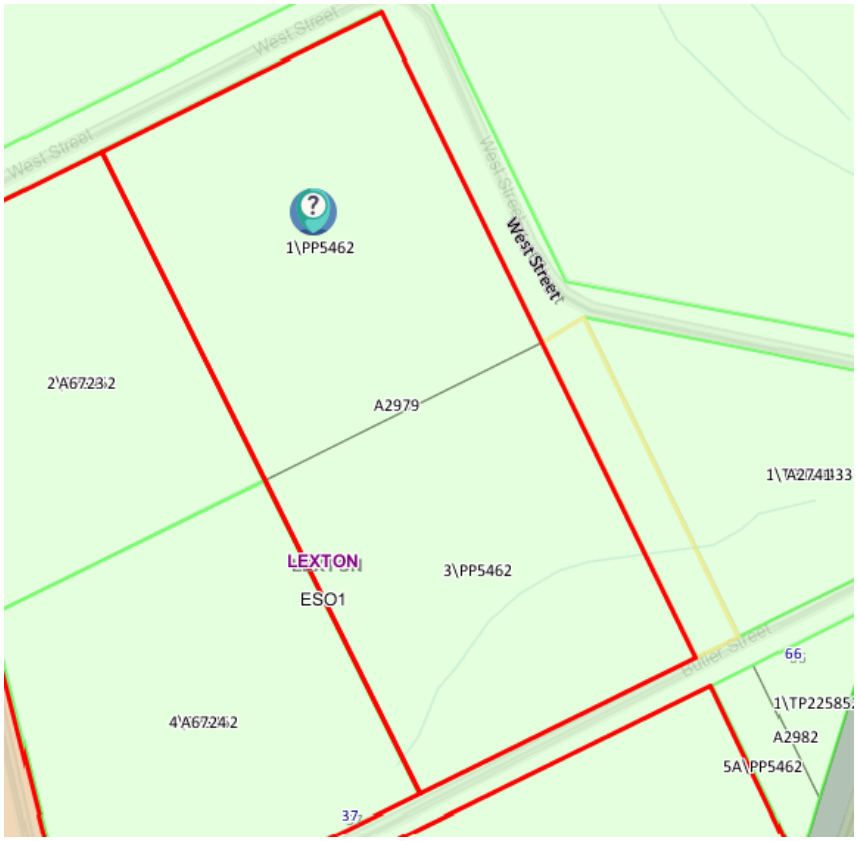


Figure 5 – Restructure Overlay Parcel

The construction of a dwelling on the subject site is an outcome that is not prohibited by the Restructure Overlay. However, the decision to allow a dwelling must be subject to conditions that require the two lots to be consolidated (through subdivision) into one lot that is consistent with the boundaries of the Restructure Overlay Parcel. This will permanently prevent the future development of the second lot for a dwelling.

The Land/Farm Management Plan propose outcomes consistent with those sought by the Decision Guidelines of the Restructure Overlay including the protection of the environmental values demonstrated through revegetation, erosion management, and retention of remnant native vegetation.

Farming Zone

The purpose of the Farming Zone is to provide land for agricultural uses, retain productive agricultural land and ensure that non-agricultural uses such as dwellings do not adversely affect farming activities.

The application must be considered against the purpose and decision guidelines of the zone. The following comments are made with regards to the decision guidelines:

- The proposal with result in a change of land use and permanently remove areas from agricultural production. The area removed from agricultural production is small as there are areas of native vegetation and a waterway on site that are unsuitable for this use.
- The subject site and properties to the immediate south, east and west are more closely aligned to rural-residential land use outcomes due smaller lot sizes from the historical pattern of subdivision and location on the edge of the Lexton township.
- The Land/Farm Management Plan submitted with the application includes a mix of small-scale agricultural activities combined with improvement of the environmental values of the site.

- The dwelling is unlikely to impact or be impacted by near-by agricultural operations. The nearest agricultural property is to the north and east of the subject site, minimum 400 metres away, and buffered by the heavily vegetated road reserve.
- The land capability assessment submitted with the application demonstrates that wastewater generated by the use can be managed on site without harming waterways or existing values.

The proposed use and development is therefore considered generally consistent with the purposes of the Farming Zone and, through planning permit conditions, can be appropriately managed.

Environmental Significant Overlay – Schedule 1 (ESO1)
The purpose of ESO1 is to manage areas within water supply catchments and the environs of town supply water bores in a responsible manner to protect water quality and quantity.

The application has been considered against the Decision Guidelines of ESO1. The application is responsive to the matters raised by the Decision Guidelines. The land capability assessment provided with the application demonstrates wastewater can be treated on-site and meets the relevant setback to waterways.

The application was referred to the responsible water authority, Central Highlands Water, and North Central Catchment Management Authority in accordance with Clause 66 of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. No objections were received from these authorities.

Consideration of objection
One objection was received. The objection related to the location of the dwelling and subsequent impact on a view. Protection of personal views are not a relevant planning consideration. State and local policy requires consideration of the impact of the proposed buildings and works on key views and rural vistas. This has been assessed through the application. The dwelling is single storey-built form with modest building height and footprint and is considered consistent with the relevant policy.

Bushfire Prone Area
The responsible authority must assess any application for a dwelling within a Bushfire Prone Area for compliance against siting, defendable space, access, and water supply measures. This was introduced into all planning scheme in Victoria in May 2026.

The application has considered the bushfire hazard presented by the landscape and within 150 m of the subject site. The dwelling is sited within a cleared area and can continued to be managed to provide appropriate defendable space.

