

Ordinary Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 19 June 2023

Commenced at 5.45 PM

Council Chambers
20 Siding Avenue, Officer
Victoria

Members:	Cr Tammy Radford	Mayor
	Cr Jack Kowarzik	Deputy Mayor
	Cr Kaye Cameron	
	Cr Stephanie Davies	
	Cr Jeff Springfield	
	Cr Graeme Moore	
	Cr Collin Ross	
	Cr Brett Owen	Leave of absence
	Cr Carol Ryan	
Officers:	Carol Jeffs	Chief Executive Officer
	Peter Benazic	General Manager Infrastructure and Environment
	Lili Rosic	General Manager Liveable Communities
	Owen Hardidge	Acting General Manager Governance, Facilities and Economy
	Peter Philp	Acting General Manager Customer, People and Performance
	Doug Evans	Manager Governance

Meeting opened at 5.45pm to consider confidential business 'In Camera' and was adjourned at 5.57pm to reconvene at 7.00pm.

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1 Opening And Reflection/Prayer

I would ask those gathered to join us now for a few moments of silence as we reflect on our roles in this chamber. Please use this opportunity for reflection, Prayer or thought, to focus on our shared intention to work respectfully together for the well-being of our whole community.

Meeting opened at 5.45 pm to consider confidential business 'In Camera' and was adjourned at 5.57 pm and reconvened at 7.00pm

2 Acknowledgements

Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

3 Apologies

Nil

4 Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes

Moved Cr Stephanie Davies, seconded Cr Kay Cameron

That minutes of the following meetings be confirmed:

- General Council meeting 15 May 2023

Carried

5 Declaration Of Interests

Nil.

6 Ordinary Business

6.1 Town Planning Reports

6.2 General Reports

6.2.1 Variation Report - Contract 21-031 Pavement Renewal Works - Soldiers Road, Caldermeade

Responsible GM: Peter Benazic
Author: Buddhika Wilwara Achchige

Recommendation(s)

That Council note the contents of this report and provides authorisation for the variation of \$328,998.37 to the contract 21-031: Pavement Renewal Works 2021-22 to increase the contract price to \$2,684,916.51 (excl GST).

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

This report is to seek authorisation from Council for the recommended the cost variation of \$328,998.37 for Contract 21-031 Pavement renewal works for the 2021-22 Pavement Renewal Program. It has been necessary to extend this program over two years for Council to respond to the growing demands across its road network. The un-seasonally wet weather over the last 18 months has affected the ability of Council's contractors to fast track the delivery of renewal works due to saturated road formations, thus accelerating the road networks decline. This decline has expanded the scope of treatments needed.

The following additional works were identified and included in this cost variation.

- a). additional works identified during the excavation to improve the road pavement,
- b). installation of guardrails to improve the road safety and additional drainage works and spray seals due to changes in the designs to respond to challenging ground conditions.

The awarded contract price is \$2,355,918.14 and, the required cost variation to achieve the required outcomes is over 10% of the awarded price.

Under Council's Procurement Policy, contract variations over 10% must go to a Council Meeting for authorisation. The required funding is available from savings achieved in other areas of Council's 2022-23 Pavement Resurfacing Program.

Background

In October 2021, Council resolved to award the tender and enter into a contract with Downer EDI Works to undertake the works associated with Contract 21-031A - Pavement Renewal Works on Hein Rd in Pakenham Upper, Pitt Rd in Iona, McDonalds Trk in Lang Lang, Railway Ave in Tynong and Soldiers Rd in Lang Lang/Caldermeade for the contract sum of \$2,355,918.14 (Excl. GST).

Pavement renewal works in Hein Rd, Pitt Rd, McDonalds Trk, Railway Ave and 2.6km of Soldiers Rd (Westernport Road to Lang Lang recreation reserve) have been completed, except for the last 400m of Soldiers Road including turning lanes to the Lang Lang Recreation reserve.

This project was expected to be completed during the 2021/22 financial year, but was delayed due to major design changes to the required drainage design, long waiting time for the concrete drainage pipes, inclement weather in late 2021 and another couple of revisions for the design due to service clashes in the area.

The remaining works in Soldiers Rd were resumed in April 2023. During the assessment for the sub-base, it was found that the widening areas for the turning lanes did not have sufficient bearing capacity to properly support the new road to achieve the required road pavement compaction. Therefore, over 600m² of the subgrade had to be improved by replacing the existing material with rock spalls laid on geofabric and large crush rock material to build up the new road pavement.

Also, there is a requirement to install guardrail to improve the road safety treatment at this location. Furthermore, due to the drainage and pavement design changes, further works were required to be carried out to complete the project.

The contract included four other roads, and these roads experienced minor fluctuations in costs, as illustrated in the table provided.

Therefore, due to above additional works for Soldiers Rd upgrade works and other minor cost variations in other roads in the contract, the awarded contract price is recommended to be varied by \$328,998.37, bringing the revised contract Price to \$2,684,916.51. This takes the cost over the 10% increase threshold where the Procurement Policy requires referral back to Council for authorisation.

Road	Contract Award Price (Ex. GST)	Revised Contract Value
Hein Rd	\$ 84,301.43	\$65,783.53
Pitt Rd	\$ 600,224.03	\$619,781.33
McDonalds Trk	\$ 159,927.66	\$165,120.65
Railway Ave	\$ 133,981.23	\$150,502.75
Soldiers Rd	\$ 1,377,483.79	\$1,683,728.25
Total	\$ 2,355,918.14	\$2,684,916.51

Policy Implications

Nil

Relevance to Council Plan

2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places.

2.1.5 Upgrade Council's Road Network to improve safety and connectivity while considering traffic demand and recreational and agricultural transport needs.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil

Consultation/Communication

Consultation with the community, affected property owners and commuters to let them know of disruptions throughout the construction works have formed a key part of the project planning and delivery of this Contract.

Financial and Resource Implications

Pavement renewal works on Soldiers Rd is funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) and Pavement Resurfacing Program. A Grant of \$1,720,815.00 has been approved for Soldiers Rd under LRCI program.

Currently \$920,940.22 has been spent on Culvert upgrades, Road Design, consultation and pavement renewal of 2.6km of Soldiers Rd (Westernport Road to Lang Lang recreation reserve) and there is an amount of \$799,874.78 remaining from the grant of \$1,720,815.00.

