



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

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

Wadawurrung Country

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

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1. WELCOME

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

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

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

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

4. APOLOGIES

5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 February 2026; and
 - Closed Meeting of Council held 16 February 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 16 February 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. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**9.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - FEBRUARY 2026**

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
02/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
03/02/2026	MAV Regional Meeting – Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands	Online
05/02/2026	PCG Meeting – Old Beaufort Primary School	Online
05/02/2026	Streatham-Skipton Fire Community & Business Recovery Network Meeting #3	Skipton
06/02/2026	Western Highway Action Committee Meeting	Ballan
09/02/2026	Meeting with Silt Force	Beaufort
09/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
10/02/2026	Carranballac Recreation Reserve Onsite Meeting	Carranballac
11/02/2026	Langi Kal Kal Prison Assistant Commissioner Meeting	Beaufort
12/02/2026	Streatham-Skipton Fire Community & Business Recovery Network Meeting #4	Streatham
16/02/2026	Council Briefing / Council Meeting	Beaufort
18/02/2026	Rural Councils Victoria Networking & State Election Platform Launch	Melbourne
19/02/2026	Streatham-Skipton Fire Community & Business Recovery Network Meeting #4	Skipton
22/02/2026	Official Opening - The Heart Project - Healing through art exhibition	Beaufort
23/02/2026	PCG Meeting – Old Beaufort Primary School	Beaufort
26/02/2026	Streatham-Skipton Fire Community & Business Recovery Network Meeting #5	Stoneleigh

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
02/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
02/02/2026	Carngham Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting	Carngham
09/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
10/02/2026	Carranballac Recreation Reserve Onsite Meeting	Carranballac
16/02/2026	Council Briefing / Council Meeting	Beaufort
22/02/2026	Official Opening - The Heart Project - Healing through art exhibition	Beaufort
27/02/2026	Carranballac Recreation Reserve Fundraiser	Snake Valley

Cr Simon Tol – Ercildoune Ward		
02/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
09/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
11/02/2026	Langi Kal Kal Prison Assistant Commissioner Meeting	Beaufort
16/02/2026	Council Briefing / Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Megan Phelan – De Cameron Ward		
02/02/2026	Council Briefing	Online
09/02/2026	Council Briefing	Online
14/02/2026	Councillor Meeting	Lexton
16/02/2026	Council Briefing / Council Meeting	Beaufort
22/02/2026	Avoca market and constituent meetings	Avoca
22/02/2026	Constituent Meeting	Moonambel
28/02/2026	Councillor Meeting	Lexton
28/02/2026	Barkly Unplugged	Barkly

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw – Avoca Ward		
02/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
07/02/2026	Councillor Meeting	Mt Mitchell
09/02/2026	Council Briefing	Beaufort
12/02/2026	ALGWA Masterclass – Navigating CEO / Councillor Dynamic	Online
14/02/2026	Maryborough Art Gallery – Andy Ferg artist from Avoca	Maryborough
16/02/2026	Council Briefing / Council Meeting	Beaufort
19/02/2026	CVGA Board Meeting	Online
20/02/2026	Meeting with Martha Haylett	Avoca
20/02/2026	Early Learning Victoria Avoca Sod Turn Event	Avoca
23/02/2026	Avoca Pre School Meeting	Avoca
28/02/2026	Councillor Meeting	Mt Mitchell
28/02/2026	Tom Curtain Event	Amphitheatre

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**10.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - FEBRUARY 2026**

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	2 February 2026 commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 7.00pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire Recovery 2. Recent Victorian Government Policy Impacting the Future and Financial Sustainability 3. Victorian Election – Advocacy Priorities 4. Upcoming Briefing Items 5. Strategic Issues Raised by Councillors 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Rebecca Wardlaw	Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)	
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Visitors	Nil.		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	9 February 2026 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 7.05pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burke Street Development 2. Road Naming 3. 2026/27 Budget Workshop 4. Economic Development Strategy 5. Township Committees 6. Council Expenses Policy 7. February Council Meeting 8. Upcoming Briefing Items 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe (virtual) Cr Rebecca Wardlaw	Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan (virtual)	
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Emily Beaton (Revenue & Road Naming Officer) item 2 Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance) item 3 Ray Davies (Manager Economic Development & Tourism) item 4		
Visitors	John Stevens (Dench McLean Carlson) – item 4		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Council Briefing		
Meeting Date	16 February 2026 commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FOGO Service 2. 2026/27 Budget Workshop Two 3. Strategic Issues Raised by Councillors 4. Council Meeting Preparation 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Rebecca Wardlaw	Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan	
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Jacinta Erdody (Director Corporate and Community Services) Daniel Potter (Manager Engineering) item 1 Philip Diprose (Waste & Contracts Administration Officer) item 1 Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance) item 2		
Visitors	Lorna Mathieson (DEECA) item 1		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

11. ITEMS FOR DECISION

11.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

11.1.1. TANWOOD AVENUE OF HONOUR RESTORATION

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Noel McKeegan – Environment and Sustainability Officer

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

File No: 6070

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide consideration to replant the Tanwood Avenue of Honour.

BACKGROUND

The Tanwood Avenue of Honour was first established in 1924 to honour the local service men & women who served in the First World War.

Flowering gums were planted in the Tanwood Avenue of Honour in 2022 following the removal of aging/dead Monterey cypress trees.

The flowering gums were severely impacted by unusually heavy frosts in October 2024 and have since died or failed to thrive. In response to community concern the potential for replacing these trees with a more frost tolerant species was investigated.

As part of this process, Council sought input from the community on tree selection.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The majority of respondents favoured replanting the avenue with an exotic species such as Ash or Oak, which would “stand out” from the backdrop of eucalypts and provide a strong avenue feel. Pin Oak and Claret Ash are specifically mentioned by respondents.

Based on discussions with nurseries and horticulturists, either Oak or Ash trees would be suitable choices at the site if properly protected and nurtured when young, and soil is well prepared. Planting should take place in the May to October period.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

3a. Preserve and manage biodiversity and natural assets.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Council sought input from the community on tree selection through a survey on its website at pyrenees.vic.gov.au, which was promoted through Council’s Public Notices, local newspapers, Facebook posts and direct contact with community groups and residents via email.

The engagement process began on 15 August 2025 and ran for three weeks.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Tanwood Avenue of Honour engagement summary [11.1.1.1 - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The cost for full delivery of this project, including purchase of trees, planting, tree staking and protection, and watering for a period of two years is estimated at \$32,000. Watering represents approximately 49% of this cost.

Council's 2025-26 budget for Avenue of Honour maintenance is \$15,000. This fund is used for maintenance of all Avenues of Honour across the Shire. Additional budget allocation would be required to restore the Tanwood Avenue of Honour.

CONCLUSION

Replacing the degraded trees in the Tanwood Avenue of Honour would improve the amenity and provide a long-lasting asset for the local community.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Support the development of a plan to replace the existing trees at the Tanwood Avenue of Honour with Oak or Ash trees.
2. Resolve that funding to complete the project be put forward as a budget bid for 2026-27 for Council's consideration.

11.1.2. BURNBANK CREEK LEXTON FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Noel McKeegan – Environment and Sustainability Officer

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

File No: 28/14/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the removal of all non-native and potential removal of native regrowth vegetation from Burnbank Creek, Lexton.

BACKGROUND

This preliminary assessment was undertaken to identify vegetation to be removed or impacted as part of proposed flood mitigation works in Burnbank Creek, Lexton.

On 18 August 2025, Council resolved to “support the removal of all non-native and potential removal of native regrowth vegetation from the Burnbank Creek where required on an annual basis within the limits of available funding or budget, and seeks appropriate permissions for the removal of regrowth vegetation and other creek obstructions.”