Subject to planning permit conditions, the application demonstrates an appropriate response to the Bushfire Prone Area conditions.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE
Pillar 4 - Infrastructure
4a. Plan, build, and maintain essential infrastructure.
4c. Support and facilitate appropriate land use.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES
The application was required to be advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

ATTACHMENTS
1. Attachment 1 - application documents [**12.2.1.1** - 234 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Objection [**12.2.1.2** - 3 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS
The council's assessment of the application and management of the planning permit process has been partially met by the fees paid pursuant to the Planning and Environment Act 1987. There are no significant risks associated with the issue of a notice of decision to grant a planning permit for this proposal.

CONCLUSION
The proposed application for the use and development of a dwelling and outbuildings demonstrates a high level of compliance with the purposes and outcomes sought by the Pyrenees Planning Scheme, including though the consideration of the objection received.

Subject to conditions being included on any Notice to Grant a Planning Permit granted, the proposed use and development is considered an acceptable outcome.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Having caused notice of Planning Application PA26050 to be given under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, decides to issue a **Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit** under the provisions of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as Crown Allotment 1 Township of Lexton and Crown Allotment 3 Township of Lexton, Butler Street, Lexton for the use and development of the land for a dwelling and outbuildings subject to the following conditions:

Compliance with Documents Approved under this Permit
1. At all times what the permit allows must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of any document approved under this permit to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Approved and Endorsed Plans – Changes Required
2. Before the development starts, plans must be approved and endorsed by the responsible authority. The plans must:
a) be prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority
b) be drawn to scale with dimensions
c) submitted in electronic form
d) be generally in accordance with the plans that form part of the application but modified to show:

- Butler Street crossover relocated to the south-west as agreed with council's engineering department.
- Provision of static water supply in accordance with Clause 53.02 of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.
- Notation on the site plan that the static water supply with have CFA approved fittings in accordance with Clause 53.02 of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.
- Schedule of colours and finishes for the dwelling.
- Dwelling plans to have a minimum BAL 12.5.
- Setbacks from the dwelling and Butler Street of the two sheds nearest to the dwelling.

Layout Not Altered
3. The layout of the development must not be altered from the layout on the approved and endorsed plans without the written consent of the responsible authority.

Consolidation

4. Prior to the issue of certificate of occupancy for the dwelling, the following lots must be consolidated under the *Subdivision Act 1988* to the satisfaction of the responsible authority:
    a. Crown Allotment 1 on TP834307J
    b. Crown Allotment 3 on TP834307J

Agreements under Section 173 of the Act

5. Before the development starts, the owner of the land must enter into an agreement with the responsible authority under section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The agreement must provide the following:

a) The development and continued use of a dwelling in the Farming Zone has been permitted on the basis that the dwelling is reasonably required for the sustainable management of the land in accordance with an endorsed Land/Farm Management Plan, and the dwelling will only be used on that basis.

b) The farming initiatives as stated in the approved Land/Farm Management Plan must be demonstrably commenced prior to the initial occupation of the dwelling and thereafter carried out on an on-going basis to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Prior to Certificate of Occupancy being issued an application must be made to the Register of Titles to register the Section 173 agreement on the title to the land under section 181 of the Act.

The Responsible Authority may release the owner from these obligations and/or vary the requirements upon the written request of the owner. The Responsible Authority must be satisfied that the release and/or variation to the agreement will result in a better planning outcome or that the agreement is no longer required.

The owner of the land must pay all of the responsible authority's reasonable legal costs and expenses of this agreement, including preparation, execution, and registration on title.

Engineering

6. Prior to the commencement of works, vehicle access to the property is to be constructed or upgraded in accordance with Pyrenees Shire Council's IDM Standard drawing SD255, plans and specifications set under an approved Road Excavation Permit (including vehicle crossing) to the satisfaction of the Pyrenees Shire Council's Engineering Department.

7. Any redundant vehicle crossings must be removed, and the nature strip reinstated to the satisfaction of the Pyrenees Shire Council's Engineering Department.

Environmental Health

8. Before the development is occupied, all sewage from the proposed development must be discharged into a new, EPA approved, on-site wastewater treatment system as described in the Land Capability Assessment Report prepared by Michael Shelly of MES Wastewater, file number: 2026-D-0028 dated 16 April 2026 to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

9. Before the development is occupied, all sewage and sullage wastewater from the proposed development must be retained within the property boundaries of the subject land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Use

10. The use must be managed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected including through the:

a) transportation of materials, goods, or commodities to or from the land.

b) appearance of any building works or materials.

c) emission of noise, artificial light, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust,

water, waste products, grit, or oil.
d) presence of vermin

Habitation of sheds prohibited
11. No habitation of the outbuildings/sheds approved under this permit is allowed without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Watercourse crossings
12. Where an accessway crosses a watercourse a piped crossing or other suitable bridging structure must be constructed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority

Expiry – Development
13. This permit as it relates to use development (buildings and works) will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
a) The development is not started within 2 years of the issued date of this permit.
b) The development is not completed within 4 years of the issued date of this permit.
c) The use is not started within 2 years of the issue date of this permit.
In accordance with Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, an application may be submitted to the responsible authority for an extension of the periods referred to in this condition.

Notes

Bushfire Prone Area
This site is located within a designated Bush Fire Prone Area. Compliance with AS3959 is required.

Building Approvals
This permit does not constitute any authority to carry out any building works or occupy the building or part of the building unless all relevant building permits are obtained. The works hereby approved must accord with the requirements of the Building Act 1993, Building Regulations 2006, and Building Code of Australia 2014.

