

# **Council Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**Monday 15 December 2025**

**Commenced at 7:00 PM**

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

**Members:** Cr Liz Roberts Deputy Mayor

Cr Alanna Pomeroy

Cr Samantha-Jane Potter

Cr Casey Thomsen

Cr David Nickell

Cr Collin Ross

Cr Jack Kowarzik

Cr Trudi Paton

**Officers:** Wayne Mack Acting Chief Executive Officer

Peter Benazic General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Debbie Tyson General Manager Community & Planning Services

Allison Southwell Acting General Manager Corporate Services

Peter Harris Manager Governance, Safety & Property

Natasha Berry Senior Governance Officer

Meeting opened at 7.00pm.

## Order of Business

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening And Reflection .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Traditional Owners Acknowledgement .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Declaration Of Interests.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Community Questions.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Ordinary Business .....</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1	Town Planning Reports.....	9
7.2	General Reports .....	9
7.2.1	Appointment To Committees .....	9
7.2.2	Appointment Of Community Asset Committees For Recreation Reserves...	11
7.2.3	S6A - Instrument Of Delegation - Council To Members Of Council Staff .....	13
7.3	Policy Reports .....	14
7.3.1	Cardinia Shire's Advocacy Agenda 2025-29 .....	14
7.3.2	Revised O'neil Road Recreation Reserve Masterplan .....	15
7.4	Financial Reports.....	16
7.4.1	Award Contract CT000093 - Koo Wee Rup Netball Courts Reconstruction	16
7.4.2	Capital Works Report - New Capital Project .....	17
7.5	Activity Reports .....	18
7.5.1	Community Engagement Update - December 2025 And January 2026.....	18
7.5.2	State Projects Yearly Update Report.....	19
<b>8</b>	<b>Reports By Councillors.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Presentation Of Petitions.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Notices Of Motion .....</b>	<b>21</b>

10.1 Notice Of Motion 1122 - Cr Paton.....21

**11 Urgent Business.....23**

**12 Councillor Questions.....23**

**13 Mayoral Minute .....23**

**14 Confidential Business.....24**

**15 Meeting Closure .....25**

## 1 Opening And Reflection

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Liz Roberts assumed the Chair in the absence of the Mayor, Cr Brett Owen.

The Deputy Mayor read out a statement in relation the Bondi incident that occurred on the 14 December 2025.

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

Mayor, Cr Brett Owen  
James Collins, Chief Executive Officer

### Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Thomsen

That Council:

1. Grants leave of absence to Cr Owen due to work requirements.
2. Notes that he will resume duties as soon as practical and will notify all Councillors and the CEO in writing when he is available to return.
3. Reviews the leave of absence at the February 2026 Council meeting, if required; and
4. Notes Cr Owen will not be receiving the Mayoral and Councillor allowance during this period.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

## 4 Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes

### Resolution

Moved Cr Kowarzik, seconded Cr Thomsen

That Council confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

1. Council Meeting 17 November 2025
2. Statutory Council Meeting 24 November 2025
3. Town Planning Committee Meeting 1 December 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 Nickell declared a conflict of interest in Confidential Agenda Item 14.2 Contract Variation, as it relates to his employment at DEECA.

## 6 Community Questions

In accordance with clause 3.52.2 of the *Governance Rules*, any commentary or preamble submitted with community questions was removed and not read aloud.

---

David Edwards submitted a question, the question was ruled out in accordance with 3.51 of the *Governance Rules*.

---

Anthony Volpi submitted 4 questions, these were not read aloud at the Meeting as the questioner was not present.

Re: Deep Creek Reserve

### Question 1

Based on the colour-coded areas shown on the attached map, can Council provide a total spend by area of how the \$12 million spent on Deep Creek Reserve was allocated across the following specific areas:

1. Red area – facilities and works under the control of CEC.
2. Green area – golf-specific works (two new holes and driving range/practice facilities).
3. Blue area – common/shared carpark.
4. Purple area – playground and the largely incomplete wetlands/parklands/paths which extend to the trainline.
5. Light blue area – the eco-centre building that was constructed in place of a purpose-built golf clubhouse and is now a shared-use facility.