This action was identified in the Lexton Flood Mitigation Plan August 2025 (Option 1). A preliminary assessment was undertaken by Council’s Environment and Sustainability Coordinator in October 2025 to identify vegetation to be removed or impacted as part of proposed flood mitigation works.

Engagement has been undertaken with relevant authorities and local Landcare network. A Works on Waterways Permit has been obtained from North Central CMA.

A preliminary assessment was sought from Djaara and advice received that the proposed works are likely an Advisory activity under Schedule 3 of the LUAA. Formal written comments are currently being sought from Djaara before works commence.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The scope of works for the project includes the removal of woody weeds and regrowth in a 200-m long section of the Burnbank Creek, with consideration given to retention of large native trees, protection of native understory where present, and erosion control including post-works restoration and replanting of appropriate native species where applicable.

The project requires funding for initial works and ongoing monitoring and potentially follow up works as required on an annual basis.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Vegetation Site Assessment Burnbank Creek 2025-10 [11.1.2.1 - 10 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

No funding source for the project has yet been secured. The implementation of the proposed works requires funding of \$20,000. Options for funding the project through external sources are being sought.

CONCLUSION

Proposed flood mitigation works in Burnbank Creek, Lexton, are an important component in Council's flood-mitigation strategy and represent the opportunity to improve the amenity and biodiversity of the township.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report.
2. Supports the amount of \$20,000 be put forward as a budget bid for 2026-27 for Council's consideration, in the absence of suitable external funding being secured.

11.1.3. LINKS ACROSS THE DIVIDE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Noel McKeegan – Environment and Sustainability Officer

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

File No: 30/18/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for participation in the regional Links Across the Divide study, and to recognise its role in strengthening environmental outcomes across Central Victoria.

BACKGROUND

Pyrenees Shire has been invited by the City of Ballarat to partner with neighbouring councils on a regional biolinks study.

Originally referred to as the Connectivity for Central Victorian Uplands study, the project is now being delivered as Links Across the Divide.

Council previously resolved to provide in principle support for the study at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in August 2024.

The study applies a multi-species approach to identify key wildlife corridors across approximately 10,461 square kilometres of the Central Victorian Uplands, including the southern and central western parts of the Pyrenees Shire.

The project is being undertaken by the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research and includes participation from the Shire of Moorabool, Golden Plains Shire and Hepburn Shire.

Species selected for analysis represent a range of ecological functions and habitat needs and include the Agile Antechinus, Echidna, Koala, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Grey Shrike Thrush, White-eared Honeyeater, Black Rock Skink, Blotched Bluetongue and White-lipped Snake, many of which occur in the Pyrenees Shire.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Pyrenees Shire contains 140,580 ha of native vegetation, which covers 20.1% of the region, and is home to more than 733 native plant species and 285 native animal species.

Native forests and woodlands across the Central Victorian Uplands are increasingly fragmented, limiting wildlife movement, breeding, and long-term species resilience. Species such as the Agile Antechinus are vulnerable to isolation between habitat patches, reducing genetic diversity and increasing the risk of localised extinction.

Council has committed to improve the biodiversity values of Pyrenees Shire for future generations through its Biodiversity Action Plan 2016, which puts the need to increase our understanding of biodiversity values and threats amongst the community as one of its seven key components, and recognizes the value of increasing our fundamental understanding of native ecosystems in the Shire through expert consultation.

Participation in the project offers several benefits to Pyrenees Shire, including:

- Identification of priority areas for habitat protection and restoration diversity between the Brisbane Ranges and Mt Cole
- Support for community-led and landholder-driven conservation efforts

- Delivery of a practical final report, including mapping outputs and clear implementation guidance
- Improved information to support planning scheme provisions and decision-making
- Strengthened regional collaboration between councils, agencies and Traditional Owners
- Alignment with state and national biodiversity strategies, including Victoria’s Biodiversity 2037 and the Australia’s Threatened Species Strategy 2021–2031

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

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

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

3a. Preserve and manage biodiversity and natural assets.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4c. Support and facilitate appropriate land use.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The Upper Mount Emu Landcare Network has expressed strong support for the project, which will complement similar projects in the wider region such as the Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Project charter Links Across the Divide V4 [11.1.3.1 - 3 pages]
2. LINKS ACROSS THE DIVIDE presentation 3 [11.1.3.2 - 12 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

City of Ballarat has proposed a proportional contribution with participating councils and other stakeholders. Combining resources with neighbouring LGAs represents an opportunity to obtain valuable research that would be extremely challenging if undertaken alone.

CONCLUSION

The Links Across the Divide project would enhance biodiversity outcomes of the region in-line with the Pyrenees Shire’s commitment to preserve, promote and enjoy the natural environment.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. provides \$10,000 in the 2026-27 budget as a contribution towards the Links Across the Divide project.

11.1.4. IN-HOUSE KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE BUSINESS CASE

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Daniel Potter – Manager Engineering

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

File No: -

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a business case for an in-house/internally operated kerbside bin collection service.

BACKGROUND

The current kerbside bin collection service provides coverage to approximately 4,050 properties across a road network of around 2,000 km predominantly rural and semi-rural roads. The service is delivered under contract by a private company that supplies collection vehicles, drivers, scheduling, and manages the day-to-day operations and associated costs.

The contracted service is valued at approximately \$700,000 per annum based on current contracted services, equating to around \$173 of the waste charge per property.

The current kerbside bin collection service includes collections for:

- General landfill waste (weekly - urban & fortnightly - rural)
- Commingled Recycling (fortnightly)
- Glass Recycling (every 4 weeks)
- Green waste (urban only - every 4 weeks)

A business case for an in-house kerbside bin collection service has been prepared for two primary reasons:

- At the October 2025 Council meeting, Council resolved to undertake a review and prepare a business case for the potential implementation of an internally operated kerbside bin collection service.
- As part of Council’s Waste and Recycling Department’s ongoing review and continuous improvement process for waste and recycling services within Pyrenees Shire Council, to ensure the best value service is delivered to residents.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The following table includes an internally operated kerbside collection option from the business case:

Resource	Description	Estimated Cost (per year)
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste/Recycling Services Coordinator/Team Leader – Kerbside collections (0.5 FTE) — overall management, scheduling, training, etc. • Plant Operators – Waste/Recycling (3 FTE) – waste truck drivers and basic maintenance of trucks. Would also be required to deliver new bins and complete bin maintenance/repairs as required. 	\$345,000 p.a.
Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 collection trucks (2 new & 1 second hand) • 1 spare collection truck (second hand) and, • A maintenance vehicle (Ute or light truck) 	\$205,000 p.a.

Resource	Description	Estimated Cost (per year)
	Capital \$1.65 million total. Deprecated over 8 years.	
Fleet Running Costs	Fuel	\$150,000 p.a.
	Vehicle Registration	\$10,000 p.a.
	Insurance	\$20,000 p.a.
	Software	\$10,000 p.a.
	Vehicle Maintenance	\$40,000 p.a.
Depot Upgrades	Utilising existing transfer station space and depot infrastructure (eg. fuel tanks, washdown bays, etc)	\$0 p.a.
Total		\$780,000 p.a.

Further details/discussion can be found within the business case document.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 3 - Nature Environment

3d. Promote responsible waste practices.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The community has a strong interest in the waste and recycling services, with this being one of the largest services provided to residents within Pyrenees Shire Council. The Waste/Recycling department receives regular requests from residents on the kerbside bin collection service with these actioned quickly with the support of Council's contracted providers.