N-HLTH05 Installation of On-Site Sewerage Disposal System
Approval to install or alter an onsite wastewater treatment system must also be obtained from Council's Health Department.

Road Excavation Permit
A Road Excavation Permit is required to complete any works within the road reserve including the construction or upgrade of the vehicle crossing prior to the commencement of the works associated with the planning permit.

12.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.3.1. 1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services
Declaration of Interest: As presenter of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.
Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance
Declaration of Interest: As author of this report, I have no disclosable interest in this item.
File No: 32/08/18

PURPOSE
The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the financial performance for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 September 2026.

BACKGROUND
The provision of regular reports of Council's financial performance ensures that Council's financial management and associated processes are accountable, transparent, and responsible.

The attached financial report for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 September 2026, is a component of ensuring the accountability of the Council's operations. In line with good governance, it forms part of the public accountability process of reporting and includes the following Financial Statements.

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Statement of Capital Works
- Capital Works Program

ISSUE / DISCUSSION
While the first quarter does not typically reveal significant financial variances, several matters have emerged this year that require attention:

- The forecast cost of the Beaufort Pool liner replacement has been revised to $500,000.
- It has been identified that grant funding for the Pyrenees Bushfire Resilience Project - Safer Together had not been carried forward in the budget. As this funding must be expended or otherwise returned, an additional allocation has been incorporated into the forecast.

As a result, total forecast expenditure for 2026/27 has increased by $559,000. Consequently, forecast cash reserves at 30 June 2027 are expected to decrease by the same amount to $8.298 million, which remains above the level adopted in the budget.

Rate revenue collection continues to be a challenge and remains below expected levels, consistent with the previous financial year. Due to the implementation of the new financial system, collection statistics now include the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy, and the forecast collection rate has been adjusted accordingly.

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.

ATTACHMENTS
1. Finance Report - Council [**12.3.1.1** - 14 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS
All financial implications are within this report and the attachment.

CONCLUSION
The review has ascertained that the financials for the 2026/27 year are operating within Council's 10-year financial plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and note the Financial Performance report for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 September 2026, and the projected forecasts for the year.

12.3.2. YALLA-Y-POORA ROAD (AGRN 1242) FIRE RECOVERY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

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 provide Council with an update on community recovery activities post the Yalla-Y-Poora Road (AGRN1242) natural disaster event of 9 January, 2026 and since the previous report received in April 2026.

BACKGROUND

The fire commenced on 9 January 2026 during catastrophic fire conditions near Yalla-Y-Poora Road and rapidly spread through Carranballac, Streatham and areas surrounding Skipton. The event burned approximately 20,000 hectares across the municipalities of Pyrenees, Ararat and Corangamite before being contained on 11 January 2026. Council established relief and recovery centres immediately and worked with emergency services and partner agencies to provide support to affected residents.

The fire has had significant social, economic, environmental and infrastructure impacts including:

- 119 impacted properties identified.
- 176 individuals registered through Crisisworks.
- 18 primary residences destroyed, with additional secondary dwellings and rental accommodation also lost.
- 23 houses damaged, including 17 rendered uninhabitable.
- 72 sheds and other structures impacted.
- Approximately 43 kilometres of roads affected.
- The Carranballac Recreation Reserve sustained major damage, including loss of the community hall, cricket clubrooms and more than 170 mature trees.

Agricultural losses have been substantial, including:

- Approximately 800 kilometres of fencing destroyed.
- More than 4,500 sheep and 30 cattle lost.
- Significant losses of hay, grain, farm machinery and equipment.
- Ongoing impacts on farm productivity, livelihoods and business continuity.

Recovery-related works and activities have placed considerable pressure on Council resources given its operating budget and the scale of the municipality. Key challenges include:

- Supporting rehousing and assisting affected residents.
- Restoring agricultural production and fencing infrastructure.
- Managing psychosocial and wellbeing impacts.
- Addressing hazardous trees, erosion risks and environmental degradation.
- Rebuilding community facilities and restoring essential infrastructure.

The Yalla-Y-Poora Road fire has resulted in significant impacts across the Pyrenees community. Council, in partnership with government agencies, community organisations and residents, continues to lead a coordinated recovery effort focused on restoring community wellbeing, rebuilding critical infrastructure, supporting agricultural recovery and strengthening long-term resilience. Full utilisation of external funding and support will be essential to achieving sustainable recovery outcomes for impacted communities.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION
In April 2026 the recovery action plan was developed with flexibility to continue to respond to community need as required.

Table 1 outlines recovery action plan goals endorsed and progress achieved to September 2026.

Item	Theme	Goal	Progress	Update
8.1	Recovery Coordination	To ensure recovery is a multi-agency, integrated approach to return the municipality to a normal level of functioning. To ensure Council can transition to business as usual. To support the community in their recovery council will assist with coordination and lead where appropriate: • Engagement - Implementing an internal structure to enable effective recovery coordination. • Assessment – Conduct Secondary Impact Assessments, collect and document accurate impact information to understand the impacts and enable recovery planning. • Community Connectivity – an events calendar and a series of events small, large, private and open to all, provision of social and mental health support is in place, planned and coordinated. • Communications – a communications plan to ensure all members of the community are kept up to date with recovery activities and ensure internal communications are maintained. • Restoration of infrastructure undertaken in a coordinated approach. • Establish funding sources for the various stages of recovery and and provide financial oversite and management • Provide psychological support for for staff involved in the recovery.	In progress – on track	***Engagement*** – Via Cat C - CRO &Hub funding Council have been able to establish a recovery team for this event inclusive of Team Leader Recovery and Resilience, Community Recovery Officer and Claims/Administration Officer positions to lead recovery activities. ***Assessment*** – Initial and secondary impact assessments were completed on 4 Feb 2026 with 119 properties initially assessed and 50 households assessed under secondary impact assessment. ***Community Connectivity*** - Combined event calendar across all three LGA's is utilised in event planning across impacted communities. A series of small to large events including Christmas in July, Disaster Legal Clinic, BlazeAid 100 days celebration, to name a few, have been planned and coordinated in collaboration with community and agency partners. Provision of social and mental health supports has been available at these events. Planning for further events continues via CRO funding. ***Communications*** - Communications have been coordinated and delivered in collaboration with all three LGA. A monthly recovery newsletter, social media, local media and direct communications are utilised to ensure community members are kept up to date with community activities and supports available. ***Restoration of Infrastructure*** –