A total of \$923,188.03 is needed to complete the remaining works in Soldiers Road including the additional works mentioned above. As such, \$123,313.25 will be required used from 2022-23 Pavement Resurfacing Program to complete the total difference of \$306,244.47 for the additional works in Soldiers Rd.

Cost variation of \$22,753.91 for other four roads have been covered under Pavement renewal program.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the contract variation of \$328,998.37 be authorised by Council for Contract 21-031: Pavement Renewal Works 2021-22 resulting in a revised contract price of \$2,684,916.51 (excl GST).

Resolution

Moved Cr Kaye Cameron, seconded Cr Stephanie Davies.

That Council note the contents of this report and provides authorisation for the variation of \$328,998.37 to the contract 21-031: Pavement Renewal Works 2021-22 to increase the contract price to \$2,684,916.51 (excl GST).

Carried

6.2.2 Community Engagement update

Responsible GM: Debbie Tyson
Author: Georgia Davies-Jackson (Team Leader Engagement)

Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken between May and June 2023.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

This report is provided so that Councillors has knowledge of the community engagement activities that have commenced or ongoing over May and June 2023.

Background

Community engagement is a process whereby Council uses a variety of methods to proactively seek out information and feedback from the community, including their values, concerns, ideas, and aspirations. Where possible and when required by legislation, Council will include the community in the development and delivery of identified initiatives and projects. This practice establishes an ongoing partnership, ensuring that community members continue to shape Council's decision making and implementation process.

Council's Community Engagement Policy (Policy) sets out Council's accountability for community engagement practices. The Policy meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's commitment to undertaking best practice, high quality community engagement activities to receive input, feedback, and ideas from the community on Council projects, services, plans, policies, strategies and other Council decisions.

Council uses the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (see below) as the model for its community engagement activities depending on the nature of the project, legislative requirements affecting the project, level of influence the community can have on the project, the risk and level of complexity of the project and available resources.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
EXAMPLE TOOLS	• Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses	• Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings	• Workshops • Deliberate polling	• Citizen Advisory committees • Consensus building • Participatory • Decision-making	• Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated • Decisions

Policy Implications

Community engagement is undertaken in line with Council's *Community Engagement Policy*.

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no climate emergency considerations as part of this report.

Consultation/Communication

Between May and June, the following Engagement Plans are being implemented:

Project	Project description	Proposed consultation date/s and details	Responsible Business Unit
Alma Treloar public toilet	Round 2: Engagement to select historical image for the new public toilet façade further to round 1 engagement to select the design for the external façade.	Survey on Creating Cardinia to vote on historical image to apply to the façade: 16-29 May 2023. Emails to key stakeholders. QR code posters directing people to the survey on Creating Cardinia displayed in key locations.	Buildings & Facilities
Community Safety Policy/Framework	Community engagement to seek feedback to help develop a framework to respond to community safety in the Shire	Survey on Creating Cardinia to gain feedback and insights on Cardinia's current safety approach to inform the new Community Safety policy/framework: 1 June 2023 – 2 July 2023 Community Pop-Ups*: • Saturday 10 June 2023 11:30am-1:30pm Cockatoo IGA • Thursday 15 June 2023 10am-12:00pm Pakenham Marketplace • Saturday 17 June 2023 11:30am-1:30pm Dick Jones Reserve, Lang Lang • Saturday 24 June 2023 11:30am-2:00pm Emails to key stakeholders. QR code posters directing people to the survey on Creating Cardinia displayed in key locations. *Dates and times are subject to change – please monitor the Creating Cardinia page.	Community and Family Services
Comely Banks Pavilion artwork	Community engagement to seek feedback on a public art project for the Comely Banks Pavilion, Officer.	Survey on Creating Cardinia page to gain feedback on proposed artwork at the pavilion: Friday 16 June 2023 – end of consultation date Friday 14 July The community/barbeque day on Wednesday 28 June will no longer be going ahead. Instead, the community/barbeque day will become part of the launch event in December once the mural is complete.	

		Community Pop-ups: • Saturday 1 July (time TBC*) at the Comely Banks Reserve. The artists will be attending to engage with the Pakenham Eels Rugby Club and the associated families. Emails to key stakeholders QR code posters directing people to the survey on Creating Cardinia displayed in key locations.	
Pakenham Revitalisation Project	Round 1: Community engagement to inform the Public Realm and Wayfinding Strategy as part of the revitalisation of Pakenham Main Street.	Expression of Interest on Creating Cardinia from 24 May - 13 June 2023. Expression of Interest for 45 participants who are interested in taking part in a workshop to understand the meaning and impact on the wider community, promote community ownership and have input into the development of brand assets.	Major Projects

Some projects will involve more than one stage of engagement. The relevant Engagement Plans for each project will document the stages and purpose of engagement.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implication, this work falls within current budget.

Conclusion

The table above outlines projects for engagement that can be promoted to the community this month to support its awareness and involvement and will assist Council in the delivery of the Council Plan action.

The relevant Business Unit can be contacted for additional information and for further details on specific engagement activities planned (including dates).

Resolution

Moved Cr Jack Kowarzik, seconded Cr Stephanie Davies.

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken between May and June 2023.

Carried

6.2.3 Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report

Responsible GM: Owen Hardidge
Author: Michael Said

Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report as presented by Chairperson Michael Said.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

Under Section 54 (5) of the Local Government Act 2020 the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) must prepare a biannual report for the Chief Executive Officer to table at the Council meeting. This is the fifth of these reports and covers two ARC meetings since the formation of the new Council in November 2020.

Background

ARC Membership

- Mr Michael F Said OAM, CPA Independent Chairperson
- Vincent Philpott – Independent Member
- Leanna La Combre –Independent Member
- Cr Jack Kowarzik
- Cr Stephanie Davies

All independent members are experienced people in ARC's in Local Government.

Committee Meetings and ARC Charter

The Committee held 2 meetings on the 25th November 2022 and 17th March 2023. The agenda for all meetings was in accordance with the agreed ARC work plan for the 2022-2023 ARC work year. All members of the ARC were present for both meetings. The CEO, all General Manager and other officers attended as required.

ARC Objectives and Purpose

The key objective and purpose of the ARC as stated in the ARC Charter is to “provide support to Council in discharging its oversight responsibilities related to:

- financial and performance reporting,
- risk management,
- fraud prevention systems and control'
- internal and external audit assurance services, and
- councils compliance with its policies and legislative and regulatory requirements”

ARC Responsibilities and Activities*Financial and Performance Reporting*

Comprehensive quarterly and year to date (YTD) financial and performance reports were presented and discussed at both meetings. There was discussion about the adjusted underlying year to date and full year forecast and the impact cost of living increases may have on revenue (rate income), operational and capital expenses and cash flows.