The waste and recycling service consistently receives a high community satisfaction survey result of between 70-80% satisfied with the service.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft - In House Kerbside Waste Service Business Case_March Update [11.1.4.1 - 10 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are considerable financial, operational and industrial risks to consider with an internally operated kerbside bin collection service. A comparison is listed in the table below with green highlighting the more advantageous model for each aspect:

Aspect	Contracted Model	In-House Model
Annual Cost	\$700k (likely to be higher for new contract)	\$780k (estimated)
Cost per Household per year	\$173	\$193
Capital Requirement	None - Contracted	\$1.65mill (loan required with \$50,000-\$80,000 annual interest)
Operational Risk (eg. Driver shortage, etc)	Low	High
Implementation Complexity	Low	High

Aspect	Contracted Model	In-House Model
Service Scale Efficiency	High (shared fleet and labour)	Low (dedicated small fleet)
Fleet Maintenance	Contractor responsibility	Council responsibility. Likely contracted for major repairs.
Industrial/HR Exposure	Contractor	Council
Industrial/HR Risks	Low	High
Service Flexibility	Low	High
Customer Responsiveness	Medium - Via contractor. Some issues.	High - Direct
Data	Low	High
Employment Impact	External workforce	+3 Council staff (assume local), although higher HR overhead.
Innovation Potential	Low (restricted by contract/profits)	Moderate, limited by resource scale
Service Reliability	Medium - Established network	Medium - Risk of start-up disruption

If Council resolves to make an internal bid to the public tender process, costs to an approximate value of \$25,000 will be incurred to engage a probity officer to ensure the process remains competitive and transparent.

CONCLUSION

An internally operated kerbside bin collection service might be financially viable in the future but comes with financial, operational and industrial risks that need to be considered.

The current contracted kerbside bin collection service has also performed generally well at a cost-effective rate over the past 5 years and is structured to allow a 1-year extension to the contract. Given the contractor's performance, cost-effective contract rates and the limited time to establish a new contract, a 1-year extension has been offered to councils' current contractor to continue the service until the 30th of June 2027.

Preparation for a new contract starting on the 1st July 2027 will be undertaken in mid-late 2026 considering the new Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 requirements regarding the required 4-kerbside bin system.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the current 1-year extension to the existing contract for kerbside bin collections up to 30th June 2027,
2. Undertakes an internal estimate for in-house delivery of the kerbside bin collection service for comparison purposes when Council invites public tenders for a new contract starting 1st July 2027.

11.1.5. BUILDING RENEWAL DETERMINATION FOR 2025/26 BUDGET YEAR

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 06/12/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the progression of the following projects for building renewal in the 2025/26 budgetary year.

1. Refurbishment of the toilet block and change rooms at the Landsborough Pool and Caravan Park
2. Refurbishment of the public toilets and hall toilets at Snake Valley Hall.

BACKGROUND

As part of its forward capital works program, Council allocates funding for building renewal projects. Projects are informed by Council's Ten-Year Asset Plan and building condition reports which are key identifiers to renewal priorities.

Council directly manages a building portfolio of approximately \$50 million renewal value. To manage long-term asset liabilities, Council has previously allocated \$250,000 per year within its forward budgets for building renewal. This allocation assists in positively contributing to asset condition and reducing risk. Large scale or complete renewal beyond the allocated annual amount require specific prioritisation and Council endorsement, often associated with external grant allocations.

The two projects under consideration are:

1. Refurbishment of the toilet block and change rooms at the Landsborough Pool and Caravan Park
2. Refurbishment of the public toilets and hall toilets at Snake Valley Hall.

The two projects were identified for the 2025/26 budget and have progressed through the design and investigation phases. Both projects are important facilities that provide community amenities and serve key functions. Each project is nominally estimated to cost up to \$100,000.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Due to the financial environment that Council is currently operating in, Council officers have undertaken a review of capital projects that have not yet commenced. The review identifies projects that may be postponed or reprioritised until Council has regained greater certainty regarding its overall financial position.

As both nominated projects are yet to commence, Council has the opportunity to consider whether to:

- Proceed with both projects as planned in the 2025/26 financial year.
- Prioritise one project to commence this financial year and defer the other; or
- Delay both projects until the 2026/27 financial year.

Deferral of one or both projects could provide short-term financial flexibility. However, this may result in further asset deterioration, increased future renewal cost or service limitations for the communities these assets service.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 2 - Economy

2c. Support community events and visitor economy.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The community has raised asset condition concerns for both the projects listed above. These have been raised in various forums including customer action requests and verbal feedback.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Snake Valley Toilets- Drawing [11.1.5.1 - 1 page]
2. Snake Valley Toilets- Scope [11.1.5.2 - 6 pages]
3. Snake Valley Toilets- Site Investigation [11.1.5.3 - 3 pages]
4. Landsborough Amenity - Site Investigation [11.1.5.4 - 5 pages]
5. Landsborough Amenity- Floorplan [11.1.5.5 - 1 page]
6. Landsborough Amenity- Scope [11.1.5.6 - 4 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

A number of external factors have impacted Council's current constrained financial position including, delayed rate income, unplanned emergency recovery expenditure and inflation on Council purchases. Both projects are included in Council's 2025/26 building renewal program, and any decision to proceed, prioritise or defer will impact Council's cash flow for the current financial year.

CONCLUSION

Asset renewal is an important activity to ensure assets are fit for purpose and meeting community expectations. Prioritisation of asset renewal should encompass current asset conditions, community use, and financial ability to fund required works.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Prioritise works on the _____(asset/project) to commence renewal utilising funds from the 2025/26 building renewal budget.

11.1.6. TOWN ENTRANCE SIGNAGE

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Tim Day, Manager Assets

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

File No: 58/14/04

PURPOSE

This report is presented to inform Councilors of existing township entrance signage and infrastructure and to seek guidance regarding future prioritisation of improvements to entrance signage.

BACKGROUND

Council has a mix of town/locality entrance signage that incorporates substantive stone entrance signs at key entrance points for more established townships and some basic pole mounted signs for smaller localities.



The Pyrenees Shire has 26 stone township entrance signs, the majority of which were constructed in 2007. In 2014 solar lights were installed to illuminate 15 of these signs. The balance of the stone entrances were equipped with solar lights in 2018/19.

The majority of solar lights installed during this period failed or became unreliable due to water ingress to wiring associated with ground installation, battery failure, poor access to sunlight for recharge and luminaire failure. Council’s Asset Department have had the solar lighting replaced in 5 locations as a consequence of these failures.



ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Replacement lighting has pole mounted solar street lights. The street light luminaires integrate the solar panel, the battery and the luminaire into a product that is more reliable, more waterproof and that has better solar access. A further benefit is that they are not vulnerable to damage associated with mowing or rock impact from passing vehicles. They also have the advantage of projecting light downwards rather than upwards which has benefits for dark sky preservation – the reduction of light pollution. The poles are mounted on a hinged base that allows easy lowering for maintenance purposes.

An example of one of these installations is shown in the photo below.



Council has not currently directly allocated a budget for ongoing renewal of the solar lighting with 2 localities still requiring upgrade: Beaufort and Snake Valley. Each of these localities has multiple entrance infrastructure.

In addition to the stone entrance signage, a number of smaller communities have pole mounted placard signage. An example of this is shown in the photo in the background section of this report.

A number of localities are not identified with this type of signage. Installing these signs is relatively inexpensive and benefits the communities through recognition and wayfinding.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

- 1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.
- 1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 2 - Economy

- 2b. Coordinated and facilitated planning fostering business and tourism growth.
- 2c. Support community events and visitor economy.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

- 4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The deterioration and unreliability of the existing township entrance lighting present an asset management, financial and reputational risk to Council. Transitioning to pole-mounted integrated solar lighting would reduce operational risk through improved durability and ease of maintenance.