				Clean up and restoration activities have been undertaken in a coordinated and as needs/assessed manner. Council has and continues to support impacted residents throughout the process in navigating government systems and coordination and support of recovery programs managed by partner organisations. These have included water and tank restoration, debris clean up, skip management, replacement tree planting and septic and electrical connection for temporary housing. ***Establish funding sources*** - Funding DRFA Cat A & B was utilised with timeframes now closed for claims. Additional support via Council Support Fund and Community Recovery Officer (CRO) & Hub Funding (DRFA Category C) continues. ***Provide psychological support*** - Sessions for staff are currently in planning stages.
8.1.1	People and Wellbeing	To empower and support the communities to restore and rebuild community functioning and resilience. To support affected individuals to manage the personal, psychosocial, and financial impacts of the fire events and enhance their wellbeing while recovering. • Ensure community centred recovery supported by Council and agencies • Ensure residents have access to material needs • Ensure social and mental health support is in place • Ensure clean-up assistance is provided for impacted residents and communities • A pathway is established for provision of donations • Facilitate referrals for those impacted to access financial, personal support wellbeing counselling services in a timely manner • Monitor and support	In progress – on track	• Community Recovery Officer (CRO) appointed to assist in coordination of immediate recovery activities for impacted residents. • Community Recovery Network inclusive of all impacted Councils, key stakeholders and community members set up and continues to meet monthly to progress community activity. • Collaborations formed with key agency partners including Grampians Community Health (GCH) and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) in the support of impacted residents. • Regular LGA and partner organisation meetings held to ensure resident outcomes are being met.

		residents to access advice and pathways to rebuild houses /return to homes • Support community led projects • Undertake case management of the most impacted residents/families.		
8.1.2	Aboriginal Culture and Healing	To support Aboriginal-led healing after fire by working with Traditional Owners to protect culture, care for Country, and rebuild community connections in ways that are respectful, inclusive, and guided by Aboriginal voices.	In progress – on track	• Support provided to funding application for "Healing Heritage Grasslands After Fire: A Wadawurrung-led Community Program", a project aligning to local initiatives including community led workshops, re-establishment of native species of flora and fauna in fire impacted natural environment, empowering traditional owners to contribute to recovery from community connection and natural environment perspective. o Update in November 2026 – funding for this program was successful to the amount of $48,000 • Pyrenees Community House in collaboration with community have been successful in application for the "Heart Project - Skipton/Carranballac/Streatham Art Healing Project" to the amount of $10,000.
8.1.3	Environment and Biodiversity	To facilitate the re-establishment and rehabilitation of the natural environment and assist with overcoming water and soil contamination to minimise public risk. • Support and /or facilitate replenishment of domestic water for residents to reduce public health risks • Facilitate waste / debris disposal where required • Work with community to identify and mitigate environmental risks where appropriate including erosion and weed control • Undertake roadside tree	In progress – on track	• CRO assistance provided in coordination of water replenishment, tank and roof cleaning, skip, and debris removal activities. • 17 roads and 40km of roadside tree assessments completed. 4,400 roadside tree were impacted with 1,294 presenting a heightened risk to road safety across both road reserves and private land. 1,293 trees have been removed (1086 by Council and 207 Private operator) with 1 tree on remote

		assessments, remove hazardous trees and manage roadside debris. • Assist landowners seeking to manage damaged / hazardous trees on private land and roadsides to re-establish and manage fencelines. • Identify landscaping and revegetation opportunities and support community led initiatives		location on private land remaining. These removal works were completed 31 July 2026 and funded within DRFA - Cat A timeframes. • 3,100 impacted trees were deemed non-hazardous to road infrastrucutre with an estimated 422 now remaining. • Revegetation works are planned and continuing utilsing allocation in Council Support Fund.
8.1.4	Business and Economy including agriculture	To revitalise the economy of rural communities through the re-establishment of agricultural enterprises and support the wellbeing of rural communities. • Support agencies such as BlazeAid to undertake re-establishment of fencelines to enable restocking • Facilitate referrals for farmers to access financial and other supports • Collaborate with Corangamite and Ararat councils to identify and deliver economic recovery activities. • Advocate to government for supports to assist in the recovery	In progress – on track	• Regular collaboration with BlazeAid to reestablish fencelines on impacted properties. • CRO assistance provided to access financial supports for impacted residents. • Cross LGA collaboration ongoing through Recovery Network and internal recovery network determining advocacy priorities. • Continued advocacy to State Govt in in this space and noted as a Pyrenees Shire priority for upcoming state elections.
8.1.5	Buildings and Infrastructure	To repair and restore infrastructure and other assets that are critical to the delivery of services and/or the functioning of communities, taking into account the protection and preservation of heritage or cultural sites. This is to reduce risks to safety, and to build the resilience of our infrastructure. • Assess local road impacts and undertake repair / replacement of road related infrastructure such as signage, guideposts • Facilitate clean-up activities at the Carranballac Recreation Reserve • Establish and support PWG to identify needs, plan and rebuild the community recreation reserve at	In progress – behind schedule	• Local road repair and signage works completed under DRFA Cat A - emergency works programs. • Carranballac Recreation Reserve working group established to guide provision of Community -led rebuild activities. • Council advance funding allocation to allow for temporary facility installation at Carranballac Recreation Reserve. • Facilitation with DEECA to establish Committee of Management, reporting requirements and agreements for funds distribution.