Internal Control Environment

The CEO advised the ARC that there were no organizational or system changes that impacted on the internal control environment at Council. In addition, the ARC reviewed the various comprehensive 'data analytics' papers related to various subject matters such as procurement and OHS at each meeting.

Risk Management (RM)

The ARC reviewed and discussed RM updates at the November and March meetings, including reports from Executive Management (EM) relating to RM activities. An updated schedule of all strategic risks together with all high operational risks was discussed at our ARC meetings. This schedule details the status of the strategic risks rated extreme, high and moderate and the operational risks with high risk ratings.

Minutes for all strategic and extreme and high operational risks were made available to the ARC. Council management have undertaken a detailed review of all strategic risks resulting in a number of risks ratings being amended, merged or marked as no longer required. The ARC was further advised that the Business Continuity Management (BCP) and OHS Committees continue to meet on regular basis. These minutes are of value to the ARC as it indicates the robustness of RM and active implementation of RM responsibilities under the LG Act 2020

The ARC is very pleased to see a continuing commitment from the Senior Leadership Team to continue to build on the risk management culture within Council.

Fraud Prevention Systems and Controls

Risk registers of Council include relevant risk and control information related to fraud and corruption control.

Council's Fraud and Corruption Policy and Plan were updated in November 2022 and discussed at the March ARC meeting. Importantly, it requires all employees to undertake face to face training every three years and new employees on commencement. The documents align with "AS8001:2021 *Fraud and Corruption Control*" standard. The policy is subject to detail review every two years. The process and contents of policy and plan demonstrate to the ARC Council's commitment to the prevention, deterrence, detection and investigation of all forms of fraud and corruption.

In addition, the ARC continues to monitor outcomes from reviews by integrity bodies including the Auditor General, Ombudsman, IBAC and LG Inspectorate reports relating to this topic, especially those related to the Local Government will be considered by the ARC after "self-evaluation/gap analysis" by Council officers of these reports.

Internal audit

The Partner and senior audit manager from the contracted internal audit firm attended the November and March meetings and presented their status reports (on progress against the approved internal audit plan) and other literature of a general nature relevant to work of ARC's generally. In addition he presented the following four internal audit reports:

- Privacy & Third-Party Management *including* Information provided to Third-parties;
- Cyber Security Review;
- Cyber Risk Report – Internal Vulnerability Assessment; and
- Payroll (including data analytics).

Report findings and audit recommendations identifying where controls could be strengthened together with comprehensive management comments were discussed by the ARC. The ARC monitors the implementation by management of all audit recommendations at subsequent meetings.

Prior to the commencement of any internal audit, the ARC is provided with the proposed scope (MAP) of each audit. The MAP is developed by the auditor, with input from SLT, and discussed and approved at ARC meetings. Any ad hoc engagements undertaken by the internal auditor must similarly, be referred to the ARC prior to commencement. There were no additional assignments.

External Audit by the Auditor General (AG)

The agent of the AG presented the Audit Strategy Memorandum (ASM), relating to 2022-2023 financial and performance statements, to the ARC at its March meeting. Although Council are currently implementing new financial software, the ARC has been assured that it will not impact timelines for the production of the annual statements. The agent anticipates having completed their interim audit over the next two months and intend to produce an interim management letter in time for the ARC meeting in June.

Compliance

The CEO provides the ARC with an update at each meeting relating to any noncompliance matter relating to Council policies and/or any Legislation. No instances of non-compliance issues were reported to the ARC for the period covered by this report.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications as part of this report.

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no climate emergency considerations as part of this report.

Consultation/Communication

No consultation was required as part of this report

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resourcing implications as part of this report.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that Council notes the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual report as prepared by Chairperson, Michael Said.

Resolution

Moved Cr Stephanie Davies, seconded Cr Jack Kowarzik.

That Council notes the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report as presented by Chairperson Michael Said.

Carried

6.2.4 Leave of absence - Cr Owen

Responsible GM: Owen Hardidge
Author: Doug Evans

Recommendation(s)

That Council approve of a leave of absence for Cr Owen from 9 June until further notice.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

Cr Owen has requested a leave of absence from his Councillor duties following a workplace injury while performing his duties as a member of Victoria Police that has resulted in him being on Work Cover and working reduced hours.

Background

The Local Government Act 2020 (section 35(1)(e)) states that a Councillor would cease to hold office if they were absent from Council Meetings for a period of 4 consecutive months without leave obtained from the Council. Further the Act (Section 35(4)) states that the Council must grant any reasonable request for leave.

Policy Implications

Nil

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Conclusion

Cr Owen has requested a leave of absence from his Councillor duties whilst he is recovering from a workplace injury while performing his duties as a Police Officer.

Resolution

Moved Cr Collin Ross, seconded Cr Graeme Moore.

That Council approve of a leave of absence for Cr Owen from 9 June until further notice.

Carried

6.3 Policy Reports

6.4 Financial Reports

6.5 Activity Reports

6.5.1 Major Projects Report

Responsible GM: Peter Benazic
Author: David Fice, Jarrad Unsworth, Kristen Jackson

Recommendation(s)

That Council note this report

Attachments

1. Major projects report - June 2023 [6.5.1.1 - 18 pages]

Executive Summary

As part of the reporting process to Council, this monthly report provides an update of the status of major projects in progress.

Background

Projects and updates are included in the attached report

Conclusion

This regular activity report (as attached) is provided for Councillor's information

Resolution

Moved Cr Kaye Cameron, seconded Cr Graeme Moore.

That Council note this report

Carried

Materials, supply and logistics impacts on project delivery

The construction industry continues to experience material, supply and logistic impacts as well as current unpredictable international market conditions. Project managers are working closely with contractors to minimise the impact this is having on the delivery of projects, as well as looking at initiatives to assist in fast-tracking construction where possible.

Materials, supply and logistics impacts include -

- Cost escalations due to material and labour shortages.
- Availability of materials and goods impacting on project delivery timelines.
- Availability of contractors, with the construction sector operating at capacity, and low response rates received for public tenders.
- On-going market impacts through non-competitive tender submissions increasing financial risk.

