

Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 16 February 2026

Commenced at 6:00 PM

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

Members: Cr Brett Owen Mayor
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: James Collins Chief Executive Officer
James Kelly Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Environment
Linda Ross Acting 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 6.00pm.

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
6	Community Questions.....	6
7	Ordinary Business.....	10
7.1	General Reports.....	10
7.1.1	Councillor Appointment To Food And Agribusiness Advisory Committee.....	10
7.1.2	Appointment Of Community Asset Committees For Recreation Reserves And Halls	11
7.1.3	Road Discontinuance 11 Rosebery Street Lang Lang.....	13
7.2	Town Planning Reports	14
7.2.1	C283 Fix Up Amendment - Anomalies And Errors Amendment 2025 - Updated	14
7.2.2	Town Planning Activity Report	15
7.3	Policy Reports	16
7.3.1	Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2026-2029	16
7.3.2	Glass Only Waste Service Update	17
7.4	Financial Reports.....	18
7.5	Activity Reports	18
7.5.1	Organisation Quarterly Performance Report – October 2025 – December 2025	18
7.5.2	Community Engagement Update - February 2026.....	19
8	Reports By Councillors.....	20

9 Presentation Of Petitions.....20

10 Notices Of Motion21

 10.1 Notice Of Motion 1123 - Cr Kowarzik21

 10.2 Notice Of Motion 1124 - Cr Nickell22

 10.3 Notice Of Motion 1125 - Cr Nickell23

11 Urgent Business24

12 Councillor Questions.....24

13 Mayoral Minute24

14 Confidential Business25

 14.1 CEO Employment Matters Committee25

15 Meeting Closure26

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

Nil

Ash Wednesday

The Mayor acknowledged tonight as the 43rd anniversary of Ash Wednesday.

4 Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Kowarzik

That Council confirms the minutes of Council Meeting Monday 15 December 2025.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

5 Declaration Of Interests

Cr Liz Roberts declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda Item 10.1 Notice of Motion 1123 – Cr Kowarzik – Decorative Street lights, as a family member works for the lighting replacement contractors.

Cr David Nickell declared a general conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.3.2 Glass Only Waste Service Update, as it relates to his employment.

James Collins, Chief Executive Officer declared a material conflict of interest in Confidential Agenda Item 14.1 CEO Employment Matters Committee, as the matter relates directly to his employment.

6 Community Questions

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

Stephanie Davies submitted 7 questions. These were not answered in the meeting as they were not present.

Question 1 and 2 answered together.

Re: Differential Treatment of Naming Submissions (Pakenham East)

Question 1

Can Cardinia Shire Council explain why the Carney family naming submission received on 11 April 2024 was progressed into the suburb naming shortlist with staff assistance, while the Duff family submission received on 12 April 2024 was not progressed?

Question 2

In particular: what assessment criteria were applied to each submission, what staff involvement occurred in supporting or refining submissions, and how procedural fairness and consistency between submitters was ensured?

Response

Councillor Moore moved an alternate motion regarding the proposed name Honora at the 15 April 2024 Council meeting. A formal submission for the name Hannah was not received until 29 April 2024.

Question 3 and 4 have been ruled out in accordance with Clause 3.51 of the Governance Rules.

Re: Implementation Delay and Governance Oversight

Question 5

Can Council also provide an update on the progression of the suburb naming decision (Honora) and the road renaming decision (Mount Ararat South Road to Hannah Road) adopted on 15 July 2024, noting that Council is now approaching two years post-decision?

Response

Council is awaiting a decision from GNV on the naming proposal.

Question 6

In particular: what steps have been taken to progress formal approval with Geographic Names Victoria (GNV), what remains outstanding, and what timeframes now apply?

Response

Council made a formal proposal to GNV on 13 August 2025 and has provided information in support of the proposal where requested. There is no outstanding action with Council. Council awaits GNV's decision.

Re: Governance Reset – New Council Oversight

Question 7

Finally, given the passage of time and that these decisions were made by a previous Council, will the Council administration commit to bringing a formal report to the current Council setting out: the current status of the naming decisions, any outstanding probity, disclosure or process issues, and whether reaffirmation or corrective governance action is required, rather than continuing to rely solely on historical decision-making without updated Council oversight?

Response

Council made a decision on this matter on 15 July 2024. There is no requirement, or matter that has been identified, that would warrant a further report to Council. An update on the progress of the decision is included in tonight's Council agenda.

David Edwards submitted 4 questions. These were not answered in the meeting as they were not present.

Re: Correspondence from the Local Government Inspectorate dated 25/7/2025

Question 1

Has this correspondence been made available to all Councillors

Response

Councillors were verbally updated on the correspondence in August 2025.

Question 2

Will the correspondence be made publicly available

Response

It is not currently publicly available.

Question 3

Does the correspondence directly address the governance and conflict of interest concerns subject of Supreme Court action

Response

The referral to Local Government Inspectorate and the Supreme Court action are separate matters.

Question 4

Does the correspondence recommend that the suburb name be lodged with Geographic Names Victoria?

Response

The correspondence did not comment on lodgement. The Local Government Inspectorate referral and lodgement of the naming proposal to GNV are separate matters.

Falko Molzen submitted 4 questions. These were not answered in the meeting as they were not present.

Question 1

When Kenneth Road is scheduled to reopen to help relieve traffic congestion associated with the new school?

Response

Council is aware of the impacts on local traffic due to the closure of Kenneth Road.

Currently can't confirm a date but we will continue to work with external stakeholders to progress the funding, design and construction of the Thewlis Road and Princes intersection.

Drivers will be unable to access Kenneth Rd via Thewlis Rd until the intersection is upgrade, to ensure community safety and manage safe traffic volumes and movements.

Future updates will be provided on Council's website.

Question 2

Whether there are any plans to restrict heavy vehicle access through these residential streets?

Response

There are no plans to restrict heavy vehicle access to Kenneth Road or other local streets in the area. Trucks will still require access to later stages of development that is occurring.

Question 3

If increased police presence or mobile speed camera enforcement could be considered in the interim?

Response

Yes, this has been discussed and raised with police.

Question 4

Whether traffic calming measures such as speed humps or chicanes have been assessed or could be installed to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety?

Response

Kenneth road has already been designed with traffic management devices and there are currently no plans for additional traffic management devices. However, Council is currently in the process of getting DTP approval to sign the remaining sections (expected to be connected in the next couple of years) signed at 60km/h.

Scott Swinton submitted 3 questions. These were answered by James Kelly, Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Environment.

Question 1, 2 and 3 answered together.

Question 1

Will the Council commit to a traffic safety audit at Lakeside Primary School during peak hours?

Question 2

Can the Council increase Parking Enforcement Officer patrols during these times to act as a deterrent?

Question 3

What physical infrastructure improvements (e.g., additional bollards, "Keep Clear" road markings, or extended curbing) can be implemented to prevent parking on nature strips and roundabouts?

Response

The Traffic Engineering team will consider this as part of their ongoing assessment program. In the interim, our Parking Enforcement Officers will increase their patrol frequency around the school during peak times over the coming weeks to support pedestrian and driver safety.

James Heenan submitted one question. These were not answered in the meeting as they were not present.

Question 1

What relief and support packages can you provide for the massive emotional, financial and physical impact Road Closures are having on small family businesses?

Response

Council is not a delivery or funding partner on this project. We understand the challenges and recognise the frustrations with ongoing disruptions and upgrades around Pakenham. Council remains committed to supporting local businesses wherever possible and will continue to advocate strongly for measures that reduce hardship and promote recovery.

Council does not provide direct financial assistance to businesses that are impacted by State or Federal government projects. We encourage any concerned business to contact us directly to discuss options for managing their relevant rates and charges.

Adrian Dowell submitted three questions. These were not answered in the meeting as they were not present.

Question 1, 2 and 3 answered together.

Question 1

If an occupancy permit has not been issued for 20 Siding Ave, Officer, Vic, can Council provide a satisfactory reason as to why this building is perceived to be safe or why it should not be immediately vacated until such time as an occupancy permit has been issued and displayed

Question 2

If an occupancy permit has been issued and not displayed, can Council please advise why it is in breach of the above regulation 197 of the Building Regulations 2018, and

Question 3

If an occupancy permit has been displayed in this building, on which date was it displayed and where is it currently located that is accessible to the occupants of this gallery?

Response

An occupancy permit for the building at 20 Siding Avenue was issued on 31 October 2014. Essential Safety Measures (ESM) have been maintained annually by Council's Building Facilities team to ensure ongoing compliance and safety.

The occupancy permit is displayed behind the Customer Service reception counter at the Civic Centre, in accordance with the Building Regulations and is accessible to occupants upon request. It was placed in its current location in January 2026.

7 Ordinary Business

7.1 General Reports

7.1.1 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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:	5. Responsible Leaders 5.2 Engagement - 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 Potter, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Councillor Paton and Councillor Nickell be appointed as delegates to the Food and Agribusiness Advisory Committee.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

Committee Member
Committee Member

Clifford Bartlett
Kathy Bartlett

Modella Hall

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Matthew Osbourne
Kate Yeowart
Sophie Osbourne
Emma Hance
Roger Cromwell
Tom Hance
Lyn Pitman
Jennie Purvis
Gregory Osbourne
Joy Jenner
Isobell Campbell

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

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.1.3 ROAD DISCONTINUANCE 11 ROSEBERY STREET LANG LANG

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:	<p>2. Vibrant Places</p> <p>2.9 Asset planning and management - 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>5. Responsible Leaders</p> <p>5.3 Long term financial sustainability - We manage Council's resources prudently and efficiently to ensure long-term financial sustainability.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue 61m² of laneway (Road), located south east of 11 Rosebery Street Lang Lang, and to sell the land, if discontinued, to the abutting land owner at 11 Rosebery Street Lang Lang by private treaty pursuant to s223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and s114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, having considered submissions made in respect of the proposal, hereby:

1. Discontinues the Road in accordance with section 206, schedule 10, clause 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989*;
2. Directs that the land from the Road be sold by private treaty to the abutting land owner at 11 Rosebery Street Lang Lang, in accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*;
3. Directs that a notice of discontinuance be published in the Victorian Government Gazette;
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise the terms of the sale of land and sign all documents relating to the sale of the land from the discontinued Road to the abutting landowner at 11 Roseberry Street Lang Lang; and
5. Directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by South East Water in the Road.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2 Town Planning Reports

7.2.1 C283 FIX UP AMENDMENT - ANOMALIES AND ERRORS AMENDMENT 2025 - UPDATED

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>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 Roberts, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council:

1. Requests the Minister for Planning prepare, adopt and approve Cardinia Planning Scheme Amendment C283card pursuant to Section 20A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
2. Notes there is no “authorisation stage” or “exhibition process” for a 20A planning scheme amendment. Council is required to lodge the full amendment and all relevant documents at the same time as the application for the Minister’s approval.
3. Authorises the Manager of Planning and Design to make any administrative level changes if required to the proposed planning scheme amendment C283card that does not change the intent of the planning scheme amendment, prior to the Minister’s approval of the planning scheme amendment C283card.

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

Against: Cr Paton

Carried

7.2.2 TOWN PLANNING ACTIVITY REPORT

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Jason Gilbert
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>5. Responsible Leaders</p> <p>5.1 Customer focus - We deliver customer-centered service that is clear, accessible, and responsive.</p> <p>5.2 Engagement - 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.</p> <p>5.7 Governance - We maintain a high level of transparent, accountable, unbiased and representative governance.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council notes the following reports:

1. Planning Matters Dealt with by Officers Under Delegated Authority – January 2026
2. Planning Matters at VCAT – January 2026
3. Planning Scheme Amendment Activity - January 2026

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 Policy Reports

7.3.1 ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029

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>1. Thriving Communities</p> <p>1.3 Wellbeing and liveability - 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.</p> <p>5. Responsible Leaders</p> <p>5.1 Customer focus - We deliver customer-centered service that is clear, accessible, and responsive.</p> <p>5.2 Engagement - 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.</p> <p>5.5 Continuous improvement - We take advantage of emerging technologies to continuously improve our customer experience, ensure our services are efficient, scalable and secure.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Kowarzik, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council:

1. Adopts the *Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2026-2029* in accordance with the requirements of section 156 of the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.
2. Publishes the *Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2026-2029* and *Onsite Wastewater Management Plan Implementation Action Plan* to Cardinia's website.

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

Against: Cr Nickell and Cr Paton

Carried

7.3.2 GLASS ONLY WASTE SERVICE UPDATE

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>3. Adaptive Environments</p> <p>3.5 Waste - We collaborate with the community, industry and all levels of government to reduce our reliance on landfill and enhance resource recovery, with a focus on long-term sustainable services.</p> <p>5. Responsible Leaders</p> <p>5.3 Long term financial sustainability - We manage Council's resources prudently and efficiently to ensure long-term financial sustainability.</p> <p>5.4 Advocacy - 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>

Cr Nickell left the meeting at 7.02 pm having declared a conflict of interest in the item.

Alternate Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Delays the implementation of glass only waste service and universal food and garden waste service until the Service Standard are finalised and endorsed by the Minister, and Council has sufficient time to consider the requirements, plan and budget accordingly.
2. Notes the risk of non-compliance if deferral of glass and universal food and garden waste puts Council outside the legislated requirements.
3. Continues to support the collaborative advocacy effort between the 34 Victorian councils. Key advocacy objectives include:
 - a. Extend the timeframe for Councils to introduce a glass only service.
 - b. Expand the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to accept wine and spirits bottles in line with other states in Australia.
 - c. For the Victorian Government to review the effectiveness of the Container Deposit Scheme and assess against the usage of the glass recycling service that has been rolled out by councils to date.
 - d. That the Victorian Government share the Business Case it prepared on kerbside glass recycling for Victoria.
4. Writes to the relevant Ministers, Local state members and local Mayors to advise of this resolution, the reasons for it, and highlighting the concerns about cost, service inefficiency, and the desire to tailor and deliver appropriate services that suit our local community.

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

Carried

7.4 Financial Reports

Nil

7.5 Activity Reports

7.5.1 ORGANISATION QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – OCTOBER 2025 – DECEMBER 2025

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:	<p>2. Vibrant Places</p> <p>2.1 Strategic planning - We ensure the Cardinia Shire Planning Scheme delivers high quality outcomes that preserve the liveability and identity of the municipality and protecting our natural environment, while also accommodating for population growth and economic development, while preserving the liveability and identity of the municipality and protecting our natural environment.</p> <p>2.2 Annual capital project planning - We identify and deliver capital projects that provide and renew public infrastructure.</p> <p>5. Responsible Leaders</p> <p>5.3 Long term financial sustainability - We manage Council's resources prudently and efficiently to ensure long-term financial sustainability.</p>

Cr Nickell returned to the meeting at 7.17 pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Quarterly Organisational Performance Report for the period ended 31 December 2025, including the quarterly financial report for the purpose of section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Notes that the Chief Executive Officer, as required under section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, is of the opinion that a revised budget is not required.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.5.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE - FEBRUARY 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:	<p>5. Responsible Leaders</p> <p>5.2 Engagement - 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.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

1. Notes the community engagement update for February 2026.
2. Approves future community engagement reports be incorporated into and reported in the quarterly performance reports.

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 Potter addressed Council by reporting on:

- Condolences to the family of Carol Porter OAM
- Successful Yakerboo Festival celebrating 50th Anniversary
- Attended Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival

Cr Pomeroy addressed Council by reporting on:

- Acknowledged Australia Day Award winners
- Thanked AFL teams that have visited local schools.
- Congratulations to Business Network (BNI) Pakenham was awarded number 1 chapter in Australia.

Cr Kowarzik addressed Council by reporting on:

- Acknowledged the recent passing of community champions, volunteers that are the cornerstone of the community including:
 - Carol Porter, Trevor Wilson, Bob O'Connor, Tom Parker
- Thanked Minister Plibersek and Senator Darmanin for securing funding for emergency relief within Cardinia Shire.
- Successful Yakerboo Festival celebrating 50th Anniversary
- Thanked Anglicare Vic's Parent Zone Hub in Pakenham who participated in putting together a booked called 'Postcards from Cardinia'.

Cr Ross addressed Council by reporting on:

- Successful Yakerboo Festival celebrating 50th Anniversary.
- Cockatoo Mountain Reserve lighting upgrade
- Attended Australia Day Awards at Cardinia Cultural Centre and Koo Wee Rup.
- Attended Rating Strategy Review Community Engagement Session

Cr Roberts addressed Council by reporting on:

- Attended Berwick Pakenham Historical Society meeting.
- Successful Yakerboo Festival

9 Presentation Of Petitions

Nil

10 Notices Of Motion

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 1123 - CR KOWARZIK

Cr Roberts left the meeting at 7.47 pm having declared a Conflict of Interest in the item.

Resolution

Moved Cr Kowarzik, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Requests a report to be prepared for Council Meeting 18 May 2026 that identifies areas within Cardinia that currently have decorative street lights; and
2. Requests that the report include an explanation of the process for removing or replacing lights and SP Ausnet's role in this process.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION 1124 - CR NICKELL

Cr Roberts returned to the meeting at 7.52 pm.

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council writes under the Mayors signature to all volunteer brigades, Forest and Fire Management Victoria - Yarra District and the Mayor of Yarra Ranges Shire, expressing appreciation and thanks to the volunteers and staff for their quick action in extinguishing a fire at Seville East on 9 January 2026. This spared Cardinia residents from a potentially dangerous outcome, had the fire spread further under the conditions on that day.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

10.3 NOTICE OF MOTION 1125 - CR NICKELL

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council writes under the Mayors signature to the responsible Minister seeking a response in relation to the closure of the bridge/culvert over Tomahawk Creek on Beenak Road at Kurth Kiln Regional Park. Including a request that this is repaired without delay, due to its importance in providing alternative North/South access in the area to the north of Gembrook, in the event of an emergency, for the critical community safety of the Gembrook Community, users of the Gillwell Park Scout Camp and visitors to the area.

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

Nil

13 Mayoral Minute

The Mayor acknowledged the following:

2026 Australia Day Award winners

- Citizen of the Year: Robb Evans
- Senior Citizen of the Year: Maureen Timms
- Young Citizen of the Year: Eliza Owen, and
- Event of the Year: Emerald Arts Society Annual Art Exhibition

Order of Australia Awardees

- Beverley Edwards
- Alan Clayton
- Matthew Coleman
- Mohammad Kamruzzama

Passing of Carol Porter

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 Roberts, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

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 – CEO Employment Matters Committee is designated confidential on the grounds that it relates to s.3(1)(f) Personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

At 8.14 pm meeting adjourned for 5 minutes to clear the gallery.

15 Meeting Closure

Meeting closed at 8:31 pm.

Minutes confirmed
Mayor