		Carranballac		

Funding and Claims

Since the prior update, Council has received support through the following Federal and State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements:

- Category A – Emergency Assistance and Immediate Relief
- Category B – Restoration of Essential Public Assets and Economic Relief
- Category C – Targeted Recovery Assistance for Severely Affected Communities.

Timeframes for Category A and B claims for this event have now passed with Category C funding remaining until June 2028 and includes Council Support Fund and Community Recovery Officer (CRO) and Hub supports. These funds will be utilised to plan, support and deliver recovery activities until funding is expended or event timeframes close.

A total of 12 claims have been made under DRFA Category A & B for this event totaling $567,670. Of these claims 9 have been assessed and 3 are still in Active stage. Of the 9 assessed, 8 have been completed at 100% approval and the one remainder at 87% with staff costs of $5,254 deemed not eligible.

Table 2: Claims summary

Category	Claims submitted	Complete	Active/Processing	Total submitted	Total Approved to date	Total in progess	Costs not eligible
A & B	12	9	3	$567,670	$471,661	$94,148	$5,254

Community Events

Through utilisation of Category C funding – Community Recovery Officer and Hub (CRO & Hub), a Community Recovery Officer (CRO) has been appointed with focus on initial physical community needs such as water and skip management, and community recovery activities and events in collaboration with community, staff resilience and psychological training.

To date, Council have coordinated and supported the following events in recovery of this event:

Event	Location	Month	Attendees
Bluestone Café Dinner	Skipton	Feb	
BlazeAid 100 days	Bradvale	April	120
David Younger (speaker)		June	35
Photo Exhibition	Skipton	June	200
Christmas in July	Streatham	July	65
Unbreakable Farmer	Skipton	Aug	45
Carboni's pasta making class*	Ballarat	Sept	17 (full attendance)
Disaster Legal Clinic – Allied Justice		Sept	0
Carranballac Hoedown	Carranballac	Oct	250
Upcoming			
Documentary and book release	Skipton	24 Oct	
BlazeAid Goodbye	Bradvale	25 Oct	
Comedy night	Streatham	29 Oct	
Carranballac Cricket Club opener	Carranballac	31 Oct	
Wellbeing Day	TBC	22 Nov	
Trivia Night	TBC	Jan 2027	

Two further items are currently in development to assist community recovery including a Community Grants program and Community Event Fund.

Tree Management
In the week beginning 19 January 2026, 17 impacted roads and roadsides 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.

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. One tree identified in the report, which is in a remote location on private land, was not removed. Council's tree removal works were completed on 31 July 2026.

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.

Debris from approximately 50 trees felled immediately after the fire as part of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (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.

Removal works have been funded through the Victorian Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The total cost of post-fire emergency tree removal works was $430,640. 100% of claims made to DRFA for the recovery of these costs have been approved.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE
Pillar 1 - People
1b. Community safety and wellbeing.
1d. Foster partnerships, support volunteers and build capacity.

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment
3a. Preserve and manage biodiversity and natural assets.
3b. Mitigate risks, build community resilience and enhance responsiveness to natural disasters.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES
Community is engaged in the planning and delivery of recovery activities. The Community Recovery Officer works closely with community via regular recovery hubs.

Hubs began regularly in April across three locations, Streatham, Skipton and Stoneleigh, providing a drop in service for impacted residents. The hubs were hosted in collaboration with Grampians Community Health and saw mixed attendance across locations.

Stoneleigh hubs closed after 10 weeks with one person having attended during this time. Regular contact is still made with this resident. Skipton hub was well attended however has temporarily ceased with the sale and closure of the nominated location. Local Government Agencies (LGA) continue to work together to source a solution and to reopen a hub in this area. Residents of this area are still contact regularly via the CRO. Streatham hub continues weekly with strong attendance.

A Community Recovery Network incorporating stakeholder organisations, LGA's and State Government departments and Community Representatives continues to meet monthly to work through issues arising and ensuring response and recovery works continue.

A project working group for the rebuild of infrastructure at Carranballac Recreation Reserve inclusive of Council, DEECA and Community group representatives has been established to progress required elements of this community-led rebuild project.

ATTACHMENTS
Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS
Funding and claims have been summarised above. Funding was received through DRFA category A and B with claim timelines now passed. Category C, incorporating CRO & Hub and Council Support Fund remains in progress with an activity acquittal deadline of 30 June 2028.

CONCLUSION
The Pyrenees Shire has, and continues, to work with and for community during the first nine months of this event to ensure impacted communities are connected to resources available. Time since this event now sees community needs moving from immediate emergency response into long term recovery and resilience actions to rebuild and prepare local communities.

