

Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 17 March 2025

Commenced at 7:00 PM

**Council Chambers
20 Siding Avenue, Officer
Victoria**

Members: Cr Jack Kowarzik Mayor
 Cr Alanna Pomeroy Deputy Mayor
 Cr Liz Roberts
 Cr Samantha-Jane Potter
 Cr Casey Thomsen
 Cr David Nickell
 Cr Collin Ross
 Cr Trudi Paton

Officers: Carol Jeffs Chief Executive Officer
 Peter Benazic General Manager Infrastructure and Environment
 Debbie Tyson General Manager Community & Planning Services
 Wayne Mack General Manager Corporate Services
 Peter Harris Manager Governance, Safety & Property
 Sharyn Tilley Coordinator Governance and Councillor Services

Meeting opened at 7.00PM.

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1 Opening and Reflection

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.

2 Traditional Owners Acknowledgement

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

Cr Brett Owen

4 Adoption and Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Ross

That Council confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

1. Council Meeting 17 February 2025.
2. Town Planning Committee Meeting 3 March 2025.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

5 Declaration of Interests

Cr Roberts has a declared general conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.2.5 Mercury Vapour Street Lighting Upgrade Program - Proposed Next Steps, as a family member works for the lighting replacement contractors.

Cr Pomeroy has a declared general conflict of interest in Confidential Agenda Item 14.1 Award Contract CT000577 - Major Recreation Facilities Contract, as there is a close family association with the CEO of one of the tenderers.

6 Community Questions

The Mayor advised that Council had received two sets of questions from Paul McMurray. Mr McMurray was not present in the gallery. He will be provided with a written response and his questions and response will be included in the Minutes.

First Set of Questions from Paul McMurray

1. Since the last council meeting what actual and tangible steps have occurred to progress the Huxtable Road Project.

Response

The release outlines that investigations are now complete, the challenges faced and our way forward – this is what we have been doing since last update.

2. It was stated in the Feb minutes that Environment Impact Assessment had been prepared and was with the design for assessment. What progress has been made on that assessment since the last meeting? When is it expected to be put before council?

Response

The release outlines that investigations are now complete, the challenges faced and our way forward

3. The Capital Works report notes "Huxtable Rd - assessing regulatory requirements and delivery options". What does this mean in layman's terms? What regulatory requirements? What assessment has been made? What delivery options are being considered? Please provide a plain English update that can be conveyed to the community.

Response

The release outlines the presence of federal and state protected flora was found, need for vegetation removal, engineer work due to topography. Delivery options are not outlined in the media release, however the proposed scope of work and a way forward is outlined.

4. What can council and the community expect to be achieved between this meeting and the next council meeting.

Response

The release outlines where we are at and gives a proposed timeline for construction: start end of 2025 and complete April 2026 (conditions pending)

5. What are the identified risks that may prevent or delay this progress between now and the next meeting. What measures are in place to mitigate these risks causing any further delays. In relation to the longer term planning of this project.

Response

The release outlines that investigations are complete, design is underway and gives estimated construction timeline.

6. What are the project steps to be achieved to meet the stated November commencement?

Response

As per media release: start by end of 2025 - there is always a caveat on this, as it will depend on how wet our spring/early summer is and if that will impact on work starting.

7. What are the expected milestone/targets to be reported on for this project and what are the target dates for these milestones.

Response

The milestones for the project will be reported via Council capital work report (this is not outlined in the media release, but is Council's BAU),

8. Is there any reason why the next steps and progress made cant be published on the website page for the Huxtable Road project.

Response

This will be updated on the website.

9. It is acknowledged that the new Capital Works report provides more detail in many ways. However, in the context of Huxtable Road (and others) it now appears that the reports on individual roads have now been "rolled up" into a dot point under the "Better Local Roads" heading. Are the councillors satisfied that the new format of the report actually gives them and the community a better understanding of progress being made on specific projects?

Response

Would need to defer to Councillors.

10. When can the community expect to see genuine updates on the website?

Response

The website will be updated.

11. When will the proposed design be published? Acknowledging that it may be in draft form still why cant it be published so that community can be aware of what is being considered? (isn't it better to get community input whilst its being drafted rather than after its finalised?)

Response

The release states that detailed design is underway....no timeline on that being completed and published

Second Set of Questions from Paul McMurray

In relation to the maintenance of Huxtable Road...