CONCLUSION

Council maintains a range of township entrance signage that contributes to community identity and visitor experience.

The reliability issues of the existing solar lighting installed at the stone entrance signs could be mitigated with the staged replacement of pole-mounted integrated solar lighting.

The expansion of placard style signage for smaller localities presents an opportunity for Council to improve wayfinding across the shire.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes this report.
2. Supports the upgrading of solar lighting in locations where the current lighting is not functional utilising unallocated funds from existing budgets that relate to township maintenance.
3. Considers making an allowance for signage and lighting upgrades in the 2026/27 Council budget process.

11.1.7. EMERGENCY TREE WORKS POST STREATHAM YALLA-Y-POORA FIRE EVENT

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Noel McKeegan – Environment and Sustainability Officer

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

File No: 28/14/50

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on emergency tree works and the financial implications of continuing to remove hazardous trees in the wake of the Streatham-Yarra Y Poora fire event in January 2026.

BACKGROUND

On Friday January 9 2026, a grassfire started 5km North of Streatham between Yalla-Y-Poora Road and Eurambeen-Streatham Road. This fast-moving fire travelled in an easterly direction through Carranballac along the Glenelg Highway, burning through approximately 19,300 Hectares, inflicting severe property and stock losses in and around the communities of Carranballac, Skipton and Stoneleigh.

Trees on roadside reserves were also impacted by the fire. Following a preliminary assessment by Council Officers on Monday 12 January, an experienced arborist (Ben Kenyon – Homewood Consulting) was engaged to assess tree condition and risk on affected roadsides.

In the week beginning 19 January 2026, 17 roads totaling 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.

Of these 1,294 trees, 69 were assessed as High Priority and 1,217 were assessed as Moderate Priority. In all cases the recommended works are to remove the trees. High Priority trees are recommended for removal within 12 months. Under the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) system used by the arborist, the time frame for recommended works for Moderate Priority trees is 24 months. In this case the arborist has amended that time frame to 18 months.

The arborist's report notes that the *“dominant species assessed across the entire area is Pinus radiata accounting for 1,227 trees. My experience is that tree death is almost certain following a fire event of this severity... Following a fire event, Pinus radiata will lose all foliage and then begin to decay. Decay at ground level is the most rapid, generally making these trees unstable in the ground after 12-18 months. The rate of decay is variable dependent upon soil moisture, soil fungal activity and tree condition.”*

Council has proceeded to remove High Priority trees with these works are expected to be completed prior to Council considering this report.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Based on discussions with Victorian Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) assessors, trees in the High Priority category are likely to be eligible for funding under Claims and eligibility for essential public assets (Category B – Emergency Works). The eligibility of Moderate Priority trees is less certain because of the 18-month time frame for removal specified by the arborist. For works to be considered eligible as Emergency Works they need to pose an immediate risk to the Essential Public Asset. A final determination can only be made when claims are submitted. Trees located on private land that pose a risk to road infrastructure may also be eligible under DRFA funding.

The challenge facing Council is that hazardous trees identified in the arborist's report pose a risk to road users and community safety in the next 18 months. There is a clear community expectation that these trees will be removed.

Moderate Priority trees on high-traffic roads such as Carngham-Streatham Road present the greatest risk to community safety. A potential path forward is to undertake removal of a group of Moderate Priority trees on this road and seek to fast-track the claim to gauge the likelihood of eligibility for DRFA funding before proceeding with further works.

Trees in the Moderate Risk category may be also eligible for funding under the Council Support Fund, but this does not include trees on private land. Clarity on eligibility is being sought from the responsible agency on this issue, and it should be noted there are many other competing interests in terms of allocation of the Council Support Fund.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

ATTACHMENTS

1. BD K 26-02-13 5661 Pyrenees Fire Skipton [11.1.7.1 - 78 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The removal of Moderate Priority hazardous trees is estimated to cost between \$750,000 to \$1 million and undertaking these works without a clear external funding source presents a significant financial risk to Council, which must be weighed against Council's responsibility to ensure roads are safe. A further risk is that emergency tree works need to be completed by 30 June 2026 in order to be eligible for claiming under the DRFA funding requirements.

CONCLUSION

Fire affected trees pose both an immediate and ongoing risk to road users. Tree removal works are a priority for ensuring community safety.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Supports the removal of fire impacted roadside trees that pose a risk to road users.
2. Supports the adoption of a step-by-step approach which seeks to fast track DRFA claims and minimize exposure to financial risk in the absence of clear funding commitment from external agencies.

11.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

11.2.1. NP51 WALKER STREET AVOCA

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Emily Beaton – Revenue and Road Naming Officer

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

File No: 58/02/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to finalise the naming process for an unnamed road in Avoca between Davy Street and Camp Street.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 21 July 2025, Council resolved to commence the process for the naming of an unnamed road between Davy Street and Camp Street, Avoca.

A previous submission (Rose Mary Way) was denied by Geographic Names Victoria in accordance with Principal D of the Naming Rules for Place in Victoria 2022. Subsequently, at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 8 December 2025, Council resolved to again commence the naming process for this unnamed road between Davy Street and Camp Street, Avoca.

The Council recommendation of Walker Street was advertised in The Pyrenees Advocate, Council's Website, and placed on display at the Shire Office in Beaufort and the Avoca Information Centre. The advertisement also invited descendants of Rose Walker to contact Council regarding the use of Rose's name. In addition, a letter was issued to adjoining property owners on 11 December 2025. No submissions were received.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In review of the proposal, the following points should be noted:

1. Walker Street is a legitimate naming option and passes all of the tests set by the Registrar of Geographic Names and supports the Victorian Government's Gender Equity Strategy 2023-2027. The name has a historical relationship to the area, being the family name of a lady born in Avoca who served as a Nurse in World War 1.
2. The road type "Street" describes a public roadway in a town, city or urban area.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 4 - Infrastructure

4a. Plan, build and maintain essential infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

1. NP51 Walker Street - MAP [11.2.1.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

The naming of new roads and accurate addressing is important to ensure that residents are able to be located by emergency services and to receive mail. To mitigate the risk of errors, Council

needs to comply with the 'Naming rules for places in Victoria (2022),' and the Australian Standards for Signing and Rural and Urban Addressing.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, naming the road Walker Street provides a clear, appropriate, and consistent identifier that aligns with Council's naming guidelines, supports community recognition, and ensures ease of navigation for residents, emergency services, and visitors.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the name Walker Street, which has historical ties to the area.
2. Forwards a report to Geographic Names Victoria for consideration of the name Walker Street.

11.2.2. S6 & S18 DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL STAFF

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: 16/20/05

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council adoption of updated Instruments of Delegation from the Pyrenees Shire Council to members of Council staff.

BACKGROUND

Section 11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides Council with the power to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, via Instrument of Delegation, any power, duty, or function of a council under the Act other than one prohibited by section 11(2). Section 11(7) requires a council to review all delegations made under the Act within 12 months of a general election.

A range of other legislation also allows a council to delegate powers, duties, and functions under those Acts or Regulations to council staff.

Council uses Maddocks Lawyers Delegations Service to maintain currency of its Instruments and compliance obligations' knowledge. This service monitors legislative change and provides updates on changes relevant to local government in January and July of each year.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The following Instruments of Delegation were reviewed in February 2025, following the receipt of January updates from Maddocks.

- S6 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff
- S18 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff relevant to the Environment Protection Act 2017

Although updated in October 2025, the S6 Instrument of Delegation update received in January had some changes made to the Planning & Environment Act duties and powers for which delegations had to be added. These are identified in the attached Instrument by being marked in red and can be seen on pages 12, 13, 15, 28 and 42 of the attachment.