### Response

Council is unable to provide total spend by the colour-coded areas shown on the map, however, can provide an approximate breakdown by major work categories, which broadly align with some of the areas shown on the map.

Civil with earthworks – \$2.2m

Playground – \$2.3m

Landscaping – \$0.5m

Golf-specific works – \$1.3m

Building – \$4.9m.

Nursery facilities – \$1.2m

In 2022, Council officially opened the new Wetland Wonders boardwalk project (\$200k). The trail and boardwalks, each with viewing platforms, showcase the 6 hectares of wetlands, a place of environmental significance.

Questions 2,3 and 4 were read together and provided with a single response.

### Question 2

Does Council have a projected timeline—either proposed or already adopted—for the design and construction of the remaining undeveloped areas at Deep Creek Reserve?

### Question 3

Does Council have a master plan, concept plan, or any design documentation for the remaining development of this area, and can that document be provided?

### Question 4

The purple area remains largely incomplete. What is Council's current forecasted cost to complete the remaining works in this part of the Deep Creek Reserve development?

### **Response**

That portion of the reserve is located within a floodway zone, which introduces complexities involving Melbourne Water. While the area is identified for potential water and environmental enhancements (such as detention basins and/or wetlands), there are currently no plans, budget allocations, or forecasts for these works. The southern section of the land forms part of Melbourne Water's retarding basin and is therefore subject to further planning by Melbourne Water.

---

Tracy Lee submitted 1 question, the question was read and answered by General Manager Community & Planning Services, Debbie Tyson.

**Re: COVID 19 vaccination safety contamination**

### **Question 1**

Now that you have publicly petitioned to increase vaccinations, will you now support the investigation into the contamination and safety concerns of the Covid 19 vaccinations regarding the paperwork you were served?

### **Response**

Council does not have any involvement in the administration or decision-making processes related to the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine program is led by the Federal Government.

---

Stephanie Davies submitted 5 questions, these were not read aloud at the Meeting as the questioner was not present. Two of the questions were ruled out in accordance with 3.51 of the *Governance Rules*.

### **Question 1**

How many community enquiries did the council receive following the publication of a Pakenham Gazette article about Council's proposed suburb naming shortlisting (circa 9 April 2024) and the councillors' vote on the shortlist (circa 8:00 pm, 15 April 2024)?

### **Response**

Two

### **Question 2**

Can the council confirm that all submissions and enquiries were recorded in a detailed and equitable manner, with no omissions or preferential treatment?

### **Response**

Submissions and enquiries were managed consistent with Council practice.

### **Question 3**

What objective criteria or merits justified the advancement of the selected submission to the shortlist?

### **Response**

Councillors considered an alternate motion at the April 2024 meeting that was unanimously supported by Councillors.



## 7 Ordinary Business

### 7.1 Town Planning Reports

Nil

### 7.2 General Reports

#### 7.2.1 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
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:	<b>5. Responsible Leaders</b> <b>5.2 Engagement</b> - We build trust and encourage participation in Council decision-making by providing ongoing opportunities for people to have their say, ensuring the diverse voices of the Cardinia community are heard and considered. <b>5.7 Governance</b> - We maintain a high level of transparent, accountable, unbiased and representative governance.

#### Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council:

1. Appoints Councillor representatives to the following Council committees:

Arts and Culture Reference Group	Cr Potter Cr Thomsen
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Nickell Cr Kowarzik Mayor as observer
Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG)	Cr Potter
Cardinia Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee	Cr Roberts Cr Potter
Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee	Cr Owen Cr Roberts Cr Kowarzik
Emerald Lake Park Advisory Committee	Cr Nickell
Motorsports Clubs Steering Committee	Cr Owen Cr Paton
Mt Shamrock Quarry Extension Environmental Review Committee	Cr Owen
Improve Safety Action Team	Cr Ross
Mental Wellbeing Action Team	Cr Thomsen
Reduce Family Violence Action Team	Cr Thomsen Cr Potter (Substitute) Cr Kowarzik
Financial Wellbeing and Resilience Action Team	Cr Kowarzik Cr Thomsen