In a response to Cr Owen, the Operations Manager Ana Caicedo made several points that need clarification. She stated that Huxtable Road has been graded monthly. As a resident that has endured the poor state of the road it feels like much longer than a month between grading. It is noted that the full length of Huxtable Road isn't done with each grading. For example, on 4/2 it was graded part way - but not beyond the divided section. Corrugations were severe on the later end of the road that were not done again until 11/3.

1. Please list the actual dates of grading works undertaken on Huxtable Road for the past twelve months.

Response

- 4 March 2024
- 5 March 2024
- 6 March 2024
- 13 April 2024
- 13 June 2024
- 12 July 2024
- 26 July 2024
- 8 August 2024
- 16 September 2024
- 20 November 2024
- 5 December 2024
- 18 December 2024
- 19 December 2024
- 17 January 2025
- 20 January 2025
- 4 February 2025
- 11 March 2025
- 12 March 2025

2. For each of those dates please detail what sections of Huxtable Road were done.

Response

- 4 March 2024: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close; and Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close To End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 - East Side
- 5 March 2024: Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close To End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 - East Side; and End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 To Bourkes Creek Rd
- 6 March 2024: End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 To Bourkes Creek Rd
- 13 April 2024: End at No. 54 driveway to Huxtable Rd
- 13 June 2024: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close; and Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close To End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 - West Side
- 12 July 2024: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close
- 26 July 2024: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close; Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close To End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 - West Side; and End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 To Bourkes Creek Rd
- 8 August 2024: End at No. 54 driveway to Huxtable Rd
- 16 September 2024: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close; and Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close To End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 - West Side
- 20 November 2024: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close; Start Of Divided Road at Belvedere Close To End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 - West Side; and End Of Divided Road South of Driveway No.210 To Bourkes Creek Rd
- 5 December 2024: Approx 64m From Pakenham Rd to End of Seal North of Driveway No.20

- 18 December 2024: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl; Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl To End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 - West Side; and Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl To End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 - East Side
- 19 December 2024: Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl To End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 - West Side; and Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl To End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 - East Side
- 17 January 2025: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl; and Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl To End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 - West Side
- 20 January 2025: End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 To Bourkes Creek Rd
- 4 February 2025: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl; and Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl To End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 - West Side
- 11 March 2025: End Of Seal North of Driveway No.20 To Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl; and Start Of Divided Rd at Belvedere Cl To End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 - West Side
- 12 March 2025: End Of Divided Rd South of Driveway No.210 To Bourkes Creek Rd

3. Of the dates provided above - which dates was the ripper/scarifier used on Huxtable Road.

Response

The system does not record this detail.

5. What is the minimum road width required for a road of Huxtable's Classification. Please don't respond with "as per the Road Management Plan" - please provide an actual answer.

Response

Huxtable Road has different segments with different classifications under the Road Register. The width will vary between 4.6m and 6m.

7 Ordinary Business

7.1 Town Planning Reports

7.2 General Reports

7.2.1 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES FOR RECREATION RESERVES

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Cameron Miller
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places 2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy. 5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council:

- Appoint the following persons to the respective recreation reserve Community Asset Committees appointed by Cardinia Shire Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

Lang Lang Community Recreation Reserve

President	Sam Loughridge
Vice President	Andrew Wilson
Secretary	Krystle Miller
Treasurer	Rebecca Turner
Committee Member	Lee Thom
Committee Member	Keith Halden
Committee Member	Jackie Palmer
Committee Member	Ray Patullo
Committee Member	Megan King
Committee Member	Glenn Barwick

Worrell Reserve

President	Kris Strong
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Secretary Howard Winter

Treasurer Shane Closter

Committee Member Matt Byron

Committee Member Glen George

Committee Member George Trojan

2. Thanks Committee Asset Committee Members for their valuable contribution to the management of community recreation reserves.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.2 APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Peter Harris
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council:

1. Appoints Kylie Maher to the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of 4 years with an option for a further 4-year term, and
2. Acknowledges the valuable contribution of Michael Said during his tenure on Cardinia's Audit and Risk Committee.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.3 MAV STATE COUNCIL & ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTIONS

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Di Hempel
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