The S18 Instrument was last updated some years ago and has had delegations and officer roles refreshed to reflect the current environment.

The draft Instruments are attached for Council reference.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Management and review of Instruments of Delegation is a matter of compliance and does not require community engagement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. S18 Instrument of Sub Delegation under the EPA 2017 Feb26 [**11.2.2.1** - 5 pages]
2. S6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to members of Council staff January 202 [**11.2.2.2** - 72 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* and other legislation to accurately record any delegation of powers, duties, or functions to members of Council staff to allow for proper and lawful administration of Council's functions and operations, without which all functions and operations would require daily resolution of the Council.

CONCLUSION

Lawful operation of Council administration requires delegations of authority to be authorised by the Council. It is good practice to review delegations at regular intervals or when significant changes occur. Updated legislative provisions received through Maddocks Lawyers in January require an update of the S6 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff, and the S18 Instrument of Delegation relating to the EPA Act 2017.

Amended Instruments, once approved, will remain in force until further reviews are conducted in the future.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and other legislation referenced in the attached Instrument, resolves that:

1. The members of council staff referenced in the S6 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff attached, be authorised as set out in the Instrument.
2. The members of council staff referenced in the S18 Instrument of Delegation as attached be authorised as set out in the Instrument.
3. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to sign the Instrument on behalf of the Council.
4. The Instrument comes into force immediately after the Instrument is signed by the Chief Executive Officer.
5. Once executed, all former S6 and S18 Instruments are revoked.

11.2.3. VOLUNTEER ASSET COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Jacinta Erdody – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 38/02/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider how we continue supporting volunteer committees that manage State owned community assets that Council have historically insured whilst recognizing the initial intent of earlier resolutions to hold the State accountable for State owned community assets.

BACKGROUND

Further to the May 2025 Council resolution regarding Council Insurance, in particular the Council coverage of State owned community assets where there are State appointed volunteer committees, Council resolved to:

Advise DEECA Community Committees of Management of Council's intent to cease insuring their assets on 30 June 2026.

This decision was on the premise of holding the State accountable for the financial elements associated with community assets. Since this resolution, dialogue commenced with DEECA and letters were issued to affected community committees advising them that Council would not provide insurance coverage from 1 July 2026.

As a result of this communication, councillors and council officers have received feedback about the challenges and constraints that each of these community volunteer committees are facing to meet additional costs but also lacking the 'know how' of how to secure such insurance.

The Committees of Management who initially received correspondence from Council advising of the intent to cease insurance from the 30 June 2026 have now been issued an updated letter advising not to take any further action until Council undertakes a further review of the matter.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In making its decision at the May 2025 Ordinary meeting of Council, it was to ensure that the State Government assume responsibility for assets located on crown land, given their overarching responsibility and control of the asset. One of the other factors that influenced this decision was the lack of control that Council had over these properties to enable demonstration to our insurer that the required and appropriate inspections and maintenance were being carried out on the assets.

Since the resolution of May 2025, Council has engaged with various representatives of the State Government over the issue. However, there is currently no commitment given by the State to assume responsibility for insurance coverage of these community assets into the future and have in fact indicated it would not be something they would be looking to accept.

Officers have consulted with other Councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria to better understand potential pathways forward, including a sector wide approach to the advocacy. These conversations have resulted in:

- An awareness of a previous motion to the MAV State Council in October 2017 which was worded as follows:
"That the MAV advocate to the State Government for the onus of insuring non-council assets located on State Government land to be shifted from local government to State Government."

- The MAV confirmed the motion was presented to the relevant Minister in February 2018 and received the following response:
“The Minister reflected the important role of committees of management and that they reside often on crown land.

They raised DELWPs insurance provides coverage for COMs public and products liability. However, their policy requires COMs to arrange their own insurances for built assets on reserves. This is on the basis that the department do not control the built assets.”

MAV has advised that they would welcome a further motion on the matter and would be open to work with Council on appropriate wording.

In considering what the options are to ensure that we continue to support the volunteer community committees of management that manage State Government community assets, we need to consider the short term, medium term and longer term potential solutions which may include:

Option	Timeline
Status Quo Continue providing coverage of State owned community assets for the 2026/27 years whilst the medium and long term options and engagement are undertaken	Short Term
Shared insurance coverage model Council continue to insure and charge back part or all of the cost to the Committees	Medium Term
Review of Coverage In conjunction with Committees assess the asset to determine level of insurance or whether the asset does not warrant insurance coverage	Medium Term
Asset Rationalisation and Review Conduct a review of community assets in conjunction with State, Committees and Council to better understand what assets may be deemed non-essential or duplicated	Long Term
Advocacy Motion to MAV State Council being held on 29 May 2026	Long Term
Insurance Model options Council seek that MAV act as an agent for Councils and secure mutual insurance on behalf of Councils/communities using economies of scale to secure better pricing	Long Term

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1a. Inclusivity and accessibility.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Council officers will ensure that a collaborative approach is taken with the State Government appointed committees for which Council currently provide insurance coverage for to ensure that any future model ensures sustainability of the committees managing these valued community assets.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The coverage of insurance premiums within Council's insurance premiums will be absorbed within the 2026/27 financial year whilst officers work with the State Government, appointed Committees and other bodies (MAV, Rural Council Victoria, etc) to ensure a financially sustainable model of insurance coverage beyond the 2026/27 financial year.

To mitigate the risk of coverage on these valuable community assets, officers will also need to work with our Insurers to better understand any building maintenance and compliance records that need to be undertaken and available back to Council in the event of a claim to ensure coverage of insured assets results in appropriate outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Council stands by their decision that the State Government should take responsibility for these valuable community assets. However, Council also recognises that the change in insurance coverage responsibility poses significant financial sustainability challenges and implications to the impacted Committees and on this basis the following changes to the May 2025 Council decision are suggested.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolves to extend insurance coverage to State Government properties that have volunteer committees appointed to include the 2026/27 financial year to allow more time to work towards longer term solutions.
2. Submit a motion to the MAV State Council as follows:
That the MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to take responsibility for the insurance of assets on crown land for which they have appointed community committees of management,
and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make any changes that may be required to the wording in consultation with the Mayor and the MAV
3. Authorises Officers to proceed with other documented proposed options to enable sustainable insurance coverage options for State Government properties where there have been community committees of management appointed.

11.2.4. OUTSTANDING RATES

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: 52/04/02

PURPOSE

This report provides an update on the status of the collection of outstanding rates for the 2025/26 financial year.

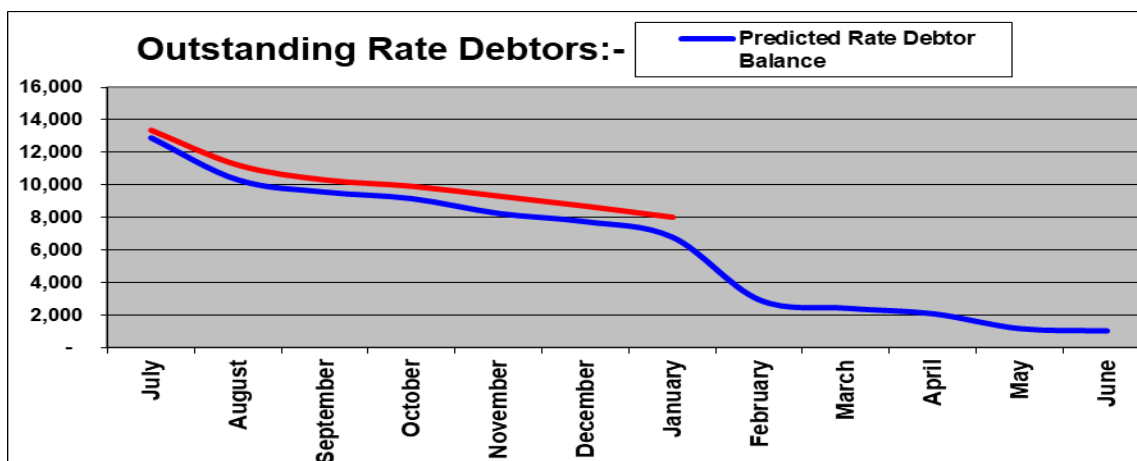
BACKGROUND

It has been reported to Council that concerns relating to the collection of rates had been below budgeted levels. The budgeted level had been adjusted to take into account the 40% Primary Producer Payment made by the Victorian State Government.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION.

