

Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 15 September 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 (Online Attendance from 7.39pm)
Cr Brett Owen
Cr Trudi Paton

Officers: Peter Benazic Interim Chief Executive Officer
James Kelly Acting 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.

Order of Business

1	Opening And Reflection	5
2	Traditional Owners Acknowledgement	5
3	Apologies.....	5
4	Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes	5
5	Declaration Of Interests.....	5
13	Mayoral Minute.....	5
6	Community Questions.....	6
7	Ordinary Business.....	11
7.1	Town Planning Reports	11
7.2	General Reports.....	11
7.2.1	Draft Upper Beaconsfield Reserve Masterplan - Adoption.....	11
7.2.2	Land Use Key Lane, Pakenham	12
7.2.3	Proposed Sale Of Army Road Hall, Pakenham Upper.....	13
7.3	Policy Reports	14
7.3.1	Draft Nar Nar Goon Township Strategy And Community Engagement.....	14
7.3.2	Review Draft O'neil Road Recreation Reserve Masterplan - Community Engagement.....	15
7.4	Financial Reports.....	16
7.4.1	2024-25 Draft Annual Financial And Performance Statements.....	16
7.4.2	Draft 2025 - 2035 Financial Plan For Adoption In Principle.....	17
7.4.3	Award Contract CT000067 - Cleaning Services For BBQ'S And Public Toilets (Incl. Exeloos).....	18
7.4.4	Award Contract CT000074 - Pakenham Revitalisation Project.....	19
7.4.5	Capital Works Report September 2025	20
7.5	Activity Reports	21

7.5.1 Community Engagement Update - September 2025	21
8 Reports By Councillors.....	22
9 Presentation Of Petitions.....	22
10 Notices Of Motion	23
10.1 Notice Of Motion 1118 - Cr Potter	23
11 Urgent Business	24
12 Councillor Questions.....	24
14 Confidential Business	26
15 Meeting Closure	26

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

The Mayor advised that Cr Ross would be joining the meeting late.

4 Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

1. Council Meeting 21 August 2025.
2. Town Planning Committee Meeting 1 September 2025.

Carried

5 Declaration Of Interests

Cr Thomsen declared a conflict of interest in Agenda Item *7.2.3 Proposed Sale of Army Road Hall, Pakenham Upper* as he is a member of the Casey Civic Concert Band.

13 Mayoral Minute

The section was moved to be considered earlier in the meeting following Section 5 - Declaration of Interests and before Section 6 - Community Questions.

The Mayor acknowledged the passing of Audrey Dodson and Robert "Bob" Taylor AM.

6 Community Questions

Richard Paton submitted 3 questions and was present at the Meeting, these were read and answered by General Manager Community and Planning Services.

Re: Creating Cardinia Surveys and Policies

Question 1

Knowing that the Feasibility Study has confirmed that golf is viable at Pakenham Golf Course, and when the Survey results strongly supports golf returning to Pakenham, how does Cardinia Shire Council plan to implement the findings?

Response

Following the completion of community consultation, Officer's will incorporate the feedback received alongside the findings of the Feasibility Study to develop a recommendation regarding the future of the Pakenham Golf Course. This recommendation is scheduled to be presented to Council in November, the outcome of this meeting will guide Officers to the next steps of the process.

Question 2

How does Cardinia Shire Council see golf playing an integral part in addressing the issue of youth crime rates in Cardinia Shire?

Response

Cardinia Shire Council recognises the importance of providing positive, and inclusive opportunities for young people as a proactive approach to reducing youth crime. While golf is not currently highlighted as a standalone program in this space, Council supports a broad range of youth-focused initiatives that align with the same goals.

Question 3

Knowing that the Feasibility Study has confirmed that golf is viable at Pakenham Golf Course, and when the Survey results strongly supports golf returning to Pakenham, how does Cardinia Shire Council see golf playing a part in addressing the need for Ageing Well in Cardinia Shire?