Please note: the content of this report was correct as at the end of May 2023, when it was written.

Recreation Reserves and sporting facilities

Sporting pavillions

Cora Lynn Recreation Reserve – change room pavillion upgrade

Project description	Construction of new change rooms supporting infrastructure at Cora Lynn Recreation Reserve.
Funding	Council and the Victorian Government through Community Sports Infrastructure Loan Funding jointly fund this project.
Timing	Project delivery options are being reassessed as additional funding application was unsuccessful.
Update	Council's application for funding under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund was unsuccessful. Council officers are currently in discussion with the Committee of Management and user groups in relation to modular construction to reduce project costs.

Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club – clubroom upgrade

Project description	Proposed demolition of existing clubroom facility and construction of new clubhouse with facilities for club members and general community including two social rooms, bistro area, three community meeting rooms, kitchen, bar server, two change room areas, office area, toilet facilities, storage area, first aid room, covered spectator area and carparking,
Funding	This project is jointly funded by Council, Victorian and Australian Government agencies.
Timing	Project timing for this project is that it must be completed by December 2023
Update	The tender to construct the club rooms using a modular building system is currently out to tender

Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre – pavillion extension

Project description	Proposed extension for the Pakenham Tennis Club (relocation) comprising steel frame structure, full height glazing, kitchenette, unisex toilet facility, balcony overlooking courts, provision for two persons lift and reconfiguration of the existing external play area.
Funding	This project is fully funded by Council
Timing	Project is expected to be complete by third quarter of 2023
Update	The tender for construction has been awarded.

Upper Beaconsfield Reserve – new pavillion

Project description	Proposed demolition of the Upper Beaconsfield pavilion and re-construction of a new community, sporting, and Scouts facility.
Funding	The project is partially funded by Australian and Victorian Governments and Council.
Timing	Project timelines to be finalised once full project funding is obtained, and delivery method confirmed.
Update	Council officers are currently in discussion with the Reserve Committee of Management and user groups in relation to an alternative option to facilitate the needs of the users whilst reducing the delivery cost of the project.

Sporting fields**Bunyip Recreation Reserve – soccer/cricket field redevelopment**

Project description	Construction of junior and senior soccer field overlay with cricket field, new LED 100 Lux lighting, perimeter fencing and supporting infrastructure
Funding	Council and the Victorian Government jointly fund this project
Timing	Playing field surface works are complete with a 16-week establishment period in place. Additional 8-month maintenance period has been awarded.
Update	Lighting installation works being undertaken, Footings installed with the towers to be erected mid-June due to weather delays. Playing field turf is in establishment period, with pavilion interface and surrounding landscaping works underway.

Cockatoo southern tennis court redevelopment

Project description	Redevelopment of the existing two tennis courts, new retaining wall, new LED LUX lighting, perimeter fencing, new drainage, and concrete pathways, as well as supporting infrastructure
Funding	Council and the Victorian Government jointly fund this project
Timing	Construction commenced late November with anticipated completion by end of June.
Update	Court construction underway. Sub-base works completed with concrete slab completed in April. Project is due to be completed by end of June.

Roads

Strategic road sealing program

Council is investing funds to upgrade several strategic roads across the shire to improve transport connections. Approximately 25km of roads across the shire have been identified. including:

- McGregor Road, Soldiers Road and Hobsons Road, Pakenham/Rythdale
- Thewlis Road, Pakenham
- Armytage Road and LL Road, Officer – project complete
- Huxtable Road, Pakenham Upper
- Dore Road, Pakenham
- Bessie Creek Road, Nar Nar Goon North
- Evans Road, Bunyip
- Main Drain Road, Koo Wee Rup – project complete
- Boundary Drain Road, Koo Wee Rup – project complete
- Mount Lyall Road, Lang Lang East

McGregor-Soldiers-Hobson roads

Project description	Construction of McGregor-Soldiers-Hobsons roads, Pakenham, includes pavement, kerb and channel and underground drainage works. This project will also use the recycled glass crushed rock product, using 1500 tonne of recycled glass in the pavement.
Funding	This project is fully funded by Council
Timing	Works complete, except for the desalination pipeline area.
Update	A works agreement has been lodged with the Victorian Government for works over the water desalination pipeline in Hobsons Road and is awaiting the minister's signature.

Dore Road, Nar Nar Goon

Project description	Construction of Dore Road, Nar Nar Goon, includes pavement, some kerb and channel and underground drainage works. This project is the first for the use of Ground Penetrating Radar to assist designer engineers to assess the location and depth of tree roots and reduce the effect on vegetation and thus reducing vegetation offset costs.
Funding	This project is fully funded by Council
Timing	Works programmed to be completed by end 2023.
Update	Design complete, tenders have been received and are currently being evaluated

Mt Lyall Road, Heath Hill

Project description	Construction of Mt Lyall Road, Heath Hill, includes pavement, some kerb and channel and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is fully funded by Council
Timing	Works programmed to be completed by early 2024.
Update	Design complete, environmental investigations and permits are being finalised to enable tenders to be called in July 2023

Detailed design of other projects in program

Project description	Detailed designs of Bessie Creek Road, Huxtable Road, Mt Lyall Road and Thewlis Road
Funding	This project is fully funded by Council
Timing	Detailed designs are now complete for Bessie Creek Rd, and Huxtable Road. Final environmental impacts are being calculated and planning permits will be sought for tree removal.
Update	Works are scheduled to begin on Bessie Creek Road and Huxtable Road in 2024 pending planning permit approval

Princes Highway Intersection upgrades

Eight intersections along the Princess Highway between Beaconsfield and Pakenham have been identified for upgrading through the associated planning schemes. Upgrades identified include amendments to two existing signalised intersections as well as signalising six previously un-signalised intersections. All intersections have been highlighted for additional or extended turn lanes, additional through lanes, bus priority lanes, and shared cycle/pedestrian lanes.