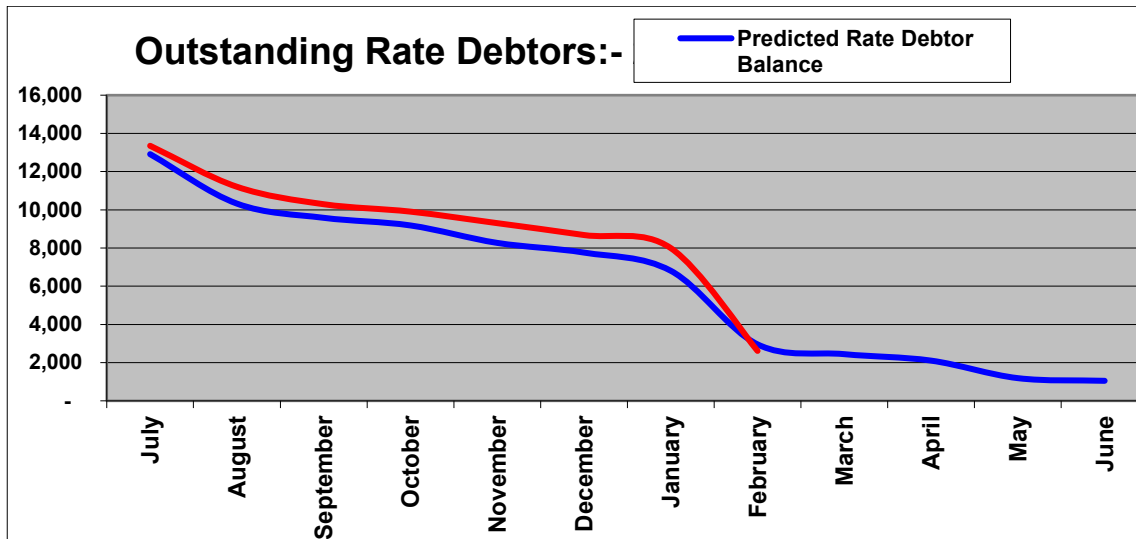
Each month up until January 2026 the outstanding rates balance had been lower than expected recovery levels. The table below sets out the recovery rates for the 2025/26 financial year:

2025/26		
Revised Budget (\$'000's)	Actual (\$'000's)	Var (\$'000's)
903		
12,913	13,351	(438)
10,325	11,206	(881)
9,581	10,293	(712)
9,181	9,905	(724)
8,268	9,301	(1,033)
7,762	8,680	(918)
6,809	7,996	(1,187)
2,956		2,956
2,442		2,442
2,105		2,105
1,188		1,188
1,048		1,048
16.1%		



It was stated that whilst there was concern regarding the collection rate, the earliest indication as to whether the collection rate would be a year end issue would be following the final date that full payment of rates was due, being February 15 2026.

The end of February results has shown a marked improvement in the overall collection pattern for outstanding rates.



As at the end of February 2026, the level of outstanding rates was the lowest level since the 2020/21 financial year.

A detailed analysis of outstanding rates is displayed below:

	24/25	25/26	Variation
Current Rates	1,423,026	1,325,535	-6.85%
Arrears Rates	343,880	432,039	25.64%
Outstanding Rates	1,766,906	1,757,574	-0.53%
Legal Fees	45,000	38,424	-14.61%
Interest	37,937	64,373	69.68%
Overpaid Rates	(164,224)	(499,047)	203.88%
Waste Charge	1,185,314	1,252,162	5.64%
	2,870,933	2,613,486	-8.97%

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The financial risks as at 28 February 2026 has been reduced due to the improvement in the collection rate of outstanding rates. Whilst this pattern could change later in the financial year it is not expected to reach the levels that existed at the end of January 2026.

CONCLUSION

The collection rate of outstanding rates has improved significantly during the month of February 2026. However; the collection rate should be monitored over the coming months to determine any impact on the 2026/27 Budget.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. requests a further report on the collection rate of outstanding rates and the impact on the 2026/27 budget to be tabled at the April 2026 Council meeting.

11.3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

11.3.1. VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO THE 2026 SUMMER BUSHFIRES

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 28/14/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Victorian Government's inquiry into the 2026 summer bushfires across Victoria and to seek Council endorsement for a formal submission to be made to the inquiry.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government has announced a Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 summer bushfires.

Terms of Reference for the Inquiry include the following matters:

- 1) *the preparation and planning by government, emergency services agencies and the community ahead of the fire season, including management of public and private land and roadsides;*
- 2) *the causes and circumstances of the bushfires, including climate change and the adequacy of the Government's climate policies and actions, forecasts, warnings and public education on bushfire threats;*
- 3) *funding, equipment and appliances for the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Fire Rescue Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria, and recruitment and retention of CFA volunteers;*
- 4) *the emergency responses to control and contain the fires, including adequacy of resources and communications;*
- 5) *resilience of critical services and infrastructure such as electricity, water and telecommunications during and after the fires;*
- 6) *the impact on the community, business and agriculture and efforts to aid in recovery;*
- 7) *the impact on the environment, including native wildlife, and any measures to better protect native forests, including technology for early detection and firefighting in remote locations;*
- 8) *the impacts of climate change on the natural environment, which has resulted in more frequent and intense bushfires occurring in Victoria;*
- 9) *the prevalence and impact of misinformation leading into and during the fire season;*
- 10) *the interjurisdictional support into and out of Victoria leading into and during the fire season, including interstate and international deployments, Commonwealth support and relief efforts; and*
- 11) *lessons from and progress on the implementation of recommendations from previous inquiries, reports and Royal Commissions*

Submissions are invited from agencies involved and from the community. The deadline for submissions has been extended to 19 April 2026.

Further details relating to the inquiry can be found at: [Inquiry into the 2026 summer fires across Victoria - Parliament of Victoria](#)

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Streatham Yalla-Y-Poora fire had serious and ongoing direct and indirect impacts on community, causing damage to infrastructure and the environmental and economic disruption.

Pyrenees Shire Council has had a range of responsibilities during the event including:

- Participation in Municipal Emergency Management Planning.
- Activation of relief and recovery centres.
- Provision of emergency relief and recovery services.
- Coordination with State agencies and community organisations.
- Asset and infrastructure assessment and restoration.
- Vegetation assessment and removal.
- Community communication and support.
- Recovery.

The inquiry provides an opportunity for Council to highlight issues impacting the response and recovery, lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, and given the extended period for making submissions, it is suggested that Council makes a submission.

Issues proposed to be included within Council's submission are:

1. Documenting the event and the experience of those involved – telling how the event unfolded from Council perspective
2. Documenting the impacts on community, infrastructure, environment and the economy – as identified through impact assessments and recovery activity.
3. Context of Pyrenees Shire Council capacity as a small rural council with resource and financial constraints.
4. Cumulative impact of emergency events over recent years – noting that within the last 10 years Pyrenees has experienced 2 major floods, 3 major fires, a storm and drought event.
5. Impact on Council service delivery / BAU – significant disruption and office time committed to the event at the expense of ordinary service delivery and broader community impacts.
6. Funding programs / announcements and administration frustrations with funding gaps for affected individuals and for Council
7. Municipal Emergency Recovery Program (MERP) funding – and suggested future significant increase needed to enable adequate resourcing for efficient and effective early response and recovery.
8. Specific issues identified from Council's internal debrief
9. Environmental factors including climate, rainfall causing significant grass growth and roadside slashing
10. Management of hazardous roadside trees
11. Coordination between LGAs
12. Agency response as observed by Council
13. Community expectations and recovery experiences
14. Insurance observations and Council's experience of insurance of assets on DEECA controlled land
15. Recommendations and things that can be done better

At the time of preparing this report, a draft submission is in development. It is intended to expand on the issues described above with opportunity for Councillor input.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Media Release - Inquiry Launched into 2026 Summer Fires Across Victoria [**11.3.1.1** - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The preparation of a submission will not have any financial implications to Council.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed to make a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary inquiry into the 2026 summer bushfires given the serious direct and indirect impacts of the fires on our municipality, our community, local infrastructure, the environmental causing community and economic disruption, and financial impacts.

Submissions to the enquiry are invited up until 19 April 2026.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. agrees to make a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary inquiry into the 2026 summer bushfires
2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and lodge the submission after consultation with relevant staff and Councillors.

11.3.2. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT - BLUE TREE PROJECT

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 36/26/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider a request to erect a Blue Tree in Waubra as part of the Blue Tree Project.

BACKGROUND

A request has been received seeking Council's permission and support to erect a Blue Tree within the Waubra area as part of the Blue Tree Project.

The Blue Tree Project is a charitable organisation dedicated to sparking conversations and encouraging people to speak openly about mental health. Its purpose is to reduce the stigma that is still strongly attached to mental health challenges and to promote connection, awareness, and early intervention within communities.

There are over 1,400 Blue Trees located across Australia and in other parts of the world. Each tree serves as a visual reminder and conversation starter, encouraging people to check in with family, friends, loved ones, colleagues and importantly, themselves.

Further information on the Blue Tree Project is available here: <https://bluetreeproject.com.au/>

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Mr Keene is seeking Council's permission to erect a Blue Tree at the Waubra Recreation Reserve or along the Sunraysia Highway beside the Waubra township sign.

The proposed tree measures approximately 2.4 metres high and 1.2 metres wide. In addition to the tree, permission is also sought to place a seat in the direct vicinity of the tree for people to be able to sit and reflect.

Mr Keene has been directly touched by the stigma of mental health and has requested that a plaque dedicated to his daughter be installed on the seat. Mr Keene has offered to fund the seat and plaque.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Pillar 1 - People

1b. Community safety and wellbeing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Consultation with the Waubra Community Asset Committee is to be undertaken as part of this project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mr Keene - Blue Tree Request [11.3.2.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Mr Keane has advised that the cost of the proposed tree is \$750.00. In addition to the tree, it is proposed that a blue powder coated concrete platform for the tree to be fixed to be installed. The cost of the entire project is approximately \$2,000.

CONCLUSION

Installation of the Blue Tree in Waubra will increase mental health awareness and encourage open dialogue, reducing the ongoing impacts of mental health challenges.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Provides in principle support of the installation of a Blue Tree, seat and plaque at the Waubra Recreation Reserve.
2. Undertakes consultation with the Waubra Community Asset Committee on the project.

11.3.3. ADVOCACY - VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 12/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to identify and formalise Council's advocacy priorities for the 2026 Victorian State Election.

BACKGROUND

The 2026 Victorian State Election is a scheduled parliamentary election in Victoria to choose members of the 61st Parliament of Victoria. The election will be held on Saturday 28th November 2026.

Victorian State Elections determine leadership and policy direction on major state issues that directly affect local councils and communities.

Council and Pyrenees communities rely on other tiers of government funding and support in the delivery of services and projects and the delivery of the Council Vision.

The lead up to the State Election provides an opportunity for Council to identify key funding, infrastructure and policy issues that require support from the Victorian Government to ensure the long-term sustainability, economic growth and wellbeing of the Pyrenees Shire community.

Establishing clear advocacy priorities allows Council to:

- Present a unified position on regional needs
- Seek funding commitments and policy support
- Strengthen partnerships with state representatives
- Ensure local issues are represented in state-level decision making.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The 2026 Victorian State Election advocacy priorities include matters of critical importance to Pyrenees Shire Council and out communities and are as outlined below:

Council's Financial Sustainability

The financial pressures facing small rural councils has been reported and documented over many years.

In 2010 a report by Merv & Rohan Whelan **Local Government Financial Sustainability: Abridged Report (2010)** highlighted the 18 least sustainable small councils in Victoria including Pyrenees.

The primary reasons for these councils being at risk were:

- Lack of ability to raise revenue – primary revenue sources being rates, charges and government grants with fees making up a small percentage of total revenue
- Significant asset responsibilities and lack of ability to meet current and future renewal of these assets
- Large geographical area with low and dispersed population

The Wheelan report concluded that the financial sustainability of small rural councils can only adequately be addressed by increased direct and untied grants from government.

In 2015/16 a **Parliamentary Inquiry was conducted into the sustainability and operational challenges of Victoria's rural and regional councils**. This report identified a series of issues impacting councils including:

- Cost shifting from other government as a result of diminishing funding for core service delivery including ceasing indexation of grants
- Legislative and government policy changes increasing council responsibilities

In 2015, the Victorian government introduced The Fair Go Rates system (rate capping) which restricted increases in the average value of rates that a council can charge unless the council is granted a variation.

In 2024, a further Victorian Parliamentary inquiry was conducted titled, ***Inquiry into Local government funding and services***. The report made 48 recommendations, and a government response was tabled in Parliament in June 2025. Among the supported recommendations were:

- Commitment to conduct a further review to determine the nature and extent of cost shifting faced by Victorian councils.
- Acknowledgement of and commitment to consider impacts of legislation on local government through regulatory impact assessment
- In principle support for adjustments to the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery funding arrangements
- In principle support for the Victorian Government to advocate to the Commonwealth Government that Financial Assistance Grants be raised to 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue (acknowledging the need for increased direct untied funding)
- In principle support that the Victorian Government review the auditing and reporting requirements of its grant programs to ensure that compliance is not so onerous that it deters smaller or less resourced councils from participation, particularly those in rural and regional areas. And that the Victorian Government ensure grant programs take account of council financial capacity with respect to co contribution requirements.

Other recommendations not supported in full included:

- Reinstatement of funding model for school crossing supervisors, maternal and child health services and library services to a 50-50 model despite recommendations to do so.

A copy of the government's response to the recommendations can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/4a927c/contentassets/26675e0bbf1f4c27836ab5a413cb8284/government-response-to-the-inquiry-into-local-government-funding-and-services.pdf>

Despite the efforts and commitments of the past, Pyrenees financial sustainability continues to be at risk.

Natural disasters have had a significant impact on Pyrenees. In the last ten years, Council has had two major floods in (2016 and 2022), three major fires (2019, 2024, 2026) storm (2024) and Drought. The financial impact (unrecovered costs) of the 2022 flood event alone is estimated to in excess of \$1M. Included in this is officer time on the emergency response and recovery which has taken away time spent on other direct service delivery and BAU operations. Also included is road reinstatement of sites not claimed due to high administrative reporting requirements likely to impact timely restoration works.