1. Submit the following motion for consideration at the next MAV State Council:
 - a. That the MAV State Council:
 - i.* Supports the intention of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)
 - ii.* Note the significant impact of the proposed ESVF on local government and the community, particularly on primary production properties;
 - iii.* Strongly advocate on behalf of the local government sector that a review of the ESVF be undertaken to reduce the impact and burden on farming communities, including delaying its implementation if necessary to allow time for this review;
 - iv.* Seek that management of the ESVF be adequately funded or managed directly by the State Government to not unnecessarily burden local government.
2. Support the Maternal and Child Health Costing Model motion proposed by Yarriambiak Shire Council and detailed in this report at the MAV State Council and ongoing discussions regarding the Memorandum of Understanding guidelines.
3. Support the Back Your Neighbour Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum motion detailed in this report to be presented at the ALGA 2025 National General Assembly.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.4 EXTENSION OF LEASE FOR RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Erin Moore
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>1.1 We empower our communities to be healthy, connected and resilient</p> <p>1.1.1 Plan for, and support the delivery of, accessible health and social services that address critical gaps in provision.</p> <p>1.1.3 Lead by example in creating an inclusive and welcoming community for all by facilitating community education, capacity building, connection and celebration of our diversity.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</p> <p>5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.</p> <p>5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the restrictions on the site leading to limited alternative uses, Riding for the Disabled Association investment in the facility and community benefit derived in their use of the site as well as the support received through the community engagement undertaken; and
2. Resolves to allow Council officers to prepare and issue Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria a 20- year lease for part of 775 Five Mile Road Pakenham.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.5 MERCURY VAPOUR STREET LIGHTING UPGRADE PROGRAM - PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Brett Munckton
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>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 freight transport needs.</p> <p>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive 3.1.1 Partner with community, business and industry to take action on, and adapt to, climate change.</p>

Cr Roberts left the meeting at 7:41pm with a declared general conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.2.5 Mercury Vapour Street Lighting Upgrade Program - Proposed Next Steps, as a family member works for the lighting replacement contractors.

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council:

1. Endorses continuing to pause the replacement of mercury vapour lights in Heritage Springs and Lakeside estates pending the potential use of a retrofit LED globe by AusNet from July 2026. This will incur an additional annual cost of \$25,000 in energy and maintenance compared to replacing this lighting hardware.
2. Replaces mercury vapour lighting hardware in Beaconsfield and Garfield (403 lights) following community notification.
3. Provides decorative lighting hardware to Ausnet to replace failed decorative lights. This hardware is to be as close as possible in appearance to the failed lighting.
4. Reinstalls decorative hardware to restore character in locations where standard hardware has been used to rectify failed decorative lights and poles.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.3 Policy Reports

7.3.1 MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Sharyn Tilley
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Cr Roberts returned to the meeting at 7:52pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

1. Revokes the Councillor Code of Conduct adopted 15 February 2021.
2. Notes the Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2024.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4 Financial Reports

7.4.1 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT 2024/25 – Q2 DECEMBER 2024

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Allison Southwell
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the quarterly financial report for the six months to 31 December 2024, for the purpose of Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Notes that the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, is of the opinion that a revised budget is not required.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4.2 FINALISATION OF SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME - CAROLINE (COCKATOO) CATCHMENT - SEALING THE HILLS

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Nicole Alvares
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	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 freight transport needs.

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council having declared a special charge on Monday, 19 July 2021, for the purposes of partially recovering the expenses incurred by Council in relation to the survey, design and construction of Caroline Avenue, Boronia Crescent and Rouen Road, Cockatoo; including a sealed road pavement, kerb and channel and associated drainage and ancillary works:

1. Adopt a final scheme cost of \$2,881,892.79, which is 43% more than the estimated scheme cost of \$2,019,400 on which the scheme was declared.
2. Note that a fixed charge of \$7,000 per benefit unit was declared on all included properties within the scheme area in accordance with attachments 2 and 3 to this report.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4.3 FINALISATION OF SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME - STATION (COCKATOO) CATCHMENT - SEALING THE HILLS

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Nicole Alvares
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	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 freight transport needs.

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council having declared a special charge on Monday, 21 March 2022, for the purposes of partially recovering the expenses incurred by Council in relation to the survey, design and construction of Baker Street, Garden Street, Glen Road, and Station Road, Cockatoo including a sealed road pavement, kerb and channel and associated drainage and ancillary works:

1. Adopt a final scheme cost of \$2,981,137.48, which is 18% more than the estimated scheme cost of \$2,535,750 on which the scheme was declared.
2. Note that a fixed charge of \$7,000 per benefit unit was declared on all included properties within the scheme area in accordance with attachments 2 and 3 to this report.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4.4 FINALISATION OF SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME - NAUGHTON (COCKATOO) CATCHMENT - SEALING THE HILLS

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Nicole Alvares
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	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 freight transport needs.