With timeframes for claimable emergency works under Category A & B having now ceased, The Community Recovery Officer and wider recovery team plays an integral role in collaboration, networking and referral for impacted residents to ensure best outcomes for their ongoing needs. Through the provision and support of targeted community events and activities, and continuation of organisational networks and collaborations, progression and evolution of recovery within the impacted communities will continue to progress.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes progress made in implementation of the Yalla-Y-Poora Fire Recovery Plan of January 2026 and the ongoing activities for recovery from this natural disaster event.
2. Continues advocacy to State and Federal Government agencies for practical and long term assistance for communities in recovery from natural disaster events.

12.3.3. ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

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 provide Council a summary of submissions received and assessed under the annual Community Funding Program for 2026/2027 and to seek Council endorsement for awarding of grants for 2026/2027 financial year.

BACKGROUND

Pyrenees Shire Council's 2026/2027 Community Funding Program aims to build stronger communities that deliver improved outcomes for our residents and visitors. Council provides several grant categories in recognition of the valuable contribution that community organisations and local business make to the social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Pyrenees Shire. As outlined in table 1, funding is eligible for programs, projects, events, equipment, minor capital works and one-off or seed funded initiatives within the geographical boundaries of Pyrenees Shire, or those that benefit many Pyrenees residents.

Table 1: Funding categories available

Funding Category	Total	Contribution Ratio
Programs, Projects, Activities	Up to $2,000	No contribution required
Equipment	Up to $2,000	No contribution required
Community Event Support	Up to $2,000	No contribution required
Minor Capital Works	Up to $7,000	Over $2,000 ratio 2:1
Tourism Event Sponsorship	Up to $5,000	Ratio 2:1

The Community Funding Program offers two streams for grant submissions with total funding amounts allocated within Council's annual budget process. In the 2026/2027 financial year the following budget allocations were provided:

- Community Funding Program budget $80,000
    - *The Community Funding Program is inclusive of a responsive grant process available to community groups for year round submission to assist to unexpected or urgent community needs. These grants are offered up to $1000.*
- Tourism Event Sponsorship budget $30,000

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Applications for 2026/2027 opened between 31 August 2026 and 12 October 2026. Throughout this time a communication and engagement program was delivered to assist community with submissions. A total of 48 submissions were received to a total value of $138,567, with 33 projects recommended post assessment with a total value of $90,828. Table 2 outlines totals per funding stream received and panel recommended totals for award.

Table 2: Totals per funding stream

Program	Budget 2026/27	Available Budget	Funding requested	Variance to budget	Panel Recommendation	Remaining allocation for Responsive Grants
Community Funding Program	$80,000	$80,000	$123,067	-$43,067	$76,328	$3,672
Tourism Sponsorship	$30,000	$20,700*	$15,500	$5,200	$14,500	$6,200
Recovery Funding					$6,000**	

*$9,300 in tourism sponsorship previously allocated under multi-year sponsorship agreements, responsive grants and signage subsidy.
**Funding applications received for items eligible under recovery funding programs.

All submissions were assessed by a panel of Council officers in accordance with advertised eligibility guidelines and established selection criteria.

Prior to assessment the cumulative total of submissions received noted an oversubscription to the Community Funding Program of $43,067 and an undersubscription to the Tourism sponsorship stream of $5,200.

Post assessment, the community funding panel recommends awarding totals of $76,328 via the Community Funding Program, $14,500 in Tourism Sponsorship and another $6000 in programs and events to be funded via a separate recovery funding program.

Due to the oversubscription in submissions, a total of eight applications have not been recommended for endorsement. The projects not recommended were due to multiple applications received by the same group, not meeting program objectives or guidelines, and groups having received funding in a previous year. Some submissions have also been recommended to receive a partial allocation of funding due to indication from the applicant that project would still be deliverable at the lower amount. One application also withdrew post assessment due to successful funding via another external funding opportunity.

Applications were received across a diverse scope of projects that would be delivered across the municipality, as summarised in tables 3 and 4.

Table 3: Submission by category

Category	Applications Received	Applications Recommended	Funding Recommended
Community Event Support	8	5	$7,800
Equipment	12	9	$12,123
Minor Capital Works	15	9	$47,400
Programs, Projects,	8	5	$9,005

Activities			
Tourism Event Sponsorship	5	5	$14,500

Table 4: Submissions by ward

Ward	Total Applications	Total Funding Requested *Community Funding Program*	Total Funding Recommended *Community Funding Program*	Total Funding Requested *Tourism Sponsorship*	Total Funding Recommended *Tourism Sponsorship*
Avoca	10	$26,974	$24,174		
Beaufort	13	$26,953	$8,953	$13,500	$12,500
De Cameron	8	$9,850	$6,864		
Ercildoune	7	$31,537	$17,537		
Mount Emu	10	$27,753	$18,800	$2,000	$2,000

A number of submissions received were noted to be from State or Federally funded Government facilities, organisations or groups. While Council acknowledges and recognises the important role these groups play in delivering services, activities and facilities that benefit local communities, there is an ongoing role for Council to play in advocating for increased funding for these groups to decrease reliance on local government funding streams to remain viable.

Table 5 provides a summary of the applications received within this funding round from groups such as these and the values requested. It should also be noted that these submissions do fit within Community Funding Program guidelines and have been assessed within the same criteria as all other submissions.

Table 5: Submissions from state managed facilities and organisations.

Category	DEECA Projects	DEECA Funding Request	CFA Projects	CFA Funding Request	ANZAC / RSL Projects	ANZAC / RSL Funding Request
Equipment	4	$4,437	2	$2,564	1	$2,000
Minor Capital Works	5	$27,600			1	$7,000
Total Request	9	$32,037	2	$2,564	2	$9,000
Total Recommended	**8**	**$25,037**	**2**	**$2,564**	**0**	**$0**

Table 6 provides a summary of submissions recommended for endorsement. Appendix 1 provides further detail on all submissions received assessment commentary.