Identified intersections include:

- Glismann Road – complete
- O'Neil Road – complete
- Brunt Road
- Bayview Road – under construction
- Tivendale Road – under construction
- McMullen Road
- Arena Parade
- Thewlis Road

Bayview Road, Officer

Project description	Bayview Road Princes Highway intersection is currently an unsignalised T-intersection. This project will: • upgrade the intersection to be a fully signalised crossroad, with the southern leg of Bayview Road being constructed and connecting into the development to the southwest. Ultimately this southern leg will connect to the Monash Freeway via the Officer South Road interchange. • include dual right turn lanes into both legs of Bayview Road, a westbound bus priority lane, off road cycle and pedestrian paths, and car parking alterations along the Princes Highway eastbound lane
Funding	This project is jointly funded by Developer Contributions and the Australian Government
Timing	Scheduled to be complete by end of October 2023
Update	Earthworks, drainage, and pavement works (excluding wearing course) are complete on Bayview Road (north and south leg). Pavement works are continuing on the Princes Highway. Public lighting and signal installation works have commenced.

Tivendale Road, Officer

Project description	The Tivendale Road/Station Street Princes Highway intersection is an existing fully signalised intersection. The upgrade works will increase the capacity of the intersection to handle the increased traffic volumes caused by adjacent development. This includes constructing dual right turn lanes into and exiting Tivendale Road, a westbound bus priority lane, off road cycle and pedestrian paths, and car parking alterations along the Princes Highway eastbound lanes and the southern service road.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by Developer Contributions and the Australian Government
Timing	The project is scheduled to be complete by end of December 2023. Works have been delayed due to service relocation delays
Update	Civil works continue. Lanes closures and traffic diversions in place for pavement construction.

Brunt Road, Officer

Project description	The Brunt Road/Whiteside Road Princes Highway intersection is an existing fully signalised intersection. The upgrade works will increase the capacity of the intersection to handle the increased traffic volumes caused by adjacent development. This includes constructing dual right turn lanes into and exiting both Brunt Road and Whiteside Road, a westbound bus priority lane and off-road cycle and pedestrian paths.
Funding	Designs for the intersections are funded through developer contributions. Given the high cost associated with constructing the intersections, Council cannot fund the build for these intersections alone. Council is currently advocating for state and federal funding to see these designs come to life and for the intersections to be constructed. Until such time additional funding becomes available, construction of these intersections will not be able to proceed.
Timing	Designs are due to be finalised by end of 2023.
Update	DTP is currently reviewing detailed design. Service authorities have been engaged and relocation plans are being finalised. Power relocations have commenced.

Arena Parade, Thewills Road and McMullen Road

Project description	These eastern Princes Highway intersections are currently in the detailed design phase and will be delivered subject to funding being available.
Funding	Designs for the intersections are funded through developer contributions. Given the high cost associated with constructing the intersections, Council cannot fund the build for these intersections alone. Council is currently advocating for state and federal funding to see these designs come to life and for the intersections to be constructed. Until such time additional funding becomes available, construction of these intersections will not be able to proceed.
Timing	Detailed designs are underway.
Update	Arena Parade and McMullen Road designs have been submitted to DTP for detailed design approval.

Sealing the Hills program

An advocacy campaign has commenced to call on the Australian Government to reconsider the decision to discontinue the project.

An Australian Government budget submission has been prepared and was submitted in February calling for the reinstatement of funding or extended funding.

A petition to parliament has been launched and closed for signatures on 8 March, It will now be tabled at parliament with the responsible minister required to respond.

The Victorian Government has also been approached to seek additional funding to continue the program.

Residents and stakeholders have been notified regarding the status of their road, and the community have access to view a full list of outstanding roads and their status on Council's website: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sealingthehills

Sealing the Hills program road work updates

Baker-Glen package – Cockatoo

Project description	Construction of Baker Street, Station Road, Glen Road and Garden Street, Cockatoo, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Construction works are due to be finished by end of 2023.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Drainage and earthworks have commenced.

Caroline Avenue package – Cockatoo

Project description	Construction of Caroline Avenue, Boronia Crescent and Rouen Road, Cockatoo, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, footpath, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works. The project also includes some improvements to the existing underground drainage and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) at Cockatoo Creek from the IGA into the Cockatoo Creek.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Construction works are due to be complete by end of 2023.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Drainage and earthworks are continuing

First-Grenville package (stage 1) – Cockatoo

Project description	Construction of First Avenue, Grenville Road, Spring Street, Hazel Street and the ROWY (between First Avenue and Second Avenue), Cockatoo, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Works are now scheduled to commence by September.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Pipe deliveries have commenced, works are scheduled to start by September.

First-Grenville package (stage 2) – Cockatoo

Project description	Construction of Second Avenue, Cockatoo, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Construction is scheduled to start in late 2023.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Designs are currently being finalised before taking to tenderers for price clarification on updated design.

First-Grenville package (stage 3) – Cockatoo

Project description	Construction of Neville Street, Steane Street and Marcelle Street, Cockatoo, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Construction is scheduled to start in early 2024.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Designs are currently being finalised before taking to tenderers for price clarification on updated design.

Naughton Street package – Cockatoo

Project description	Construction of Naughton Road and Carawa Street, Cockatoo, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Construction is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2023.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Set out and service proving works have commenced.

Old Gembrook Road package – Emerald

Project description	Construction of Old Gembrook Road, Durban Road and Sherriff Road, Emerald, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Works scheduled to commence in late 2024.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Works scheduled to commence in late 2024.

Russell-Blackwood package – Gembrook

Project description	Construction of Gembrook Road (service lane), Redwood Road (service lane), Russell Road and Blackwood Lane, Gembrook, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Construction is scheduled to be completed by end of 2023
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Drainage and earthworks continue

Innes Road package – Gembrook

Project description	Construction of Innes Road (including Innes Road west section) includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, footpath, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Construction is due to be completed by end of 2023
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Subgrade (pavement) preparations have been completed and drainage works have commenced

Stoney Creek package – Beaconsfield Upper

Project description	Construction of Morris Road, Burton Road and Young Street, Beaconsfield Upper, includes pavement, asphalt wearing surface, kerb and channel, and underground drainage works.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and contributions by residents via a Special Charge Scheme.
Timing	Works scheduled to commence in late 2024.
SCS process	VCAT Complete.
Update	Works scheduled to commence in late 2024.