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council having declared a special charge on Monday, 20 June 2022 for the purposes of partially recovering the expenses incurred by Council in relation to the survey, design and construction of Carawa Street and Naughton Street, Cockatoo, including a sealed road pavement, kerb and channel and associated drainage and ancillary works:

1. Adopt a final scheme cost of \$2,442,613.26, which is 27% more than the estimated scheme cost of \$1,930,000 on which the scheme was declared.
2. Note that a fixed charge of \$7,000 per benefit unit was declared on all included properties within the scheme area in accordance with attachments 2 and 3 to this report.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4.5 FINALISATION OF SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME - RUSSELL-BLACKWOOD (GEMBROOK) CATCHMENT - SEALING THE HILLS

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Nicole Alvares
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	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 freight transport needs.

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council having declared a special charge on Monday, 21 March 2022, for the purposes of partially recovering the expenses incurred by Council in relation to the survey, design and construction of Blackwood Lane, Gembrook Road (service road), Redwood Road (service road-unsealed section) and Russell Road, Gembrook, including a sealed road pavement, kerb and channel and associated drainage and ancillary works:

1. Adopt a final scheme cost of \$2,476,651.61, which is 24% more than the estimated scheme cost of \$1,989,500 on which the scheme was declared.
2. Note that a fixed charge of \$7,000 per benefit unit was declared on all included properties within the scheme area in accordance with attachments 2 and 3 to this report.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.5 Activity Reports

7.5.1 Q2 PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH REPORTS 2024 2025

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Owen Hardidge, Porshia Sidhu
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</p> <p>5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.</p> <p>5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council receive and note the contents of the Performance and Growth Reports for Quarter 2, 2024-2025.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.5.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Emma Wilkinson
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken during March 2025.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen
Against: Nil

Carried

7.5.3 CAPITAL WORKS REPORT - PERIOD 8 (FEBRUARY 2025)

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Maria Fletcher, James Kelly and Jarrad Unsworth
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places</p> <p>2.1.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need.</p> <p>2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.</p> <p>2.1.5 Upgrade Council's road network to improve safety and connectivity while considering traffic demand and freight transport needs.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</p> <p>5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.</p> <p>5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council note the Capital Works Report for the Period 8 (February 2025).

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

8 Reports By Councillors

Cr Roberts addressed Council by reporting on:

- Happy to be back in the Council Chamber after breaking my ankle eight weeks ago and thanked staff for making that possible. Getting back into the community now which she was itching to do. Thanked Cr Paton for helping to attend International Women's Day event.
- Attended Pakenham show with her family and congratulated the President of the show for their work alongside the Committee.

Cr Paton addressed Council by reporting on:

- Attended opening at Paterson Cheney, Pakenham which has heavily invested in state-of-the-art service depot. She commented on a highlight in that she could see how far technology has progressed to make operations safer and less of a physical burden and more accessible for female truck technicians. Another highlight of attending this event was speaking to Peter Sherry (Group Training Coordinator) who coordinates training programs that link training and apprenticeships pathways.
- Attended Lang Lang Senior Citizens Annual General Meeting (AGM) and congratulated the President, Rosemary Kruizinga who stepped up to her 8th year in the role and was awarded a life membership.
- Ministers announcement for new kindergarten in Oxford Street, Lang Lang.
- Attended Koo Wee Rup - Regional Health Service meeting.
- Attended Men's Shed gathering.

Cr Thomsen addressed Council by reporting on:

- Attended Lakeside Residents Group meeting and commented that they are a lovely bunch of people and that he is keen to get their feedback.
- Attended Citizenship ceremony, this is always a great event and celebration.
- Attended International Women's Day event which was a great event, it included a guest speaker, he really enjoyed the thoughts and stories shared.
- Unfortunately, could not attend the Pakenham show, he gave a shout out to all volunteers, many of them are also members of the Lakeside Residents Group.