2. Appoints Councillor representatives to the following external Committees:

The Cardinia Foundation Ltd	Cr Roberts
Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group	Cr Roberts
My Community Library (MyLi)	Cr Pomeroy
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Owen Cr Roberts (substitute)
National Growth Area Alliance	Cr Owen Cr Roberts (substitute)
Outer Melbourne Councils	Cr Owen Cr Roberts (substitute)
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance	Cr Owen
Greater South East Melbourne Group of Councils	Cr Owen Cr Roberts (substitute)
South East Australia Transport Strategy	Cr Pomeroy Cr Paton (substitute)
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Owen Cr Roberts (substitute)
Western Port Biosphere Councillor Liaison Committee	Cr Potter Cr Paton (substitute)

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 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES FOR RECREATION RESERVES

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
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><b>2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places</b></p> <p>2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.</p> <p><b>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</b></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>

### Alternate Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council:

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

#### Worrell Reserve

President	Matt Byron
Secretary	Vanessa Kewish
Treasurer	Shane Closter
Committee Member	Glenn George
Committee Member	James Campbell
Committee Member	Ian Crosher
Committee Member	Lynda Chiaruttini

#### Cardinia Recreation Reserve

President	Chris Beard
Vice President	Bill Orr
Secretary	Liz Bergmeier
Treasurer	John Adlam
Committee Member	David Young
Committee Member	Luke Turner
Committee Member	Riley Watts
Committee Member	Bradey Welsh

#### Sutherland Park Recreation Reserve

President	Glenn Burrridge
Secretary	Matt Hutchinson
Treasurer	Sandra Butler
Public Committee Rep	Carol Gibson
Conservation Group Rep	Sue Simmons

Garfield Recreation Reserve

President	Lara Canty
Secretary	Chelsea Burgmann
Treasurer	Julie Miller
Committee Member	Roger VanDerPas
Committee Member	Meg Platte
Committee Member	Judith Bishop
Committee Member	George Wouters
Committee Member	David Glazzard
Committee Member	Erin Polson
Committee Member	Tate Burgmann
Committee Member	Paul Osborne
Committee Member	John Simcocks

Huxtable Road Reserve

President	John Baillie
Secretary	Rosemary Buczak
Treasurer	Andrew Seen
Committee Member	Paul McMurray
Committee Member	Sally Moser
Committee Member	Sue Baillie
Committee Member	Brianna Mastalerz
Committee Member	Shanyn Heuvel
Committee Member	Karen Buckland
Committee Member	Sue Stewart

Lang Lang Community Recreation Reserve

Committee Member	Jo Beadle
------------------	-----------

Pound Road

President	Kristy Ritson
Secretary	Lorraine Stark
Treasurer	Sam Daly
Committee Member	Airlie Robinson
Committee Member	Chris Huntingford
Committee Member	Joe Interlandi

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

## 7.2.3 S6A - INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL STAFF

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
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:	<b>5. Responsible Leaders</b> <b>5.7 Governance</b> - We maintain a high level of transparent, accountable, unbiased and representative governance.

### Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Adopts the proposed S6A - Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, as amended by the *Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025*.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Instrument of Delegation.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

## 7.3 Policy Reports

### 7.3.1 CARDINIA SHIRE'S ADVOCACY AGENDA 2025-29

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
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:	<b>5. Responsible Leaders</b> <b>5.4 Advocacy</b> - We act as a proactive and powerful advocate for our community, influencing outcomes that improve and enhance quality of life, access to services and future opportunities for our residents.

#### Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council:

1. Adopts the following Priority Advocacy Projects, as listed in the Advocacy Agenda (Table 1), for Council-led proactive advocacy across all major government engagement opportunities, including the 2026 Victorian state election:
  - a. Lang Lang Truck Bypass (Indicative project cost: \$57+ million State and Federal partnership)
  - b. Cardinia Life Regional Basketball and Gymnastics Stadium Redevelopment (\$60 million equal three-way funding)
  - c. Strategic Road Sealing Package (Co-investment with councils adopted budget)
  - d. Public Transport Package (Improved bus frequency and connections)
  - e. Parks and Open Space Package (\$27 million three-way funding split):
- i. Officer District Park Stage 2 (\$7 million)
  - ii. PB Ronald Reserve Pakenham Stage 1 (\$10 million)
  - iii. McMullen Recreation Reserve (Indicative project cost: \$10 million)
2. Adopts the remaining initiatives listed in the Advocacy Agenda (Table 1) for proactive advocacy through Council's advocacy prospectus, federal budget submissions, and ongoing engagement with stakeholders, Members of Parliament, and election candidates to secure funding and support.
3. Authorises the CEO to make the necessary adjustments to the forward year budgets to commit the Council funding contributions required to support these projects, which will not proceed without securing the State and Federal Government funding contributions outlined in the Advocacy Agenda (Table 1);
4. Authorises the CEO to approve Cardinia Shire Council's Federal Budget Submission 2026, highlighting key advocacy priorities identified within the Advocacy Agenda 2025-26 (Table 1) relevant for the Australian Government;
5. Supports Council-led advocacy on the range of other strategic and opportunistic projects listed in the Advocacy Agenda (Table 1), including applying for grants where Council's contribution has already been approved through the operational and/or capital budget;
6. In line with the Advocacy Framework, receive the first Annual Progress Report of the Advocacy Agenda following the Victorian State Election in 2026.

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

Against: Cr Nickell and Cr Paton

Carried

## 7.3.2 REVISED O'NEIL ROAD RECREATION RESERVE MASTERPLAN

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
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:	<b>2. Vibrant Places</b> <b>2.5 Community and open space infrastructure</b> - We plan, deliver and maintain recreation facilities, open spaces and places that support community connection and promote the health and wellbeing of the community.

### Resolution

Moved Cr Potter, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Notes the findings of the revised O'Neil Road Recreation Reserve Master Plan community engagement report.
2. Endorses the final revised O'Neil Road Recreation Reserve Master Plan and thanks the community for their contribution.

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

Against: Cr Nickell and Cr Paton

Carried

## 7.4 Financial Reports

### 7.4.1 AWARD CONTRACT CT000093 - KOO WEE RUP NETBALL COURTS RECONSTRUCTION

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
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:	<b>1. Thriving Communities</b> <b>1.3 Wellbeing and liveability</b> - With diverse partner agencies we work to protect, improve and promote community health and wellbeing by implementing the Cardinia Shire Council Liveability Plan 2017-2029. <b>2. Vibrant Places</b> <b>2.9 Asset planning and management</b> - We manage assets on behalf of the community to sustainably deliver services with the optimal balance of whole of life costs and performance.

#### Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council:

1. Awards the contract for Koo Wee Rup Netball Courts Redevelopment to Idwala Pty Ltd for \$902,207.60,
2. Approves the use of any contingency items as outlined in the Confidential Attachment 1 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.

Cr Kowarzik left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Cr Kowarzik returned to the meeting at 8:03 pm.

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

Against: Cr Nickell

Carried



## 7.4.2 CAPITAL WORKS REPORT - NEW CAPITAL PROJECT

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
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><b>2. Vibrant Places</b></p> <p><b>2.2 Annual capital project planning</b> - We identify and deliver capital projects that provide and renew public infrastructure.</p> <p><b>2.3 Road network</b> - We partner with agencies to plan, deliver and maintain an integrated transport network that supports connected communities into the future.</p> <p><b>2.5 Community and open space infrastructure</b> - We plan, deliver and maintain recreation facilities, open spaces and places that support community connection and promote the health and wellbeing of the community.</p> <p><b>2.6 Infrastructure funding</b> - We advocate to and partner with all levels of government to deliver projects that improve our community infrastructure, open spaces and precincts to meet the needs of our growing Shire.</p> <p><b>5. Responsible Leaders</b></p> <p><b>5.3 Long term financial sustainability</b> - We manage Council's resources prudently and efficiently to ensure long-term financial sustainability.</p>

### Resolution

Moved Cr Kowarzik, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Approves a \$550,000 budget for Brunt/Whiteside Road Intersection – Preparatory Works; and
2. Allocates a Council-funded budget of \$550,000 for preparatory works on the Brunt/Whiteside Road Intersection project (including design of Pink Hill Road), noting the expectation that Council will be reimbursed these costs upon execution of an external funding agreement.

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 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE - DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
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:	<b>5. Responsible Leaders</b> <b>5.2 Engagement</b> - We build trust and encourage participation in Council decision-making by providing ongoing opportunities for people to have their say, ensuring the diverse voices of the Cardinia community are heard and considered.

### Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council notes the community engagement update for December 2025 and January 2026.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

## 7.5.2 STATE PROJECTS YEARLY UPDATE REPORT

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
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><b>1. Thriving Communities</b></p> <p><b>1.5 Safe and accessible places</b> - We plan for, provide and maintain safe, inviting and accessible public spaces and places, to promote pride of place and improve wellbeing.</p> <p><b>2. Vibrant Places</b></p> <p><b>2.3 Road network</b> - We partner with agencies to plan, deliver and maintain an integrated transport network that supports connected communities into the future.</p> <p><b>2.4 Road advocacy</b> - We advocate for State and Federal Governments for increased investment in infrastructure for all modes of transport, public transport infrastructure and services, and enhanced road safety treatments.</p> <p><b>2.6 Infrastructure funding</b> - We advocate to and partner with all levels of government to deliver projects that improve our community infrastructure, open spaces and precincts to meet the needs of our growing Shire.</p> <p><b>2.7 Advocacy growth/funding</b> - We advocate for fair and equitable funding to ensure Cardinia is equipped with the infrastructure and services needed to support our existing and growing population, accommodate increases in housing and employment, and help our community to thrive as a connected, sustainable and inclusive place to live.</p> <p><b>2.9 Asset planning and management</b> - We manage assets on behalf of the community to sustainably deliver services with the optimal balance of whole of life costs and performance.</p> <p><b>5. Responsible Leaders</b></p> <p><b>5.4 Advocacy</b> - We act as a proactive and powerful advocate for our community, influencing outcomes that improve and enhance quality of life, access to services and future opportunities for our residents.</p>

### Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council notes the progress, completed actions, and future milestones for the State projects detailed in this report.

Cr Thomsen left the meeting at 8:38 pm.

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

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 Kowarzik addressed Council by reporting on:**

- Condemned the horrific attack in Bondi, expressed grief for victims, hatred of this kind cannot stand in this beautiful country, thanked first responders. We can support at a local level, please donate blood if you can.
- Reinforced to members of our multi-cultural community, and particularly to our Jewish members that you are welcome and an intrinsic part of our community, we stand with you.

### **Cr Potter addressed Council by reporting on:**

- Shocked and heartbroken in respect of the senseless violence of the attack in Bondi. Thanked all first responders. To those who are hurting you are not alone, to the Jewish community we stand with you. Our community is strongest when we stand together.
- Wished everyone a safe, joyful season and a beautiful start to the new year.

### **Cr Ross addressed Council by reporting on:**

- Unspeakable evil that occurred at Bondi, it is not Australian to bring hate and does not underline who we are as people. The constitution represents love, care and hope.

### **Cr Pomeroy addressed Council by reporting on:**

- Sadness that she feels for what happened in Bondi. Recognised everyone who was there and paid respect to ordinary people doing amazing things to keep people safe.
- This is not for our country, we will stamp it out, it is not okay.

### **Cr Paton addressed Council by reporting on:**

- Acknowledged the recent passing of Kenneth Alexander and noted his connection to the Bowls Club in Koo Wee Rup.
- Also, Ken Mayle recently passed, past president and charter member of the Rotary Club of Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang.
- Extended condolences on behalf of Council to the families, friends and communities who knew these two outstanding citizens.

### **Deputy Mayor, Cr Roberts addressed Council by reporting on:**

- Condolences to those who have lost a family member in this terrible massacre. Encouraged the golden rule of treating others as we wish to be treated.

## 9 Presentation Of Petitions

Nil

## 10 Notices Of Motion

### 10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 1122 - CR PATON

#### Alternate Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council:

1. Writes to the Honourable Minister for Planning in reference to the *Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025* and Expresses significant concerns with:
  - a. The substantial regulatory burden on local government, and absence of consultation with councils on the Bill.
  - b. The removal of public notice process for certain application types. Public notice is the mechanism that councils rely on to ensure local communities know about proposals, and to ensure that local knowledge can add value to the decision-making process.
  - c. The new codified residential development pathways all 'switch off' the environmental protections found at Section 60 of the Act - specifically the ability of the decision-maker to consider the presence of contaminated land, or the known risk of floods, fires or land-slips where a relevant overlay is yet to be applied to the land. Victoria is one of the most fire-prone regions in the world and removal of these environmental protections fail to champion Victoria's planning objectives of a "safe living and working environment" and ignores the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission and decades of planning policy seeking to preserve human life.
  - d. The new provisions will make it more difficult for councillors, applicants, submitters, and members of the public to understand the local government conflict of interest tests.
  - e. Implementation details are left to the regulations without any guarantee of consultation. The Bill provides over 100 instances where matters are still to be prescribed in the regulations.
  - f. There is no state funding commitment alongside the Bill to assist councils to implement this proposed permit streaming in a consistent statewide system.
  - g. The Bill does not provide a new head of power to require affordable housing in future, where development potential is proposed to be greatly increased.
2. Advises the Minister that Cardinia Shire Council corroborates the Municipal Association of Victoria's "Local Government position: Planning Amendment Bill 2025", published 6 November 2025;
3. Requests the State Government to require that in line with recommendations of the Select Committee inquiring into Victoria Planning Provisions VC257, VC267 and VC274, new section 4K of the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025, commences on the day after Royal Assent; and
4. Requests the State Government to pause progress of the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 in its current form and work with local government to design a new process.
5. Commits to actively monitoring the development of regulations and implementation frameworks associated with the Bill over the next two years.

6. Commits to advocate and provide feedback through the Planning once the Bill is enacted, to help shape transparent, well-resourced regulations that reflect community and local government priorities, including:
  - a. Transparency and community engagement;
  - b. Protection of environmental and safety considerations;
  - c. Advocacy for local government interests in any future amendments or regulatory instruments;
  - d. Influencing how regulations are structured and resourced, highlighting operational impact on councils;
  - e. Recommending that State Government provide supportive funding to ensure councils have capacity to implement permit streaming and other reforms consistently.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

## 11 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

## 12 Councillor Questions

There was no Councillor questions.

## 13 Mayoral Minute

**The Deputy Mayor, Cr Roberts addressed Council by reporting on:**

- Thanked Pakenham Rotary for brightening up the Main street with Christmas decorations, noting that support from a Council grant achieved this.
- Thanked all staff at Cardinia Shire for the work they have done over the last year, particularly the support offered to new Councillors.
- Proud of the development of the Council Plan that will guide us in the new year.
- Wish those who celebrate Christmas a blessed, happy and holy Christmas and encouraged everyone to keep safe. Thanked those who undertake essential service roles at this time.

## 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.

### Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Paton.

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 – Land Acquisition is designated confidential on the grounds that it relates to s.3(1)(c) Land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values.
2. Agenda Item 14.2 - Contract Variation is designated on the grounds that it relates to s.3(1)(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9.28pm to clear the Chambers for the Closed Session.



## 15 Meeting Closure

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

---

Minutes confirmed  
Mayor