Other Council delivered road projects**Resurfacing and rehabilitation program**

Project description	The significant proactive maintenance and upgrade of Council's road network as per Council's asset management system.
Funding	Resurfacing and rehabilitation programs are jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program. Soldiers Road, Lang Lang upgrade work (Lang Lang Rec Reserve to Caldermeade Rd) is funded by Australian Government Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program.
Timing	Intersection upgrade works (road widening and turning lanes) on Soldiers Road in Lang Lang expected to be completed by end of June 2023 (depending on the weather over the next 4 weeks). Change of design was required due to a clash with an asbestos water main
Update	Under the resurfacing program, more than 100 road segments were resealed, or asphalt overlaid covering more than 40kms of Council sealed road network. Council's rehabilitation program, Toomuc Valley Road (Pakenham), Bayles Cora Lynn Road (Cora Lynn) and Heads Road (Yannathan) are all completed. Soldiers Road: 2.6km of rehabilitation works from Westernport Road to Lang Lang Recreation Reserve are complete. The intersection upgrade works at the entrance of the Lang Lang Recreation Reserve have recommenced.

Officer: Timbertop Boulevard and Pinkhill Drive Intersection upgrade

Project description	Construction of signalised intersection
Funding	This project is to be funded by developer contributions and external funding sources.
Timing	Construction is now complete, pending public lighting works.
Update	Traffic signals commissioned and are operational. All civil works are complete. Public light relocation is completed. Removal and installation of new public lights civil works finished. Electrical auditing completed and waiting for Electrical Authority (AusNet) approval for switch on.

Officer: Pioneer Way and Brunt Road Intersection upgrade

Project description	Construction of Brunt Road to link Princes Highway intersection and LXP rail bridge, with construction of Pioneer Way to give access to new school with a roundabout at Pioneer-Brunt-Edinburgh intersection.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by Council and DCP funds.
Timing	Works to be completed by late-2023.
Update	Works have commenced on Stage 1 – Pioneer and Brunt Road south bound lane

Pakenham: McGregor Road and Henry Street Intersection

Project description	Upgrade of intersection to a signalised intersection.
Funding	This project will be jointly funded by Council, DCP funding, and additional external funding (yet to be secured).
Timing	Works will be linked to the rail removal by LXP
Update	A design submission is currently being prepared for review by DTP.

Drains and bridges

2022-23 Bridge renewal program

Project description	Replacement of identified bridges and major culverts (Temby Road, Iona and Simpson Road, Vervale)
Funding	The program is funded by Council.
Timing	Public tender (design and construct) closed with no submissions received due to current market conditions.
Update	A detailed survey and assessment of the two-drainage channel cross sections has been completed. A geotechnical assessment of the two sites has been completed. Both structures were tendered out together as one contract to secure a competitive price. Due to current market conditions, no tender submissions were received. Currently investigating to see what procurement options are available to secure a contractor to complete the works. Concept designs have been prepared for Simpson Road bridge. Approval has just been received from Melbourne Water. Flood modelling has been undertaken for Simpson Road bridge. Council is awaiting Melbourne Water approval for the Temby Road bridge design. Construction is scheduled for later in 2023, however is dependent on the tender process and MW approval.

Drainage program

Project description	The maintenance and upgrading of Council's drainage network.
Funding	The program is fully funded by Council.
Timing	All works are scheduled to be complete by end of June 2023
Update	Tynong Road drainage: discussions are under way regarding the management of bandicoots present in the works area. Flood modelling for the area has been obtained and flood protection options have been considered. As an initial recommendation, existing table drain will be regraded to prevent flooding properties on the south of Tynong Rd near No.47. Contractor to be engaged and works to be completed by 30 June. The drainage works in Beaty Parade, Cockatoo have been put on hold. Easement drain (6 Hope to in 15A Pearson, Bunyip) between Pearson Street and Hope Street be undertaken due to a new development and existing infrastructure needs to be replacement. Investigation into drainage in Dorchester Road, Cockatoo was undertaken as part of the initial design for the sealing the hills program. Unfortunately, the funding has been withdrawn for this project. Council is continuing to advocate for additional funding to continue the sealing the hills program. CCTV investigations have been organised for Oaktree Drive, Pakenham.

Footpaths

Princes Highway south side shared path and bridges

Project description	Construction of new footpaths and related works along the south side of Princes Highway. This project will construct 2.6km of 3m wide shared path and two pedestrian bridges
Funding	This project is jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund program
Timing	Project complete
Update	The last part of this project is to install the handrails along the footpath leading up to the Gum Scrub bridge. The bridge is currently open allowing school students to walk safely along the Princes Highway to and from school. The handrails (along footpath leading up to bridges) were installed in May. The project is now complete.

2022-23 Footpath program

Project description	Construction of new footpaths and related works at: • Tynong Road, Tynong • Gembrook Road, Gembrook • Margaret Road, Avonsleigh • Fieldstone Boulevard, Beaconsfield • Salisbury Road, Lang Lang
Funding	This program is fully funded by Council
Timing	Works are now being undertaken and will be completed by end of June 2023.
Update	The Tynong Road path is completed. Gembrook Road crushed rock path is complete apart from Boardwalk. Boardwalk to be constructed in second half of 2023. Fieldstone Boulevard and Salisbury Rd footpaths have been constructed. Margaret Road footpath is under construction which will complete the footpath program by then end of June

Other Council capital works projects

Building projects

Cannibal Creek Reserve - Community Centre, Garfield North

Project description	Development of a new Community Centre in Garfield North to accommodate approx. 100 people. This modular building will include a social room, storage area, kitchen, accessible toilet, and unisex toilets.
Funding	The project is funded by the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund
Timing	Project is expected to be completed by June 2024
Update	Based on the outcomes of the assessments the preferred location has been determined and approved by the reserve committee of management. The public tender to appoint a modular builder closed on 6 June, and tender evaluation is underway.

Cardinia Youth Hub

Project description	Relocation and expansion of the My Place Youth Facility to a parcel of Council owned land at James Street, Pakenham. The new facility will accommodate approximately 1000m ² of building structure, together with landscaping and associated car parking, which will be designed to engage and support young people 12–25 years of age.
Funding	This project is jointly funded by Council, the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund, and the Australian Government.
Timing	The project has been scheduled for completion by the end of 2023.
Update:	Project is experiencing delays through the construction phase.

Cockatoo cottages

Project description	Upgrade and refurbishment of five domestic units including minor sub floor structural work, external cladding, roof repairs, new windows, access ramp, internal kitchen joinery, wall linings, flooring and painting, climate comfort control.
Funding	This project is funded by Council.
Timing	Units 1 and 2 are complete. Unit 3, 4 and 5 are programmed for completion by the end of 2023.
Update	The construction works for units 3, 4 and 5 are underway.