Cr Potter addressed Council by reporting on:

- Happy St Patrick's Day - celebrated at Cardinia Park hotel.
- Acknowledged Happy Holi and Ramadan
- Attended advisory groups this month: 'together we can' the aim at reducing family violence action team and access and inclusion. Started work on arts and cultural reference group and attended Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG). Currently working on Reconciliation Action Plan and would love to hear from the community. Hospital guest speaker which aims to reduce people going to emergency when it is not an emergency, community input is sought.
- Attended Mental Health and Well Being Action Team meeting and is sure that meaningful actions to be created.
- Attended Pakenham show and commented that it was awesome.
- Attended International Women's Day event, it was an honour to be there and inspiring.
- Shoutout to local restaurants and businesses in the area.

Cr Pomeroy addressed Council by reporting on:

- Congratulated community member Dr Mary Koll, who was recently awarded the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Victoria for her work on regenerative, sustainable and resilient farming.

- Acknowledged Bunyip RSL and Garfield Community Association on their advocacy work of main street bus stop and will be meeting with PTV to provide feedback.
- Deep Creek Reserve - seeing highlights of Cardinia environment coalition. The site was reactivated for the Cardinia foundation fun run organised by Aligned Leisure.
- Pakenham Show shoutout and good luck to Bunyip for their show this coming Sunday.

Cr Ross addressed Council by reporting on:

- Attended the Victorian Championships, Doncaster with the Masters Athletics Club over the weekend.
- New Park Run at Emerald Lake Park.
- Attended International Women's Day and Citizenship Ceremony.

9 Presentation of Petitions

Nil

10 Notices of Motion

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 1109 - CR COLLIN ROSS

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council Officers report to a future Council meeting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan with respect to Gender Impact Assessments.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION 1110 - CR LIZ ROBERTS

Amended Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council:

1. resolve to undertake a review of the Cardinia Shire Council Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy providing \$25,000 in the 2025-26 financial year and provides a report back to Council by its February 2026 Meeting.
2. requests the review include an audit of progress to date since the strategy was adopted and outstanding actions
3. requests the review considers, but is not limited to, the following factors;
 - a. Changes in walking and cycling behaviours Post – Covid pandemic
 - b. Pedestrian and cyclist safety, incorporating accessibility
 - c. The economic case for investment in walking
4. requires the Report include a review of the current actions within the strategy with the intent to prioritise actions to be linked to Council's advocacy program and Council's Capital works program.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

10.3 NOTICE OF MOTION 1111 - CR SAMANTHA-JANE POTTER

Resolution

Moved Cr Potter, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

1. Requests the preparation of a report to be tabled within three Council Meetings providing an update on the development of the Officer Town Centre. The report is to include:
 - a. information that is not deemed confidential in relation to any current planning applications or permits for both residential and commercial developments and
 - b. any actions taken by council to facilitate development in the Officer Town Centre and
 - c. what is holding up development and when can residents expect to see development commence?

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

10.4 NOTICE OF MOTION 1112 - CR DAVID NICKELL

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Pause the demolition of the cafe and tea rooms building at Emerald Lake Park.
2. Request the relevant Officers discuss with Emerald Arts Society, Hills Photographic Society and Cardinia Arts Society, opportunities for a pop-up arts display in the Emerald Lake Park buildings which are currently vacant in time for the 2025 PAVE festival.
3. Requests a review of the Emerald Lake Master Plan to be completed and presented to Council within 6 months. The review should also consider Emerald Lake Park in the context of it being an important node of the wider Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail corridor.
4. Requests officers present Councillors a briefing report in April with details of works proposed to occur this financial year and how they fit into the current budget allocation. This is to include justification for demolition of the café and tea rooms building at Emerald Lake Park and what options would be available if the café and tea rooms remain.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

10.5 NOTICE OF MOTION 1113 - CR DAVID NICKELL

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Paton.

That Council officers undertake a review of existing rural vacant lots that are below the minimum lot size specified in each zone (and/or overlays) within Cardinia's three Green Wedge Areas and that a report, including a map-based view and a list of property details (such as land size), is to be presented to the Council within three months.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

11 Urgent Business

Nil

12 Councillor Questions

Cr Potter asked General Manager Infrastructure and Environment the following:

Question 1

Can the responsible General Manager please provide advice with regard to the width of the northern part of Starling Road, Officer which is currently being upgraded. There are concerns that the road will be too narrow for trucks to be able to safely use this road. Can the General Manager provide details in relation to the intended Precinct Structure Plan design, how the current road has been constructed, its suitability for traffic use and what Council is planning in relation to the width of the road?