The Victorian Minister for Local Government has set a rate cap for the 2026/27 financial year of 2.75%. In January, the inflation rate was reported as 3.8% and likely to cause the cost of delivery of services to exceed rate revenue. This impact is compounded year on year.

In July 2026, Council is required to have in place a new Enterprise Agreement setting out the terms and conditions of employment of staff. Industrial legislation has provided for Multi-Employer

Bargaining resulting in Pyrenees being roped into a multi agreement committing pay rises and conditions of employment beyond Councils revenue. Should this be realised, this will necessitate downsizing the workforce, resulting in reduced services to the community. In summary, minimum pay rises of 3.5% which after structural changes results in effective rise of 4.0% and above when compared with rate cap revenue of 2.75% is unsustainable.

Ministerial guidelines relating to service rates and charges expected to be implemented from 2026/27 are likely to negatively impact Council's bottom line by around \$55,000.

Funding of key services by the state such as library services have not been indexed for several years, yet the cost of delivering these services continues to increase year on year.

Funding provided for the Municipal Emergency Resource Program (MERP) remains unindexed.

Council's bridge audit (reported to Council in 2024) identified around 26 of Councils 150 bridges were under capacity to meet current Heavy Vehicle requirements necessitating load limits to be imposed to protect the asset and for community safety. The cost to upgrade these assets requires significant investment beyond Council's capacity.

Cost shifting continues to impact through other introduced legislation and policy.

The issues raised above highlight some of the challenges ahead requiring significant financial investment by state and commonwealth governments and the most important advocacy issue leading into the Victorian State Election.

Other Critical Projects and Issues

The following project and issues are key items of advocacy ahead of the State Election. Note that the order of the items does not reflect priority.

1. Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply Project (in conjunction with Northern Grampians and Central Goldfields shires)

Funding Ask:

- \$5 million for detailed design, geotechnical, native vegetation, cultural heritage and other planning to progress the project to be shovel ready and fit for purpose water supply infrastructure to service 2500 rural landholders/businesses and up to nine towns across parts of the three LGAs
- Future capital construction cost approx. \$160 million

Benefits include:

- Water security for farmers
- Reduced drought impact
- Protect agricultural jobs
- Healthier natural environment
- Stimulate economic investment/uplift

2. Beaufort Caravan Park Master Plan

Funding Ask:

- \$3 million to complete remaining stages of the Masterplan
- Additional cabins, community kitchen, amenities and road access
- Install new powered sites
- Renovate ensuite facilities

Benefits include:

- Vital tourism element to grow the visitor economy to the Pyrenees region
- Increased accommodation options for regional workers
- Necessary emergency accommodation
- Revitalisation and modernisation of highly valued asset

3. Old Beaufort Primary School Community Hub

Funding Ask:

- \$2.6 million to implement Masterplan including remediation works to make the current historic school buildings compliant and fit for purpose as a community hub

Benefits:

- The master plan will eventually create a vibrant multi-use community hub and housing development
- Protect the site's heritage buildings that are currently vacant and subject to vandalism

4. Bushfire recovery works in Mt Cole and Mt Buangor Parks

- Commitment to complete reinstatement of campgrounds, walking trail and associated assets impacted in the February 2024 Bayindeen-Rocky Road fire
- Cost unknown

Benefits:

- Significant nature-based tourism assets to support and growing the visitor economy.
- Assist with ongoing community recovery from the bushfire which impacted 22,000 hectares of farmland, residential areas and state forest

5. Untied funding for roads and bridges renewal

Funding Ask:

- No amount nominated at this stage however the estimated cost to upgrade understrenght bridges is >\$10million
- To support small rural councils to sustainably manage, maintain and renew significant road and bridge assets which are currently beyond councils' financial capacity.
- Pyrenees manages more than 2000 kilometres of local roads and 150 bridges.
- 26 bridges have limited load carrying capacity preventing efficient farm to market access for producers.

Benefits:

- Create sustainable effective transport infrastructure to support communities and the agriculture sector
- Increased capacity of bridges to support higher mass vehicles

6. Funding commitment to increase the Shire's emergency water supply points

Funding Ask:

- No amount nominated at this stage – large sections of the shire have little access to suitable stock and domestic water and investment is needed >\$500,000 to address the most critical areas.
- Pyrenees communities are drought impacted
- Pyrenees Shire has had two major bushfires in the past two years (2024 Bayindeen-Rocky Road fire and 2026 Streatham-Yalla-Y-Poora fire)

Benefits:

- To improve access to emergency and stock and domestic water supply to communities and emergency services.
- Support for communities impacted by drought and fire.
- To support future firefighting and recovery efforts

7. Power upgrades in small towns

Several small towns do not have adequate power to meet current power needs for critical community assets. Township recreation reserves at Avoca, Lexton and Snake Valley are priority sites.

Funding Ask:

- \$4 million
- Increased power capacity in small towns to meet basic community needs
- Small towns including Snake Valley, Avoca and Lexton require power management plans to run community recreation facilities due to limited power capacity
- Upgrading power supply is needed for improved sports lighting.

Benefits:

- Improved recreation and community assets
- Increased participation in sport

8. Waubra Recreation Upgrade

Funding Ask:

- No amount nominated at this stage. However, \$130,000 is required to complete the necessary detailed planning and build cost is expected in the order of \$2million
- Commitment required to financially support infrastructure upgrade.
- Female change facilities and Netball court development required to meet expectations and current standards for community sport.

Benefits:

- Improved recreation and community assets
- Increased participation in sport
- Support for community impacted by renewable energy infrastructure.
- Financial support for a small rural council impacted by natural disasters.

9. Libraries

- Increase current Victorian Government contribution to library services
- Commitment to indexation of this funding ongoing.

Benefits:

- Necessary to maintain current service levels
- Libraries are a highly valued service supporting education, literacy and community connections.

10. Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP)

Funding Ask:

- Significant increase in current Victorian Government contribution to MERP from Emergency Management responsibilities. Suggested increase from \$60,000 pa to \$250,000 pa to address capacity shortfall.
- Commitment to indexation of this funding ongoing.
- Pyrenees has experienced multiple emergency events in recent years

Benefits:

- Builds capacity in Council to respond to and assist communities recover from Natural disasters in a more timely way

11. Emergency Management**Funding Ask:**

- Direct untied additional funds to Pyrenees who has been significantly financially impacted by events over the last 10 years.
- Gaps in current funding programs which are also administratively complex
- In the last 10 years, Pyrenees Shire has experienced major fires x3, major floods x2, drought and storm events.

Benefits:

- Mitigate financial impacts of natural disasters on a small rural council
- Provide necessary funding to address impacts on on BAU due to natural disasters.

12. ESVF

- Council continues to advocate for the ESVF to be scrapped due to disproportional impact on rural landowners and communities

Regional and Sector Advocacy

In addition to Council's specific advocacy, Pyrenees participates with several Peak bodies to advocate on key issues and funding including:

- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)
- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)
- Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)
- Tourism Midwest Victoria (TMV)
- Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC)
- Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC)

The details of each of the advocacy campaigns and priorities is available on the respective websites.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**Pillar 1 - People**

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

Pillar 5 - Community-Centric

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

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Engagement with peak bodies on key issues is ongoing.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial sustainability is a key issue for Pyrenees and without adequate funding achieved through advocacy, Council would not be able to deliver the services that the community needs and expects.

CONCLUSION

Council's strong advocacy has never been needed more to ensure Pyrenees remains financially sustainable and effective in delivering essential services to Pyrenees communities. The Victorian State election provides a significant opportunity to take these priorities to the relevant political parties to drive commitment and support.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Victorian State Election advocacy priorities described in this report and
2. Advocates strongly over the coming months to ensure attention is drawn to the issues and needs of Council and our communities

12. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council closed at _____