Early learning centre projects

Kurmboon (Timbertop) Integrated Children's Centre

Project description	New Integrated Child and Family Centre, which will include a kindergarten comprising three program rooms, a community room that can be licensed as a fourth kindergarten room in times of peak demand, three consulting rooms for professionals (such as Maternal and Child Health), staff room, amenities, equipment, furniture, outdoor play areas and carparking.
Funding	The project is jointly funded by Developer Contributions and the Victorian Government.
Timing	The project received the conditional Occupancy Permit in April 2023 to be fully operational by July 2023.
Update	The Timbertop Kindergarten group has commenced at Rix Road Integrated Child and Family Centre and will transition to Timbertop once the site is ready to open. Some minor works are being finalised in preparation for practical completion by end of June.

Toun-nun (Brunt Road) Integrated Child and Family Centre

Project description	This new centre will include three kindergarten program rooms, community room that can be licensed as a fourth kindergarten room in times of peak demand, three consult rooms to cater for Maternal and Child Health, and other allied health professionals, staff room with kitchen space and planning room, amenities, equipment, furniture, outdoor play space, shared common area/ waiting lounge and carparking.
Funding	The project is jointly funded by Developer Contributions and the Victorian State Government (DET- Building Blocks grant and DJPR- Growing Suburbs Fund)
Timing	The project is scheduled for construction completion by November 2023, and operational from January 2024.
Update	Construction continues.

Thewlls Road Integrated Child and Family Centre

Project description	This new centre will include three kindergarten program rooms, community room that can be licensed as a fourth kindergarten room in times of peak demand, three consult rooms to cater for Maternal and Child Health, and other allied health professionals, staff room with kitchen space and planning room, amenities, equipment, furniture, outdoor play space, shared common area/ waiting lounge and carparking.
Funding	The project has funding through developer contributions. Council has applied to the Victorian Government for the remainder of funding under a Building Blocks Capacity Grant. The outcome of the funding announcement is expected shortly.
Timing	The project is scheduled for construction completion in November 2024, and operational from January 2025.
Update	Design development continues.

Open space projects**Alma Treloar amphitheatre**

Project description	Upgrade of the existing amphitheatre to improve accessibility, including using recycled materials to reduce maintenance costs.
Funding	The project is jointly funded by Council, the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund and the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program
Timing	This project is scheduled to be complete by end of September 2023.
Update	The shelters, BBQs and seating have been installed. Contract has been awarded for the reconstruction of the amphitheatre with works due to commence in June.

Officer District Park

Project description	Multipurpose open space precinct including playground, skate park, walking tracks, wetlands, fitness stations, lookout, parkour, mountain boarding trails, public restrooms, and car park.
Funding	The detailed design is funded by Council. The construction of the project is jointly funded by Council, the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund and the Australian Government's Local Road and Community Infrastructure program.
Timing	The project is scheduled commence construction in October 2023 (depending on the outcome of the tender).
Update	Stage 1 of the project has now been rescoped to meet the available budget and it is expected that the project will go back out to tender in July 2023.

Developer delivered infrastructure**Pakenham East – Averley site – new Princes Highway Intersection
(between Dore Road and Hancocks Gully)**

Project description	This major signalised intersection will provide access into the Lend Lease ‘Averley’ site on the north of the highway, and the future town centre on the south. This is a four-leg intersection, providing connector boulevards north and south into the estates with dual carriageway on Princes Highway with provision for a future third lane. It sits between Dore Road to the west and Hancocks Gully to the east. This is the full construction of this intersection in line with the PSP and ICP requirements. It has been approved by DTP to their requirements and they are lead supervision on this project.
Funding	The project is jointly funded by Infrastructure Contributions through the Pakenham East ICP and the developer of the Averley Estate (Lend Lease)
Timing	Works continue onsite with construction expected to be complete by mid-2023
Update	Works are underway with speed reductions and lanes reduced from 2 to 1 approaching the intersection works. Significant progress has been made and the developer is hoping that works will be at PC during May Lights will be operational post this depending on DOT energization timeframes.

**Pakenham East – Ridgelea site – new Princes Highway Intersection
(between Deep Creek and Dore Road)**

Project description	This major signalised intersection will provide access into the Parklea “Ridgelea” site on the south of the highway, and in the future into the developable land on the north. This is a four-leg intersection, providing connector boulevards on the south and provision for connector road to the north with dual carriageway on Princes Highway with provision for a third lane. It sits between Deep Creek to the west and Dore Road to the east. The construction of this intersection will also change access to Dore Road for the short term until the full PSP construction on the north side takes place. As part of these works, Dore Road will connect into Princes Highway further east than it currently does on a straighter alignment, and will be left in, left out only. The future PSP design anticipates that Dore Road will connect into this intersection by a local road to be built parallel to Princes Hwy to the north, with no direct connection from Dore Rd to the Highway. The timing for this is unknown as the current landowners in this area are not planning on developing for some time. This is the partial construction of this intersection in line with the PSP and ICP requirements – only three legs will be built for access to the south only. It has been approved by DTP to their requirements and they are lead supervision on this project.
Funding	The project is jointly funded by Infrastructure Contributions through the Pakenham East ICP and the developer of the Ridgelea Estate (Parklea)
Timing	The developer anticipates starting construction in second half of 2023 with completion in 2024, but this is dependent on DTP approvals.
Update	FLP designs have been approved by DTP and Council. Detailed design is currently undergoing second review by DTP and Council. Works are not expected to commence on site until mid-2023, depending on DTP approval timeframes.

8 Reports By Delegates

Cr Ryan reported on her attendance at:

- Mayoral Volunteer Reception
- Pakenham CBD Railway Precinct Safety Meeting
- Pop up stall at Pakenham Main Street
- Ageing well forum
- World Elder Abuse Day event

Cr Cameron reported on her attendance at

- 100th anniversary lunch for the Koo Wee Rup Regional Hospital
- Mayoral Volunteer Reception

Cr Springfield advised of his attendance at

- Reconciliation Week celebrations in Emerald
- World Elder Abuse Day event and congratulated Cr Moore on his role as MC

Cr Davies advised of her attendance at the Mayor's Volunteer Reception and advised that former Cr Schilling had been recognised as Monash health Nurse of the Year

Cr Moore advised of his attendance at

- World Elder Abuse Day and advised that it was an honour to host this event on behalf of the Mayor and congratulated Council's Senior Citizen of the Year, Audrey Dodson on her involvement.
- Bunyip Uniting Church Meeting as guest speaker