Response

The upgrade to Starling Road is being delivered by a developer, as part of the PSP (Precinct Structure Plan) implementation. There is an agreement with them to deliver the works as per the PSP requirements.

It is acknowledged that there is concern from members of the Community regarding the road width. Following this concern, investigation and review has confirmed that the submitted and approved plans and construction of the northern section of Starling Road, is consistent with the Officer Precinct Structure Plan, being 6m kerb invert to kerb invert. The Developer has continued with these planned works as agreed.

However, this investigation has also confirmed that ideally Council would achieve a solution, whereby the road is over and above the PSP design width, to accommodate local industry vehicles that would intend to use this road, where there aren't any other feasible routes.

In terms of the way forward, officers are currently exploring design options to widen the road, amongst constraints including services, and vegetation. The design options are not yet finalised, and will inform funding and deliverability considerations. The community will have seen works continuing, including road openings, whilst officers concurrently work on the options. This is to strike the right balance and compromise on an improved outcome, whilst also not delaying future residents seeking to receive their titles.

This is an active and high priority issue for officers.

Question 2

Noting Station Street Officer has been closed at the railway line with increased traffic using Siding Avenue, can the responsible General Manager please advise on the long-term plan for traffic flows, and will Station Street be fully reopened to traffic? Will there be another connection from Officer South Road to Princes Highway in the future?

Response

Station Street, Officer was permanently closed at the rail level crossing in May 2024 by the Victorian State Government as part of the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) to have the Pakenham Line crossing free by 2025.

In accordance with the Officer Precinct Structure Plan, there is a plan for a new north-south arterial road to be built by Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) which will take traffic from Officer South Road-Bridge Road intersection connecting into the newly constructed signalised intersection of Princes Highway and Bayview Road.

Ahead of the closure, Council advocated through LXP for Station Street to remain open until the new north-south arterial road was constructed, however this was not seen as appropriate as the State Government wanted to have the Pakenham Line level crossing free by 2025.

Council officers have more broadly and heavily advocated to the state through both LXP and DTP. In light of this Council Officers have requested that DTP elevate this issue to a high priority to construct the proposed new North – South Arterial Road “missing piece of vital road infrastructure” in their forward projects pipeline list of priority projects.

Council has also conducted traffic counts on Siding Avenue and Brunt Rd since the Station Street level crossing has been closed. This clearly shows the large increase in traffic to both roads. Council officers will use this information to continue to advocate to the DTP to escalate the arterial road project to a higher priority and will keep raising this at Regional DTP meetings or other opportunities.

13 Mayoral Minute

Nil

14. Confidential Business

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), section 66 provides that if a council or delegated committee determines that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information, the Council or delegated committee must record in the minutes of the meeting that are available for public inspection:

- a) the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in the definition of ***confidential information*** in section 3(1); and
- b) an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.

The Act defines ***confidential information*** in s.3(1)(a)-(l), and includes information that may prejudice or impact; commercial negotiations, the security of Council, land use planning, law enforcement, legal privilege, personal information, private commercial information, confidential meeting information, internal arbitration, Councilor conduct panel information and information specified under s.77 of the previous *Local Government Act 1989*.

Once confidential information has been considered and decided in a closed session of a Council Meeting, a further resolution to resume open Council is required.

Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council pursuant to section 66(5)(a) and (b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* close the Council Meeting to the public to consider the following confidential information:

1. Agenda Item 14.1 – Award Contract CT000577 - Major Recreation Facilities Contract is designated confidential on the grounds that it relates to s.3(1)(g) - private commercial information,
 - a. being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that:
 - (i) relates to trade secrets; or
 - (ii) if released would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.
 - b. The grounds for designation have been made as the information is deemed commercial-in-confidence to protect the privacy of the contractors tender information submitted for consideration.
2. Agenda Item 14.2 – Land Acquisition - Part of 2 Ryan Road Pakenham is designated confidential on the grounds that it relates to:
 - c. s.3(1)(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; and
 - d. s.3(1)(h) Confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).
 - e. The grounds for designation have been made as the information is deemed commercial-in-confidence.
3. Adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes in order to clear the Chambers.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

At 10:21pm meeting closed to the public and adjourned for ten minutes.

15 Meeting Closure

Meeting closed at 10:41pm.

Minutes confirmed
Mayor