Response

Cardinia Shire sees golf as a valuable contributor to its Ageing Well Strategy, which aims to foster a community that is inclusive, healthy, and socially connected for older residents. Golf contributes to many social benefits including improved physical health, mental health and neighbourhood amenity. While golf is not explicitly named in the strategy documents, its characteristics align closely with the Council's goals for positive ageing.

Adrian Dowell submitted 4 questions and was present at the Meeting, these were read and answered by General Manager Community and Planning Services.

Question 1

Is Council of the opinion that building permits were not required to be sought for any of the seven aforementioned structures?

Question 2

Will Council issue enforcement against Council, Councillors or Council staff for a breach of the Building Act 1993, section 16(3) for the carrying out of illegal works?

Question 3

What actions do Council propose to take to rectify the non-compliances and safety matters on site in a legal, safe and workmanlike manner?

Question 4

What actions are Council proposing to take to ensure all Council owned classifiable structures meet minimum legislated construction and safety requirements throughout the Shire?

Response

All seven structures that are referenced in the enquiry have a building permit and were built as per the permit requirements and engineer certified design. No further investigations are required.

Chris Naylor submitted 4 questions and was not present at the Meeting, the questions were not read aloud.

Question 1

On the Deep Creek Reserve, the Council claims it is committed to transparency, Independent publicly available costings indicate that the active reserve costings should be closer to \$30 mil not \$20 mil. Will council commit to releasing more than a 1 line cost estimated for all of the options published? This as the costings and details are a significant component of trust and confidence in the consultation process and any subsequent decision.

Response

The cost allocated for the active reserve option is an estimate only. If master plans are undertaken this will provide greater insight into costs.

Question 2

Cardinia Shire's leasing policy states that Councillors can adopted direct negotiation and exempt a process from tender and EOI processes where there is a community benefit. Cardinia Golf is proposing, and is prepared to make it a condition on the lease, that Cardinia Shire Rate Payers and Residents will received discounted green fees and club memberships. Given the community benefit to rate payers both in terms of discounts and save costs to council, will councillors use this discretion to directly negotiate a lease for the golf course site?

Response

This will be considered in future reports.

Question 3

Given Council is moving tonight to sell an asset to a community group at a discounted rate without following its own due process, will council use this same discretion to fast track the process of returning golf to deep creek reserve by directly negotiating a lease with a community group, namely Cardinia Golf?

Response

No

Question 4

If Council proceeds with the sale of Pakenham Upper Hall for \$20,000, based on the discount offered to that community group and the extent of rectification works necessary at the deep creek reserve, would council be willing to entertain selling the deep creek reserve, as a reserve to a community group to operate as a golf course for \$200,000?

Response

It is not a discount. It is the certified valuation amount.

Tony O'Hara submitted 7 questions and was present at the Meeting, these were read and answered by General Manager Corporate Services.

Re: In relation to Cardinia Shire Council being a shareholder in Southeast Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing (SEMAWP) Pty Ltd.

Question 1

Has Cardinia Shire Council been contacted by any private or government entity regarding large-scale waste facilities for Cardinia, such as a waste transfer station or processing plant?

Response

Cardinia Shire Council is a member of the South-East Melbourne Advanced Waste Processing company (SEMAWP) who have entered a commercial contract to facilitate advanced waste processing of residual waste (non-recyclable and non-recoverable) through a commercial procurement process completed in 2024.

There are no current proposals for a new waste facility within Cardinia Shire.

Question 2

Will Cardinia Shire Council commit to fully transparent community consultation for any future large-scale waste facility proposals, including those with Development Plan Overlays, even if exemptions from notice and review apply?

Response

Council is committed to undertake community engagement as per the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Question 3

Would Cardinia shire council be willing to commit to fully transparent community consultation on any future large-scale motor sports facilities, proposed for the Shire, even if there is the clause to exempt an application from notice and review if it is generally in accordance with a Development Plan Overlay?

Response

If there is any proposal for a motor sports facility at Key Lane, Council is committed to undertake community engagement as per the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Question 4

Could Council please confirm that the Councillor expenses records are correct and up to date as there seems to be many Councillors not claiming or the data is missing?