Table 6: Submissions recommended for funding

Applicant	Project Name	Project description	Total Project cost	Funding requested	Funding recommended
Funding Category: Community Event					
Barkly Hall and Recreation Reserve	Barkly Outdoors and Unplugged. Live music at the Barkly Hall	The project will support Barkly Unplugged. A free community event supporting residents from the local Barkly/Frenchmans area and neighbouring townships.	$2000	$2000	$2000
Mt Cole-Pyrenees Nature Group	Pyrenees Nature Walks	Mt Cole Pyrenees Nature Group is planning to conduct three guided Nature Walks centred around Mt Cole and Mt Buangor. Walks aim to promote, and preserve the natural environment while promoting individual wellbeing.	$1400	$1400	$1100
Uniting Church Carngham - Snake Valley	Carols in the Valley	Christmas event aimed at increasing social inclusion for all community members through celebration and song.	$2700	$2000	$1000
Advance Avoca	Avoca Community Christmas Party	Provision of free and inclusive family entertainment (eg, rides) at the annual Avoca Christmas Street party	$5000	$2000	$2000
Avoca Riverside Market	Celebrating Community Connection in Avoca	Funding for local musicians to provide free entertainment at the annual Avoca Twilight Christmas Market.	$2770	$1700	$1700
Category Totals			*$13,870*	*$9,100*	*$7,800*
Funding Category: Equipment					
1st Beaufort Scouts (1st Beaufort Support	Active Outdoors: Sports and Camping	Provision of new sport equipment and a portable hot-water unit to enhance active	$1137	$1137	$1137

Group Inc)	Equipment	recreation, outdoor learning and safe camping experiences.			
Avoca Community Food Pantry	New Freezer for the Avoca Community Food Pantry	Purchase of new freezer with glass door to replace broken freezer.	$2300	$2300	$2000
Avoca Fire Brigade	Enhance skills and training in the use of Breathing Apparatus and Search & Rescue.	Purchase of equipment to enhance brigade member skills and training in breathing apparatus, rescues and structure fires. Equipment will also enable brigade to diversify income stream through ability to train neighbouring brigades.	$9783	$1684	$1684
Beaufort Community Playgroup	Beaufort Community Playgroup equipment upgrade	Purchase of equipment to improve safety to support children's development. Includes sun safe equipment, inclusive toys.	$1816	$1816	$1816
Carngham Cricket Club	Gear Up Carngham	Purchase of shared club equipment and coaching aids to promote inclusivity and encourage junior participation	$2000	$2000	$2000
Lexton Public Hall Inc	New BBQ	Purchase of new BBQ to enhance the hall's capacity to host community events and activities	$800	$800	$800
Lexton Public Hall Inc	Internal Digital Heritage display	Purchase of equipment to create internal digital historical and heritage display.	$1369	$1369	$1369
Lexton Rural Fire Brigade	Dividing breech dual control for Lexton Brigade quick fill trailer	Purchase of new coupling for quick fill trailer. Current coupling unable to meet required demand during an event.	$1008	$880	$880
Waterloo Community Group	Shelving for new shed	Purchase of shelving to maximise storage space.	$437	$437	$437

Category totals			*$20,650*	*$12,423*	*$12,123*
Funding Category: Minor Capital Works					
Avoca Sporting & Recreation Committee of Management	Road repairs - Avoca Public Park	Repair of road and parking at Avoca Public Park oval post August 2026 flood.	$6600	$6600	$6600
Carngham Recreation Reserve	Painting project	Finalise painting of outside of building and painting of toilet and shower block.	$7740	$5000	$5000
Lake Goldsmith Steam Preservation Association	Upgrading Steam shovel exhibition arena	Reinstatement of hardstand in steam shovel area impacted in the 2022 Mt Emu Creek flood.	$10,000	$4800	$4800
Musical Gully Wings & Wildlife Sanctuary	Water Security & Climate Resilience – Aviary Precinct Development Project	Installation of two 22,500-litre water tanks, providing 45,000 litres of dedicated water storage as part of our Aviary Precinct Development Project at Main Lead, Victoria.	$10,542	$7000	$7000
Natte Bealiba Football Netball Club	Natte Yallock Netball Court Flood Remediation	Preparing and crack-sealing flood-affected wear cracks across all three court areas to repair and protect the existing playing surfaces.	$14,470	$7000	$7000
Pyrenees Arts Council	Repair & Restore Internal Walls Art Trax Toilet	Resealing and painting of toilet area.	$2200	$2000	$2000
Snake Valley and District Historical Society	External upgrades	Finalisation of building works including rebuilding of entrance porch and painting.	$9232	$6000	$6000
Waterloo Community Group	Waterloo Community - improving our facilities	Purchase and install of second toilet to improve amenity and ability to host larger community events.	$3000	$2000	$2000
Waubra Football Netball Club	Behind Goal Netting	Installation of behind-goal netting at each end of the Waubra	$73,250	$7,000	$7,000