Cr Ross advised of his attendance at

- The Australian Local Government Association Annual Conference
- IYU athletics field for a photo shoot
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society annual lunch
- Reconciliation Week event
- Interfaith Network Meeting
- Summer Snow orchards tour
- Creekwood Park playground opening
- Community Leadership Program alumni event
- 'Coffee with a Cop' at Pakenham Plaza
- SEIL Temple tour
- Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail Clematis section opening

Cr Kowarzik advised of his attendance at

- Reconciliation week event
- Tree planting day at the Officer Seikh temple
- Pakenham Toy Library event
- Mayor's Volunteer Reception

The Mayor advised of her pleasure to host the Volunteer Reception, congratulated the Stan Henwood Award Winner, Jeff Latter and acknowledged Cr Kowarzik as MC of the Reception. The Mayor also advised of her attendance at the Pakenham Art Show and Reconciliation Week events

9 Presentation Of Petitions

Cr Springfield tabled a petition received from the Hills Photographic Society requesting improved access for the public to the Hills Hub

The Mayor advised that the petition would 'lay on the table' for consideration at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

10 Notices Of Motion

10.1 Notice of Motion 1078 - Cr Owen

Motion

That Council writes to the Hon Melissa Horne, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, requesting that the Department of Transport & Planning undertake a safety review of the Mt Shamrock Road / Pakenham Road intersection – including sight lines and speed zones due to the number of heavy vehicles utilising this intersection]

11 Community Questions

The Mayor advised that a series of questions had been received from Pam Anushika Muthuarachchi and referred the questions to the Acting General Manager Governance Facilities and Economy, Owen Hardidge to read and answer.

Questions

1. What process and what criteria did Cardinia Council use to determine if a 'like' is fraudulent on a Facebook post for the 'What's on Cardinia Photo Competition'?
2. The post on 2 June states that the decision was based on evidence.

Without naming the participants to protect privacy what is the number of photos with fraudulent likes and how many fraudulent likes are there in total?

3 In an email from Owen Hardidge, he states the following:

"For the sake of clarity, I wish to make it very clear that Council does not allege that any entrants have engaged in fraudulent, unethical or illegal behaviour. We cancelled the competition because we could not be satisfied that the voting was occurring with integrity and fairness."

What would "fairness" and "Integrity" look like in a Facebook competition that's based on Likes?

4. Why did the council decide to cancel the competition and not award a winner from those photos that did not have this alleged fraudulent activity?

5 The statement also mention that the prizes will be redistributed into community initiatives. What are the community initiatives that the prize money went to?

Answer by Acting General Manager Governance, Facilities and Economy, Owen Hardidge

The Winterfest Photo Competition was run in May 2023 on the 'What's On Cardinia' website. A shortlist of 30 photos were then displayed on the What's On Cardinia Facebook page, with the public invited to 'like' their favourite photos from 1 May until 22 May 2023 when the competition was scheduled to close.

The intention was to award prizes (being Visa gift cards) based on the number of Facebook likes, with a combined value of \$800.

A total of 272 entries were received, and 30 images were shortlisted.

In the days just prior to the competition closing, Council officers noticed a pattern in the voting that was unexpected and irregular. There was significant disparity between the number of votes cast for the photos in first and second place, and those in the rest of the competition. At that point, the number of votes cast for the 1st and 2nd placed entries was greater than the next 6th placed entrants combined. This constituted an suspiciously high number of unique engagement with a Council post in this forum.

This prompted a review of a sample of Facebook profiles that had cast votes on the photos in first and second place. A large number of the profiles reviewed showed limited or no Facebook activity – including an apparent absence of online history, friend connections and other attributes that would usually indicate an active Facebook user. This strongly suggested the profiles were not genuine and so too the 'likes' associated with them.

While none of these individual factors definitively point to inappropriate conduct, the competition organisers formed the view that the aggregate of these factors strongly suggested that the results of the competition had been skewed by votes acquired by improper and concerted means, and that the tally of votes did not reflect the genuine opinions of individual Facebook users.

In these circumstances, the officers made the difficult decision to advise entrants that the competition would be cancelled.

To be clear, Council does not allege that any of the entrants did anything fraudulent or illegal; nor do we identify specific Facebook users as being fraudulent. However, the sum total of

voting behaviour has led officers to believe that the *overall* integrity of the voting process has been distorted, and fundamentally undermines the process as a fair way to award a prize. Council officers carefully considered alternative ways to deliver the competition and determine prize winners. However, given the circumstances, there was no other method to judge this cohort of entries without the associated concern regarding the integrity of the competition. Council officers are yet to finalise the distribution of funds to a local charity. Council officers regret the inconvenience caused to individual entrants.

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The Mayor advised that two question had been received from Gillian Ronald and referred the questions to the General Manager Liveable Communities, Lily Rosic to read and answer.

Questions

1. Could you give us an update on the future of the Deep Creek Golf Course Venue? Will it be possible to use the facility for future events, such as an art exhibition?
2. What is the expected finish date for the New Youth Facility?

Answers provided by General Manager Liveable Communities, Lily Rosic

Question 1

The Deep Creek Reserve Golf Course and functions centre is currently closed and not operating due to the appointment of a voluntary administrator by the Deep Creek Golf Club committee. Updates and further detail are provided on Council's website.

Council will shortly be calling for expressions of interest for the operation of both the golf course and functions centre. Once a new operator or operators are in place, bookings will be made through the new operator.

In the meantime, Council has other venues currently available for events such as an art exhibition. More details regarding these can be found via Council's website under Booking Cardinia.

Question 2

The construction of the New Youth Hub is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 with services to be operational in the new year. The project has experienced some delays due weather conditions, and supply chain and construction issues.

The new Hub located at James St Pakenham will offer significant benefits to young people and their families, when opened in early 2024, with several key agencies co-located onsite.

12 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

13 Councillor Questions

Nil

14 Confidential Business

Amendment to Minutes

Council resolved at Council Meeting 14 April 2025 to approve the recording of item **14.1 Purchase of Land** and **14.2 Purchase of Land** as accurate records.

Items 14.1 and 14.2 Purchase of Land were designated as confidential on the grounds that it relates to *Local Government Act 2020*, section 3(1)(e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies; (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

15 Meeting Closure

Resolution

Moved Cr Graeme Moore, seconded Cr Jack Kowarzik.

That the meeting be opened to members of the public

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 5.57pm to reconvene at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 7.56pm