Response

Councillors can choose to be reimbursed for expenses, and not all Councillors do so. The information reported was correct at the time of publication.

Question 5

How long after an expense can a Councillor claim the allowance?

Response

Section 4 of the Councillor Expenses policy provides that claims must be lodged at a minimum of monthly and a maximum of quarterly.

Question 6

What are the actual financial limits set for Councillor travel expenses as a maximum per month and per year?

Response

Financial limits are not set, rather Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Sections 3 and 3.1 of the Councillor Expenses Policy provide that councillors will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses that are bona-fide and reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of councillor. Section 3.1 also states where travel is by flight the standard form of travel will be economy class.

Question 7

What action is taken by Council officers to validate claims for councillor travel allowances and to ensure the appropriate limits are not exceeded?

Response

It is the Councillors responsibility to ensure the travel claimed meets the policy and an affirmation is included on each claim which the Councillor signs.

Brijal Parikh submitted 1 question and was not present at the Meeting, the question was not read aloud.

This question references Pakenham Band.

Question 1

Is it possible to provide a piece of land for the community that can accommodate over 1,000 members and still be made available for use at a very reasonable cost?

Response

Further detail and information would be required to respond to this question. Officer's will contact the questioner to discuss this request.

Stephanie Davies submitted 3 questions and was not present at the Meeting, the questions were not read aloud.

Re: Army Road Hall

Question 1

What is the value of the land per Council's asset register?

Response

The valuations of these parcels of land are Lot 1 TP297905 \$127,850 and Lot 1 TP238546 \$448,000, as per Council's asset register and are compliant with the obligations of the Australian Accounting Standards. Asset register values are not necessarily reflective of market conditions, or any other influences that may impact its commercial market value.

Question 2

Why has only one valuation been presented to Council and why is this marked confidential from public review?

Response

As is normal practice, an independent certified valuation was prepared in accordance with the Australian Property Institute Code of Professional Practice and marked confidential. Independent Certified valuations contain information that is confidential in accordance with section 3(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

Question 3

Why has an obvious councillor conflict of interest not been noted or acknowledged by Council Officers in the report and agenda?

Response

Councillor Conflicts of Interest are declared in the Council Meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Question 4

Did council undertake an assessment of the building defects at the Pakenham Upper/Army Town Hall, decide it wasn't worth remediating the defects and if so - why is this assessment and report not included in the attachments to the Council Report?

Response

Council undertook a structural assessment, and this is included as confidential attachment number eight, a summary of this found on page 97 of the published Council Meeting Agenda in attachment five.

Henk Heeremans submitted 5 questions and was present at the Meeting, these were read and answered by General Manager Infrastructure and Environment.

Re: Heritage Springs Estate lighting

Question 1

Why were the old heritage lights removed at the roundabout and not at the other locations?

Response

This matter was responded to at the previous Council Meeting on 18 August 2025.

Question 2

Why did Ausnet recycle the removed lights?

Response

It is the Contractor's normal practice

Question 3

Are black lights safer than green lights? and why the color change from the 3 new ones just up the road which are green?

Response

They are equal in performance. They were installed based on colours available at the time.

Question 4

Can council quote the specific information their answer at the last Council meeting relied on stating the original lights were removed to comply with safety requirement?

Response

Council confirmed that the lights at the Livingstone and Heritage Boulevard intersection were removed and upgraded as part of a Blackspot project. This was done to improve visibility and comply with lighting standards under AS1158 – Road and Public Space Lighting

Question 5

Council stated we are continuing to work with the contractors and Ausnet, exactly what communication is taking place?

Response

Council has undertaken a process review in relation to the works and public lighting replacement.

7 Ordinary Business

7.1 Town Planning Reports

Nil

7.2 General Reports

7.2.1 DRAFT UPPER BEACONSFIELD RESERVE MASTERPLAN - ADOPTION

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Ashira 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:	<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>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 Owen, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council:

1. Endorses the final Upper Beaconsfield Reserve Master Plan.
2. Thanks the Upper Beaconsfield Reserve Committee, stakeholders, and broader community for providing feedback through the community consultation process to develop and finalise the Upper Beaconsfield Reserve Master Plan.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.2 LAND USE KEY LANE, PAKENHAM

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Jeanette Blackwood
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. 5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Alternate Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Negotiates lease terms with the Koo Wee Rup Motorcycle Club;
2. Defers any final decisions on lease arrangements until the Investment Advisory Committee has reviewed and provided advice to Council Lots 2 & 3.
3. Notifies Strategic Policy Advice Victoria Pty Ltd that Council will not proceed with the submitted proposal for the lease of Lot 3 for the use as a motorsports park.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.3 PROPOSED SALE OF ARMY ROAD HALL, PAKENHAM UPPER

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

Cr Thomsen left the meeting at 7:38pm having declared a conflict of interest in the item as he is a member of the Cardinia Civic Concert Band.

Cr Ross arrived at the meeting at 7.39pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Owen, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

1. Gives public notice of its intent to sell Lot 1 on TP238546B and Lot 1 on TP29705C, known as the Army Road Hall at Pakenham Upper to the Cardinia Civic Concert Band for the certified valuation sum of \$20,000 ex GST, (plus costs);
2. In accordance with requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community Engagement Policy undertakes community engagement for a period of 4 weeks in relation to the proposed sale; and
3. Provides a report to the November 2025 Council Meeting with results of the Community Engagement and to determine if the sale proceeds.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.3 Policy Reports

7.3.1 DRAFT NAR NAR GOON TOWNSHIP STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Lorna Lablache
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>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>2.1.3 Plan for housing diversity that meets community need, is affordable and delivers environmental sustainability, safety and healthy living outcomes.</p> <p>2.1.4 Advocate for increased and more-connected public transport options.</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>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive</p> <p>3.1.3 Work with community to improve and manage our natural assets, biodiversity and cultural heritage.</p> <p>3.1.4 Plan and advocate for better water cycle planning and management to reduce environmental impacts.</p>

Cr Thomsen returned to the meeting at 8.01pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

- Notes the feedback from Phase 1 of Community Engagement including the survey responses and written submissions.
- Endorses (in principle) the following documents for the purpose of seeking community and stakeholder feedback:
 - Nar Nar Goon Township Strategy (2025 – 2040), Part A – Background and Planning Context, Draft for Exhibition (Attachment 4)
 - Nar Nar Goon Township Strategy (2025 – 2040), Part B – Understanding Nar Nar Goon, Draft for Exhibition (Attachment 5)
 - Nar Nar Goon Township Strategy (2025 – 2040), Part C – Strategic Framework, Draft for Exhibition (Attachment 6)
- Supports the commencement of Phase 2 Community Engagement during October and November 2025.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.3.2 REVIEW DRAFT O'NEIL ROAD RECREATION RESERVE MASTERPLAN - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Sarah Fry
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 2.1.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need.

Resolution

Moved Cr Owen, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council endorses the revised draft O'Neil Road Recreation Reserve Master Plan to progress to community engagement.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4 Financial Reports

7.4.1 2024-25 DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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 Paton, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council:

1. Approves in principle the draft 2024-25 Annual Financial Statements and the draft 2024-25 Performance Statement attached to this report.
2. Authorises the Principal Accounting Officer to make any changes recommended by the Victorian Auditor General's Office or their agent (HLB Mann Judd).
3. Authorises Councillors Kowarzik and Paton (or other delegates if required) to certify the Annual Financial Statements and the Performance Statement in their final form after any changes that may be recommended, and agreed to, by the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4.2 DRAFT 2025 - 2035 FINANCIAL PLAN 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.

Cr Roberts left the meeting at 8.40pm and returned to the meeting at 8.43pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council in accordance with section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, endorse the draft 2025-2035 Financial Plan in principle for community exhibition from 16 to 30 September 2025.

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

Against: Cr Paton

Carried

7.4.3 AWARD CONTRACT CT000067 - CLEANING SERVICES FOR BBQ'S AND PUBLIC TOILETS (INCL. EXELOOS)

Responsible GM:	James Kelly
Author:	Melissa Nichols
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>1.1.4 Facilitate a partnership approach to create safer communities.</p> <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>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive</p> <p>3.1.2 Actively move towards zero waste through increasing waste recovery and reuse.</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>

Cr Pomeroy left the meeting at 8.58pm and returned to the meeting at 8.59pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Awards Contract RFT000067 – Cleaning Services for BBQs and Public Toilets (including Exeloo's) as follows:
 - a. Elite Property Care Pty Ltd (Hygex) for the cleaning of BBQs and conventional public toilets
 - b. Storm International Pty Ltd for the cleaning and preventative maintenance of Exeloo automated public toilets.
 - c. Both contracts are for an initial three (3) year term expiring 30 September 2028, with three (3) optional one (1) year extensions, subject to available yearly budget and satisfactory contractor review. The combined Year 1 contract value is \$298,925.29 (excluding GST).
2. Delegates the CEO to have the authority to approve up to 10% variation on the total contract value as declared in Recommendation 1.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.4.4 AWARD CONTRACT CT000074 - PAKENHAM REVITALISATION PROJECT

Responsible GM:	James Kelly
Author:	David Conomy
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 2.1.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need. 2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes. 5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.

Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council:

1. Awards the contract for RFT000074 Pakenham Revitalisation Gateway Project to Blue Peak Constructions Pty Ltd for \$3,444,739.35 exclusive of GST.
2. Approves the use of any contingency items as outlined in the confidential attachment for the delivery of this contract should they arise throughout the course of the contract.
3. Delegates CEO to have the authority to approve up to 10% variation on the total contract value as declared in Recommendation 1.
4. Notes that Manager of Community Infrastructure Delivery will act as Contract Superintendent to perform all Contract Superintendent functions as required under contract.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

At 9.16pm, The Mayor adjourned the meeting for 15 minutes.

7.4.5 CAPITAL WORKS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

Responsible GM:	James Kelly
Author:	Maria Fletcher
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>5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.</p>

The meeting resumed at 9.29pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council receives and notes the performance report for the FY25/26 Capital Plan.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.5 Activity Reports

7.5.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2025

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 Pomeroy.

That Council notes the community engagement update for September 2025.

For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Owen, 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:

- Acknowledged the Aria Calisthenic group
- Passing of Audrey Dodson
- Ageing Well Festival
- Cardinia Mens Shed having a garage sale on 11 October

Cr Paton addressed Council by reporting on:

- Attended Vic Farmers Association lunch
- Attended KWR Motorcycle Club race day

Cr Potter addressed Council by reporting on:

- Attended Officer Tennis Club Annual General Meeting
- Attended arts and cultural ref group
- Attended child protection week launch
- Acknowledged Fathers Day
- Attended Cardinia Aged care home on Tivendale Road.
- Attended Meet the Mayor in Officer

Cr Pomeroy addressed Council by reporting on:

- The 100's of volunteers leading into their finals - soccer, netball, football and equestrian.
- Bunyip Strikers Soccer Club making it to state finals.

Cr Owen addressed Council by reporting on:

- Passing of Bob Taylor AM
- Passing of Audrey Dodson
- Great attendance at the drop in session for Huxtable Road sealing.
- Mt Shamrock Environment Review Committee proposed extension - acknowledged community concern. Encouraged community to look at their website to understand the proposal.

The Mayor acknowledged International Day of Democracy and Peter Benazic's last Council meeting as Interim CEO. He also acknowledged the Executive Leadership team for their support since the resignation of Carol Jeffs.

9 Presentation Of Petitions

Nil

10 Notices Of Motion

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 1118 - CR POTTER

Resolution

Moved Cr Potter, seconded Cr Owen.

