

Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 14 April 2025

Commenced at 7:00 PM

Council Chambers
20 Siding Avenue, Officer
Victoria

Members: Cr Jack Kowarzik 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
	Wayne Mack	General Manager Corporate Services
	Peter Harris	Manager Governance, Safety & Property
	Sharyn Tilley	Coordinator Governance and Councillor Services
	Tracey Varley	Manager Communications & Engagement
	Duncan Turner	Manager Planning & Design
	Allison Southwell	Chief Financial Officer

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

- Councillor Alanna Pomeroy, Deputy Mayor
- Councillor Brett Owen

4 Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes

Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Ross

That Council confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

1. Council Meeting 17 March 2025.
2. Town Planning Committee Meeting 7 April 2025.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

5 Declaration Of Interests

Cr Nickell has declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.2.2 Glass Bin Advocacy Update as the matter relates to his employment.

Cr Potter has declared a material conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.3.3 Rates Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy as the matter relates to a family member.

6 Community Questions

The Mayor advised that Council had received three sets of questions from Tony O'Hara, Carol Ryan and Rosa Santo.

Tony O'Hara was not present, so his questions were not answered at this time. He arrived at 7.11pm and the questions were then read in Councillor Questions time at 10.33pm.

Tony O'Hara submitted five questions, and these will be answered by the General Manager Infrastructure and Environment.

Question 1

With the EPA rejecting the Development Licence for Hampton Park Waste Transfer Station, does SEMAWP have a contingency plan if the plant cannot be placed at Hallam Road Landfill due to proximity to residential homes and not meeting EPA buffer requirements?

Question 2

Will Cardinia Shire or the South East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing group appeal or support Veolia's appeal against the EPA decision?

Question 3

Has the Cardinia Shire council entered discussions to find a suitable site in the Cardinia Shire? If so, what region has been or could be considered?

Question 4

The EPA General Environmental Duty (GED) requires businesses to protect the environment and human health. Veolia, proposing the WTS, was found guilty of failing their GED by the supreme court. Has Cardinia Shire considered their GED responsibility when choosing to work with this company on a facility near Hampton Park residents?

Question 5

Has Cardinia Shire Council addressed or will address the amenity impact of the proposed Waste Transfer Station, being only 250 metres from homes and not meeting EPA buffer guidelines?

Response

The Council is dedicated to implementing a long-term waste management solution for the Cardinia community. In partnership with eight councils, we are working through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the South East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Project (SEMAWP). As part of our commitment to good governance, these questions will be forwarded to the SPV for their consideration and response. Additionally, all member councils will be updated on the enquiry.

Rosa Santo submitted one question that was answered by General Manager Corporate Services.

One part of this question has been ruled out of order as it talks to Councillors personal information.

Question 1

During their council terms there are official public holidays, plus ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Easter Break and five weeks Christmas and New Year's break which Councillors are entitled to have.

There seems to be quite a pattern here on Councillors taking personal holidays outside official holidays after they have been elected into Council. This needs to be assessed.

If a Councillor chooses to take a personal holiday outside of given official Council holidays. Then their allowance should be adjusted to non-payment of allowance during their time off on a personal holiday, as this is Rate Payers Public Money being wasted on Councillors personal holidays as these Councillors are not serving the community during this time off so the allowance should be adjusted accordingly.

Response

Councillors are able to work from multiple locations and can take personal leave. The *Local Government Act 2020* does not provide for withholding councillor allowances.

Carol Ryan submitted three questions that was answered by General Manager Corporate Services.

Question 1

As councils around Victoria have always acknowledged their past serving Councillors with a send-off dinner given a framed official stamped letter and gift for acknowledging their service and achievements and dedication to their community. Cardinia Shire has in the past given a send off dinner to Councillors and given an official stamped letter and gift. In 2024 as a serving Councillor dedicating eight years of my time and achievements service to Cardinia Shire community.

And two other Councillors each Serving a four year term serving the community as well.

Why have these three female past Councillors Carol Ryan, Kaye Cameron, and Stephanie Davies not been officially recognised or acknowledged for their dedication of service, achievements and time given to their community, by giving them a send off dinner, an official framed stamped letter and gift in acknowledging their achievements?

As other staff members office staff are given this acknowledgment, why not these three Councillors? Please explain.

Response

Former Councillors received an end of term photo book, and a personalised letter sent via email from the CEO following the election outcome.

Question 2

Local Councils are supposed to be non-political! During their time in council, Councillors are meant to be impartial to political parties especially during state and federal elections during candidates campaigning (not assisting these candidates) to win their election.

With the last council citizenship ceremony why has there only one candidate a past Councillor Jeff Springfield who is running the ALP La Trobe seen having photos taken with residents receiving their citizenship certificates.

Did Council invite other candidates to the Citizenship ceremony? If not, why not?

Response

Council did not invite any candidates, only sitting members of parliament which is the usual practice.

Question 3

Why is Council wasting Ratepayers Public money in covering a Q&A Forum being held on Tuesday 29 April at the Cardinia Culture Centre and with live streaming it, when this is usually run by the Ratepayers Association?

Is there a conflict of interest as the Mayor, Councillor Jack Kowarzik is a Labour member and maybe seen as assisting the ALP candidate for La Trobe who is a past councillor for Cardinia? Why is Governance not stepping in on this issue?

Response

Cardinia Shire Council has organised next week's Federal Election Community Q&A session to provide an important forum for all La Trobe candidates in the upcoming election. During the session, candidates will have an opportunity to hear more about Cardinia Shire's advocacy priorities and respond to questions posed by the community on issues that are important to them. An external moderator will facilitate the session to ensure fair speaking time for all candidates.

All candidates standing for the seat of La Trobe in the upcoming federal election on 3 May have been invited to attend this nonpartisan event.

Advocacy is a key function of Council. Investment from all levels of government is essential to support Council in meeting the needs of the community now and as it continues to grow.

7 Ordinary Business

7.1 Town Planning Reports

7.1.1 AMENDMENT C284CARD PAKENHAM CEMETERY REZONING

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Peter Mondy
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>4.1 We support our productive land and employment land to grow local industries</p> <p>4.1.1 Facilitate better planning for our agricultural land to support industry, innovation, local food economy and local job growth.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</p> <p>5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council write to the Minister for Planning and request:

1. The Minister for Planning authorises Council to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C284card to the Cardinia Planning Scheme pursuant to Section 8 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and for the Minister to act as the Planning Authority for the proposal.
2. The Minister for Planning exercises the Ministerial powers of intervention pursuant to Section 20(2) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and direct Council to notify any potentially impacted owners and occupiers of land immediately adjacent to the east of the proposed rezoning of land included in the Amendment C284card proposal, exempting herself and Council from any other public notice requirements pursuant to the relevant provisions set out in Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
3. The Minister for Planning approves Amendment C284card pursuant to Section 35 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.1.2 AMENDMENT C283CARD - FIX UP AMENDMENT OF MINOR ANOMALIES AND ERRORS

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Peter Mondy
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>4.1 We support our productive land and employment land to grow local industries</p> <p>4.1.1 Facilitate better planning for our agricultural land to support industry, innovation, local food economy and local job growth.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</p> <p>5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.</p>

Alternate Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council resolves not to proceed with Amendment C283card to the Cardinia Planning Scheme until such time as:

1. The results of the Agricultural Audit undertaken in 2024 are formally reported to Council and the community at a future Council Meeting.

Cr Potter foreshadowed that she will move the original officers recommendation should this alternate be lost.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

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</p> <p>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</p> <p>5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.</p> <p>5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

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

Pound Road Reserve

President	Evan Joyce
Secretary	Lauren Britton
Treasurer	Tim Wilson
Committee Member	Allison Gillies
Committee Member	Joe Interlandi
Committee Member	Russell Pendlebury
Committee Member	Frank Mits

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 Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.2 GLASS BIN ADVOCACY UPDATE

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Kerrie Lamble
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>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive 3.1.2 Actively move towards zero waste through increasing waste recovery and reuse.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations. 5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.</p>

Cr Nickell left the meeting at 7:38pm with a declared general conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.2.2 Glass Bin Advocacy Update as the matter relates to his employment.

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Notes its commitment to drive value for money within our waste services for the community.
2. Notes and celebrate the success of the Container Deposit Scheme, with high community participation within Cardinia Shire Council.
3. Advocates for the delay in the implementation date of the Recycling Victorias Kerbside reform glass only service.
4. Continues to work with the Victorian Government towards their goal of providing services that maximise resource recovery.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.3 VISITOR ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Dana Harding
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>1.1.2 Enrich local identity and opportunities for the community to connect through art, history and cultural expression.</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>1.1.5 Work closely with the community to deliver programs that build community resilience, relating to a pandemic or other disasters.</p> <p>4.1 We support our productive land and employment land to grow local industries</p> <p>4.1.1 Facilitate better planning for our agricultural land to support industry, innovation, local food economy and local job growth.</p> <p>4.1.3 Improve local learning and employment pathway opportunities through strategic partnerships.</p> <p>4.1.5 Strengthen and promote our shire's unique identity and visitor attractions.</p>

Cr Nickell returned to the meeting at 7:49pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Endorses the establishment of the new Visitor Economy Partnership for the region, noting the endorsement from Yarra Ranges Council on 8 April 2025, and contingent upon endorsement from Nillumbik Shire Council on 29 April 2025.
2. Supports the allocation of \$72,500 per year, adjusted annually for CPI increases, along with a contribution of 0.6 FTE of Cardinia Shire Council staff time to the Visitor Economy Partnership for the 3-year term of the agreement commencing 1 July 2025. This staff contribution is contingent upon the acceptance and at the discretion of the newly formed Tourism East Board.
3. Delegates responsibility for the implementation of the new regional Visitor Economy Partnership, Tourism East, to the Chief Executive Officer, following legal incorporation. The Chief Executive Officer, or their authorised proxy, will also remain on the Board of Tourism East to ensure the interests of Cardinia Shire are represented and to continue guiding the strategic direction of the partnership.
4. Notes that the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Destination Management Plan is the key strategic document for the Visitor Economy Partnership to implement. Upon appointment of the new Tourism Board, this plan will be reviewed and updated to accurately reflect and represent the new region, inclusive of Cardinia Shire.

5. Notes that, pending approval and adoption of the amended constitution by Yarra Ranges Tourism, Cardinia Shire is required to maintain an industry representative on the Tourism East Board, with this person to be initially appointed from Cardinia's Tourism Advisory Committee.
6. Acknowledges the significant amount of time and effort that Council officers have dedicated to securing this opportunity for Cardinia Shire's local tourism industry.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.4 REGISTER OF CONFIDENTIAL COUNCIL DECISIONS - 2020 - 2024

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

Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council:

1. Notes the register of confidential items considered in Closed Council meetings from October 2020 to December 2024 (Attachment 1).
2. Approves the recording of these items as an accurate record.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.3 Policy Reports

7.3.1 COMMUNITY VISION 2040 AND DELIBERATIVE PANEL OUTCOMES REPORT

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Owen Hardidge, Porshia Sidhu, 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 Potter, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Notes and receives the summary of the community panel deliberative engagement process and the outcomes of the panel including their:
 - a. Review and update of the Community Vision 2040
 - b. Priorities to inform the development of the draft strategic objectives for the Council Plan 2025-2029 and the long term financial, asset and liveability plans
2. Adopts the reviewed Community Vision 2040, in accordance with Section 88(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to come into effect from 1 July 2025.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.3.2 DRAFT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2025-2029

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Tracey Varley and 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 Roberts, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the review of the Community Engagement Policy 2021-2024.
2. Approves the Community Engagement Policy 2025-2029 (Attachment 2).

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.3.3 RATES RECOVERY AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

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.

Cr Potter left the Council meeting at 8:29pm with a material conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.3.3 Rates Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy as the matter relates to a family member.

Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Revokes the *Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy* adopted 21 November 2022.
2. Adopts the draft *Rates Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy* (refer Attachment 1).

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Cr Paton

Carried

7.4 Financial Reports

7.4.1 DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025-2029

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Tess Dowthwaite
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.

Cr Potter returned to the meeting at 8:40pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Potter, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

1. Adopts in principle the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 which is attached to this report and commence community engagement.
2. Supports further review of the differential rating structure to inform the development of the 2026-27 annual budget.

Cr Paton foreshadowed an alternate motion should this one be lost.

Cr Paton asked for an extension of time.

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Roberts

That Cr Paton be granted an extension of speaking time for one minute.

Carried

Cr Nickell foreshadowed an alternate motion should this one be lost.

Cr Nickell asked for an extension of time.

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Ross

That Cr Nickell be granted an extension of speaking time for one minute.

Carried

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts and Cr Thomsen

Against: Cr Nickell, Cr Paton and Cr Ross

The Motion before the Chair was Carried.

7.4.2 2025-26 DRAFT BUDGET FOR ADOPTION IN PRINCIPLE

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. Endorse the draft 2025-26 Budget (including the draft 2025-26 Capital Works Program) to be prepared in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* be approved in principle for the purpose of giving public notice and providing a period of public exhibition of the draft Budget.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. Give public notice in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy of Council's intention to adopt the 2025-26 Budget (including the 2025-26 Capital Works Program) at the Council meeting to be held on 16 June 2025.
 - b. Undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy.

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

Against: Cr Paton

Carried

7.4.3 TRANSFORMATION OF CORE BUSINESS SYSTEMS

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Owen Hardidge
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. 5.1.3 Strive to be a customer focused organisation and be a great place to work. 5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.

Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council:

1. Notes the description of current business systems and the impact of functional gaps identified by the Enterprise Software review,
2. Notes the anticipated benefits and risks associated with a co-ordinated, multi-year improvement project to implement business systems,
3. Notes that the draft 2025/26 Budget includes provision for enterprise system projects, and is subject to community consultation and further Council deliberation, and
4. Supports the initial steps to prepare public tender documents (including the appointment of probity advisors, confirming scoping and specification development), noting that any resultant request for tender would not be released for public tender until such time as the 2025/26 Budget is adopted with provision for such a project.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for ten minutes at 9.41pm.

7.4.4 CONTRACT AWARD CT000584 - BULK FUEL, OILS AND LUBRICANTS

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Fran 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:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

The meeting resumed at 9:50pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council awards contract CT000584 for the provision of Bulk Fuel, Fuel Card Services, Oils and Lubricants and Vehicle Care Products as defined by MAV Procurement, for a period of ten years with an optional extension of two years, with a final expiration date of 31 January 2037.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4.5 TENDER AWARD RFT000060 - RECYCLING PROCESSING SERVICES

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Jacqui Kelly
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. Potential conflict of interest due to the current incumbent (requiring BAU contract management) being a tenderer was declared throughout the process and noted as not a concern.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places 2.1.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need.</p> <p>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive 3.1.2 Actively move towards zero waste through increasing waste recovery and reuse.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations. 5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Re.Group Pty Ltd for RFT000060 Recycling Processing Services.
2. Delegates authority to the CEO to execute agreements with Re.Group Pty Ltd for the Recycling Processing Services contract with an initial completion date of 1 June 2028 plus a 1 x 2-year optional extension. Where all extensions are utilised, the contract completion date is 1 June 2030.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.5 Activity Reports

7.5.1 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS REPORT - JANUARY TO MARCH 2025

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 5.1.1 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.

Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council note the report detailing implementation of Council resolutions for the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Paton, 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 Roberts, seconded Cr Ross.

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

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

Against: Nil

Carried

8 Reports By Councillors

Cr Paton addressed Council by reporting on:

- Harewood House open day which raises funds for Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service.
- Victorian Farmers Federation local branch meeting where discussion and updates from Council and farmers perspectives were shared in respect of green wedge management, rates structures, state levies, water management, farming futures in Cardinia and other matters.
- Community Q&A Session with Kaduna Lifestyle Village, this was a valuable session which provided information around development in the area.

Cr Potter addressed Council by reporting on:

- Gurdawa, Officer - Khalsa Saajna Divas celebration dinner and thanked the Sikh community for welcoming their attendance.
- ROC Football at the Rob Porter Recreation Reserve and watched the local matches.
- Officer Public Hall, local community market, and commented what a small business gem this is.
- 'Have Hope' Color Fun Run which raised funds for a local community charity for those doing it tough when impacted by terminal illness and suicide.

Cr Thomsen addressed Council by reporting on:

- Lakeside Fountain update and shared with the community that it is on its way, it will be back!
- Meet the Mayor session at the Arena Café, Officer and thanked community members for coming along, sharing concerns, requests for change and generally getting to know the community.
- Q&A Session proposed for Tuesday 29 April at the Cardinia Cultural Centre in respect of the Federal Election, all candidates have been invited, and the session is to be facilitated by an impartial third party.
- ANZAC services throughout the Shire, he encouraged residents to get along to one of the many services to remember the sacrifices made and how lucky we are to live in this Shire and Australia under the conditions we have.

Cr Roberts addressed Council by reporting on:

- Opening Changing Places facility in the Barring-buluk Park located near the Pakenham Main Street Train station. It is a standout facility and includes accessible toilets, hoist, shower, handrails, disability seating, charging points for mobility scooters, accessible BBQ and drinking fountain.
- Pakenham Racecourse Gala fundraising event for the Cardinia Community Foundation and Pakenham Rotary with funds being split between the Foundation's grants program and Pakenham Rotary Park exercise equipment.
- Yakaboo Festival Pakenham is not far away, this is on 26-27 April, there will be many market stalls and fun rides.

Cr Ross addressed Council by reporting on:

- 'JXSH MVIR: Forever I live' Art Exhibition at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, it was an amazing testament following his passing.
- Cardinia Arts and Skills Expo at the Cardinia Cultural Centre.
- Citizenship Ceremony at the Cardinia Cultural Centre.

Cr Nickell addressed Council by reporting on:

- Victorian Farmers Federation meeting
- Pave Festival, Emerald and Cardinia Arts Society and noted that 300 plus people went through the recent pop-up arts space at Emerald Lake café.
- Establishing a Hills wide Neighbour Hood watch community meeting, please reach out if interested.

9 Presentation Of Petitions

Nil

10 Notices Of Motion

Nil

11 Urgent Business

Nil

12 Councillor Questions

Cr Paton asked General Manager Infrastructure and Environment the following questions.

Catani Soldier's Hall

1. Who owns the land that the Catani Soldier's Hall is on and who is responsible for the Hall's management and maintenance?

Response

This is a Council owned site so Council owns the land.

2. Will Council provide a full set of accounts for the Hall over the past 5 years, including equity and liabilities, income and expenses of the property and any fixtures and fittings?

Response

We'll take this question on notice and provide the detail to you.

3. Will Council provide an estimated budget/costing for the repairs needed to make the Hall usable again, including amounts needed for annual maintenance and insurance?

Response

Estimated project cost is in the order of \$2.2M-2.7M and a high level scope includes:

- Demolition of the public toilets and rear kitchen section of the building
- Reconstruction of the toilets and kitchen amenities
- Remediation of the main hall section of the building including restumping

4. What is Council's plan for the Hall? It has been unused for some time and continues to deteriorate whilst not being cleaned regularly and cared for. Most locals now prefer to hire the Catani Recreation Reserve Facility for events. I ask that Council officers brief Councillors on a 'disposal scenario' so that a Notice of Motion at the May 2025 can start the process of community engagement and release the financial burden of this non-returning asset.

Response

There is no current agreed plan for the Hall. Council officers can provide information on the options available at the appropriate time.

Cardinia Civic Band Hall

- 1. What are the costs and timeframe required to complete works to repair the Pakenham Upper Hall so that it becomes usable. Is this budgeted?**

Response

The facility requires significant renewal ,an early estimate for renewal was in the order of \$1M, however there is no current budget allocation.

- 2. Is there a plan to find a permanent home for the Cardinia Civic Concert Band so that they don't have to store their instruments in a trailer and so that rehearsal spaces can remain set up from one week to the next? Please give details of the deadline set to achieve this.**

Response

Council Officers were not aware of the Bands need to store their instruments in a trailer, at the time of locating the Band at NNG Hall. The Band and Council Officers worked to ensure adequate storage was provided. We will reach out to the band to see how we can support their needs.

A future permanent home has not yet been determined.

- 1. If the Cardinia Civic Concert Band is provided with a new home that is not the Cardinia Civic Concert Civic Band Hall, what is proposed for the future of the Pakenham Upper Hall. Please provide a response to the questions that have been raised for the Catani Soldiers Hall, but in the context of the Pakenham Upper Hall.**

Response

Yet to be determined.

13 Mayoral Minute

The Mayor acknowledged the CEO's, Carol Jeff's resignation and recognised her service over the past 6.5 years. We are grateful she is not leaving us right away. This Council and current group of Councillors really appreciate her and all she has done.

Advocacy Program - please keep an eye out on what we are advocating for. Please support this and keep an eye out for announcements from the Government as they come up.

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, Councillor 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.

Nil

15 Meeting Closure

Meeting closed at 10:42pm.

Minutes confirmed
Mayor