Inc.		Recreation Reserve.			
Category totals			*$137,034*	*$47,400*	*$47,400*
Funding Category: Programs, Projects and Activities					
Amphitheatre Cemetery Trust	Rabbit Proof Fencing	Installation of rabbit proof fencing around cemetery border.	$1,815	$1,815	$1,815
Avoca Community Food Pantry	Relocation (removalist) costs.	Funding sought to cover removalist costs associated with relocating the organisation's operations from MDHS to its new premises at Avoca Shire Hall.	$1,190	$1,190	$1,190
Beaufort and District Historical Society	100 Years of Women in Beaufort	Support to research, write and publish book to celebrate contributions made by Country Women's Association of Beaufort over the past 100 years.	$8,000	$2,000	$2,000
Pyrenees Community House	Chat and Chew 2027	Funding sought to continue growth of the popular Chat and Chew lunch hosted 10 times throughout 2027.	$5,680	$2,000	$2,000
Pyrenees Carers Group Avoca - Pyrenees Community House (Auspice)	Growing & Learning Together Garden Project	Revitalisation of six unused garden beds at Senior Citizens Centre, Avoca, creating an inclusive gardening and learning space for carers, families and the people they care for.	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Category totals			*$18,685*	*$9,005*	*$9,005*
Funding Category: Tourism Sponsorship					
Beaufort Agricultural Society	Great Children's Activities for the 150th Beaufort Show on 21 November 2027	Support for additional family-friendly activities. These attractions will enhance the visitor experience, encourage increased attendance and visitation, and support	$14,900	$5,000	$5,000

		the promotion of the 150th Show celebrations.			
Beaufort Apex Club	Beaufort's Big Easter Egg Hunt	Free, large-scale Easter egg hunt on Good Friday, providing an inclusive, family-friendly event for the local community and visitors of all ages. The event will also feature lawn games and the APEX food truck.	$3,000	$2,000	$2,000
Pyrenees Community House	Beaufort Market Sponsorship	Support for Beaufort Market held five times annually in the Beaufort Memorial Garden, providing an ongoing opportunity to attract visitors from outside the municipality, encourage exploration of local attractions and support local businesses.	$21,760	$5,000	$4,000
Lake Goldsmith Steam Preservation Association	Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally	Support to increase marketing and promotion of the Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally to attract a broader audience, including visitors from outside the municipality.	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Pyrenees Arts Council	Pyrenees Art Exhibition	Support for The Pyrenees Art Exhibition providing local and interstate artists with the opportunity to showcase their talents to an audience of local, regional and interstate attendees.	$26,300	$1,500	$1,500
Category totals			*$67,960*	*$15,500*	*$14,500*

Successful funding submissions are conditional upon agreement to Council Funding Agreement and provision of any relevant regulatory or legislative permits.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People
1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.
1b. Community safety and wellbeing.
1d. Foster partnerships, support volunteers and build capacity.

Pillar 2 - Economy
2c. Support community events and visitor economy.

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment
3b. Mitigate risks, build community resilience and enhance responsiveness to natural disasters.
3c. Support local industries and communities in adapting to climate change.

Table 7 summarises alignment of applications received to strategic priorities within the Council Plan 2025-2029, noting that one application can match to multiple priorities.

Table 7: Alignment to Council Plan 2025-2029

Council Plan Pillars	Application alignment
Pillar 1: Support and grow Liveable Places, Connected Communities	
A. Promote inclusivity and accessibility for all life stages by creating welcoming spaces and supporting diverse social, cultural, and recreational activities.	38
B. Improve community safety and wellbeing through accessible health services, active lifestyles, mental health support	10
D. Strengthen community outcomes by fostering partnerships, supporting volunteers, and encouraging civic engagement to build capacity and deliver improved services.	15
Pillar 2: Promote a Diversified, Thriving Economy C. Support community events and visitor economy.	12
Pillar 3 - Preserve, promote and enjoy the natural environment B. Mitigate risks, build community resilience, and enhance responsiveness to natural disasters through proactive planning and collaboration.	4

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The availability of the Program was advertised in local print media, via social media channels and through direct advice to groups registered on Council's community, event, and business databases.

Council officers delivered 7 applicant support sessions to assist groups to scope and complete applications. Sessions were held in at Avoca and Beaufort Library and Resource Centres, the Snake Valley Public Hall, Waubra Community Hub, and the Landsborough Community Resource Centre.

Council officers were also available and supported multiple individual community consultation sessions to support applications.

ATTACHMENTS
Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS
Recommended amounts noted are within budget allocations for the program and allow allocation for responsive community grants for the remainder of the year.

Risk of non-delivery of funded projects is mitigated by requirements for groups to provide budgets, financial statements, evidence of other contributing funding, insurance documents and appropriate acquittal of any previous grants. A scored assessment process of applications, utilising promoted eligibility criteria, mitigates risk through a fair, consistent, and transparent process.

CONCLUSION
The 2026/2027 Community Funding Program has been well received and subscribed by community across a variety of funding categories and across Shire wards. Recommended submissions demonstrate strong alignment with Council priorities, address community need and provide lasting benefits through both infrastructure improvements and community focused initiatives.

With acknowledgement of the important role that groups funded via state or federal government agencies play, continued advocacy for appropriate funding of these groups and facilities outside of local government funding programs will be paramount to the ongoing viability of these facilities in the provision of community benefit.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the funding of submissions for the 2026/2027 Community Funding Program as outlined in Table 6 of this report, to a total of $90,828.
2. Endorse the holding of $9,872 in the 2026/2027 budget for Responsive Grant allocations.
3. Delegate authority to Council Officers to execute funding agreements and acquittals, within Council delegations, with successful applicants as outlined in Table 6 of this report.

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

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.

RECOMMENDATION

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:

14.1 - Burke Street Subdivision – Stage 2 Land Sale Process
14.2 - Aquatics Service Review
14.3 - Australia Day Awards 2027

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council closed at ____