That Council:

1. Notes the Community concerns around growing traffic and changed traffic movements in the Officer area given recent changes such as gazettal of the Officer South Employment Precinct Structure Plans (PSP) and Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) by the Victoria Planning Authority, the closure of Station Street by the LXP project (Victoria Government), as well as continued development, and a growing population.
2. Requests a report be presented to Council, that includes:
 - a. PSP/DCP requirements for a future arterial road in Officer
 - b. Advocacy work done to date
 - c. Opportunities to progress prioritisation and delivery by State Government
 - d. Further Traffic counts and analysis on traffic movement are conducted within the Officer area on completion of Starling Street stage two works
3. Notes that the Notice of Motion will be actioned as indicated and will be a collaborative effort by Major Projects, Infrastructure Services, Community Infrastructure Delivery and Arts, Advocacy and Economy.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

11 Urgent Business

Nil

12 Councillor Questions

Councillor Potter asked two Councillor Questions.

Question 1

Noting the traffic safety concerns of the Officer community, what are the recent and upcoming planned works within the Officer area to improve the road network – including Starling Road, McMullen Road, Station Street and Siding Avenue?

This was answered by the General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Numerous road upgrades are being delivered as part of the Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) implementation, and will deliver improved outcomes through Officer, in stages.

McMullen Road

McMullen Road and Princes Highway is planned to become a fully signalised intersection in line with the Officer Precinct Structure Plan (PSP).

McMullen Road will be open to through traffic from 8 September 2025 associated with upgrades being delivered by developers, which will help alleviate traffic congestion in the future.

The developer is constructing the roundabout at McMullen Road and the future Boulevard and is also designing the new boulevard connection that will run from McMullen Road to Starling Road.

The developer will upgrade the section from this new boulevard down to the Starling Road/Princes Highway intersection.

These three sections of work will significantly improve traffic flow and connectivity in the Officer area once complete.

Starling Road, Officer

The newly constructed section of Starling Road (northern end – Stage 1) has been completed.

In response to community concerns, an application to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) in July 2024 proposing a reduction from 80km/h to 60km/h. Council has recently provided additional supporting information and remains hopeful for a positive outcome in the near future.

Starling Road is closed to through traffic from 9 September until early 2026 due to the commencement of Stage 2 works.

Station Street, Siding Avenue and North-South Arterial Road, Officer

Station Street, Officer was permanently closed as part of the aim to make the Pakenham line crossing free by 2025.

Council acknowledges that traffic on Siding Avenue has increased following the closure of Station Street and continues to advocate for the Officer north-south arterial road to be prioritised within the Victorian Government's infrastructure pipeline.

In recent times the Officer South Road shared user path was completed in 2025 which provides safer pedestrian/cyclist access to Officer Railway Station

Tivendale Road/Bayview Road, Officer.

These two intersections on the Princes Highway were completed in 2024. Future developer funded works along Tivendale and Bayview unsealed road sections are part of the Officer PSP and timing is undetermined.

Brunt Road/Whiteside Road intersection, Pink Hill Road/Whiteside Road intersection and Brunt Road/Rix Road duplication

These are all awaiting funding and scheduling.

Question 2

Given Cardinia's rich multicultural and multigenerational community, and considering the recent events and their emotional impact, how is Council working to create and promote safe spaces where all voices can be heard, understanding can grow, and connection and conversation are fostered to reduce stigma and build solidarity across our diverse groups?

This was answered by the General Manager Community and Planning Services.

Cardinia Shire Council stands firmly against racism in all its forms.

We condemn recent anti-immigrant rallies and far-right attacks on culturally significant sites. These actions will not influence our policies or values.

Council remains committed to fostering inclusion and respect through our Cultural Diversity Plan, the Multicultural Advisory Group, and the South East Anti-Racism Network. We celebrate diversity, protect human rights, and promote unity across our community.

If you experience or witness racism, report it at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/reportracism. Support is available.

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 10.06pm.

Minutes confirmed
Mayor