



**Pyrenees**  
Shire Council

# **Minutes**

## **Special Meeting of Council**

**6:00 pm Monday 12 May 2025**  
**Virtual**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. WELCOME .....	3
2. STREAMING PREAMBLE .....	3
3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY .....	3
4. APOLOGIES.....	3
5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS.....	3
6. ITEMS FOR DECISION .....	4
6.1. Corporate and Community Services .....	4
6.1.1. Draft 2025/26 Budget .....	4
6.1.2. Integrated Planning Suite of Documents for Consultation .....	7
7. CLOSE OF MEETING .....	9



## **1. WELCOME**

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe welcomed all to the meeting.

## **PRESENT**

**Mayor:** Cr Tanya Kehoe

**Councillors:** Megan Phelan (virtual), Simon Tol, Rebecca Wardlaw, Damian Ferrari

**Chief Executive Officer:** Jim Nolan

**Director Asset and Development Services:** Douglas Gowans

**Acting Director of Corporate and Community Services:** Shane Walden

**EA to CEO and Councillors:** Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

**Acting Senior Communications Officer:** Fiona Henderson

**Manger ICT:** Scott Wright

## **2. STREAMING PREAMBLE**

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe read the livestream preamble.

## **3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes on whose land we meet today.

## **4. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

## **5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 6. ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 6.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### 6.1.1. DRAFT 2025/26 BUDGET

**Presenter:** Shane Walden – Acting Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**Report Author:** Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

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

**File No:** 32/08/18

#### PURPOSE

This report presents the Council with the Pyrenees Shire Council draft Budget for the 2025/26 financial year, the draft 10-year Financial Plan covering the years 2025/26 to 2034/35 and Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26.

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

- Draft Budget 2025/26.
- Draft 10-year financial plan.
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26.

It is recommended that the Council, in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy, advertise the draft Budget 2025/26, draft 10-year financial plan, and Revenue and Rating plan for public comment, invite public submissions and provide for those who wish to speak to their submission the opportunity to do so before the Council. The council is required to consider all submissions prior to adopting the draft Budget and draft 10-year financial plan, Revenue and Rating plan in June 2025.

#### BACKGROUND

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

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

If endorsed for consultation, the draft Budget 2025/26, draft 10-year financial plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 will be made publicly available, and Council will invite written submissions from Thursday 15 May 2025 until 9.00am Wednesday 11 June 2025. The document will be made available at Council's customer service centers and via Council's website.

Members of the community who prepare a written submission can request to be heard in support of their submission at 6.00pm Monday 16 June 2025 at the Council meeting. After the community engagement is complete, including consideration of submissions, the Council may adopt the draft Budget 2025/26, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26, and draft 10-year Financial Plan. The Council must adopt the 2025/26 Budget by 30 June 2025 with an unscheduled Council meeting to be held on 23 June 2025 for this purpose.

**ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The Draft Budget for 2025/26 and draft 10-year Financial Plan have been prepared taking into consideration the latest economic factors, including the 3.0% rate cap set by the Victorian State Government.

The rate cap applies to the overall general rate revenue raised across all property types in the municipality. However, the change in the level of rates charged for individual properties may vary from the 3.0% rate cap, based on the movement in the valuation of individual properties because of the yearly revaluation of properties as determined by the Victoria State Government.

This budget has been prepared considering the financial viability of the Council over the life of the 10-year Financial Plan. Both the capital works program and service delivery have been set at a sustainable level.

The Draft Budget for 2025/26 has been prepared within the following parameters:

- Inflation: 2.75%
- Rate cap: 3.0%

**COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES**

This report did not require any community engagement or consultation; this report commences the community engagement process for the adoption of the 2025/26 Budget.

In the planned community engagement and consultation activities, the aim is to:

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

To achieve this, officers will promote the key messages and initiative, engage with community and review feedback, and then following Council's consideration and option of the documents close the loop with community.

Community focused communication channels will include:

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Council Budget 25-26 [6.1.1.1 - 55 pages]
2. Fees 2025-26 [6.1.1.2 - 22 pages]
3. Revenue and Rating Plan [6.1.1.3 - 35 pages]
4. 10 Year Budget 25-26 [6.1.1.4 - 28 pages]

**FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

All financial implications associated with this report have been accounted for within the Draft Budget 2025/26.

**CONCLUSION**

This report presents the draft Budget 2025/26, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26, and draft 10-year Financial Plan (*circulated separately*) based on the ongoing delivery of current services and service levels. The draft Budget 2025/26 and draft 10-year Financial Plan, as tabled, provide guidance on how Council intends to deliver its strategic objectives over the next twelve months and maintain financial sustainability over the next 10 years.

**Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Simon Tol**

That Council:

1. Gives Public Notice in accordance with sections 55 and 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) of Council's intention to adopt the draft Budget 2025/26, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 and 10-year Financial Plan prepared in accordance with section 94 of the Act, at a Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm Monday 23 June 2025.
2. Gives public notice seeking submissions on the proposals contained in the draft Budget 2025/26, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 and 10-year Financial Plan. Written public submissions will be accepted for 28 days ending 9.00am Wednesday 11 June 2025.
3. Gives public notice that any person who wishes to be heard in support of a written submission provided to Council should indicate in the written submission that they wish to appear before the Scheduled Council Meeting on Monday 16 June 2025, to verbally present their submission either personally or via a person acting on their behalf at a meeting.

**CARRIED**

### **6.1.2. INTEGRATED PLANNING SUITE OF DOCUMENTS FOR CONSULTATION**

**Presenter:** Shane Walder – Acting Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**Report Author:** Shane Walden – Acting Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**File No:** 16/20/06

#### **PURPOSE**

This report provides the draft Council Plan, Community Vision and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan for consideration of presentation for community consultation.

The Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26, 10-year Financial Plan and draft Budget 2025/26 are presented as a separate report tonight.

#### **BACKGROUND**

As part of the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, and following a general election, the Council must develop the following strategic documents:

- A 4-year Council Plan – must be adopted by 30 October 2025
- A review of the 10-year Community Vision 2021-2031 – must be re-adopted by 30 October 2025.
- A review of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – must be adopted by 30 October 2025.

The Budget and Revenue & Rating Plan must be adopted by 30 June 2025 and, although the Council Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, and 10-year Financial Plan may be adopted by a later date - by October 2025 - it is beneficial that all documents be developed with the Annual Budget.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 section 55 and Division 1 and the supporting Regulations, the Council Plan and Community Vision must be developed using deliberative community engagement to inform the content. The draft documents must be placed on public exhibition for a period to provide sufficient time for the community to provide informed feedback. The officer recommendation is to provide the documents for a 28-day community engagement and consultation period.

The draft documents presented by officers tonight reflect the input of Councillors, who in turn have considered the information they received during the election period and in discussion with community since the election.

The Community Vision reflects the 10 year Vision prepared in 2021 following an extensive deliberative engagement process.

The documents set the strategic agenda for the coming council term and beyond with opportunity through the budget process each year to focus on emerging issues.

#### **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Enabling Principles

- a. Motivate and inspire community involvement
- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

In the community engagement and consultation, the aim is to:

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

To achieve this, officers will promote the key messages and initiative, engage with community and review feedback, and then following Council's consideration and option of the documents close the loop with community.

Community focused communication channels will include:

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

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Community Vision 2035 [6.1.2.1 - 1 page]
2. DRAFT Pyrenees MPHWP 2025-2029 [6.1.2.2 - 35 pages]
3. DRAFT 4 3b Council Plan 2025 29 [6.1.2.3 - 8 pages]

## FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is important that the community can review these documents alongside the budget document and be aware of the organisation's financial position. Equally it is important that Council is informed about the aspirations of the community.

The documents presented tonight result from a scan of key factors likely to impact the municipality and ensuring that the community, Council, and the organisation are prepared and resilient. They provide a sound budget and direction for Council based on available information and community feedback.

## CONCLUSION

The draft documents presented for release for community consultation tonight reflect conversations and engagement between officers, the community, and councillors. It is the opportunity to ensure that nothing major has been missed and to allow the community to provide their comment. These comments will be reviewed and the documents updated as required, before being presented to Council again for final adoption.



**Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Damian Ferrari**

That Council:

1. Gives public notice of Council's intention to adopt the:
  - Draft 4-year Council Plan 2025-2029
  - Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029
  - Reviewed Community Vision 2025-2031
2. Gives public notice seeking submissions on the proposals contained in the draft documents. Written public submissions will be accepted for 28 days ending 9.00am Wednesday 11 June 2025.
3. Gives public notice that any person who wishes to be heard in support of a written submission provided to Council should indicate in the written submission that they wish to appear before the Scheduled Council Meeting on Monday 16 June 2025, to verbally present their submission either personally or via a person acting on their behalf at a meeting.

**CARRIED**

**7. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Special Meeting of Council - 12 May 2025 closed at 6:16pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

2025      Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe