

Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday 20 April 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
Ana Caicedo Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Environment
Wayne Mack Acting General Manager Community & Planning Services
Allison Southwell Acting General Manager Corporate Services
Peter Harris Manager Governance, Safety & Property
Sharyn Tilley Coordinator Governance and Councillor Services

Meeting opened at 6.00pm.

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1 Opening and Reflection

I would ask those gathered to join us now for a few moments of silence as we reflect on our roles in this chamber. Please use this opportunity for reflection, Prayer or thought, to focus on our shared intention to work respectfully together for the well-being of our whole community.

2 Traditional Owners Acknowledgement

Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

3 Apologies

Nil

4 Adoption and Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Nickell

That Council confirms the minutes of:

1. Council Meeting Monday 16 March 2026; and
2. Additional Council Meeting Tuesday 7 April 2026

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

Nil

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 was not present, and their questions were not read at the meeting.

Re: Technology One Enterprise Software decision 16 March 2026

Question 1

Were councillors aware that several council staff have recently left Cardinia Shire to work for Technology One?

Response

Technology One recruits employees with Council experience to support the development of their software. This has included previous employees of Cardinia Shire Council.

The tender and evaluation was strictly overseen by an independent Probity advisor, in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy. This included a review of all declared all potential conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were present or affected the procurement.

Question 2

Has Council assessed total expenditure on Technology One software, including all variations?

Response

The total Enterprise Software project included a full assessment of the project, including all anticipated costs, and an assessment of cost risks from similar projects.

As with any project of this size, potential variations during the implementation project have been considered and will be managed appropriately.

Question 3

Did the tender evaluation consider prior expenditure and contract variations?

Response

The tender evaluation considered the track record of the tenderers, including:

- the experience of other Councils implementing similar-scale projects,
- tenderer's past performance and
- tenderer's history of contract variations.

Question 4

Were potential conflicts of interest disclosed and assessed?

Response

The entire tender process, including all evaluations were subject to external probity monitoring, in accordance with the Council Procurement Policy. A report of the probity advisor accompanied the tender evaluation report and confirmed that there were no unresolved conflicts impacting the recommendation.

Question 5

Why was no community consultation undertaken in the development and award of a \$35 million contract?

Response

The contract is not \$35m. The total project budget is \$32m, of which the software contract only forms part of this budget.

Community consultation does not occur in the evaluation of contracts. All Council decisions were made in public meetings, and the Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Council Budget that refer to the digital transformation initiatives have been subject to community consultation.

Question 6

Were alternative suppliers or solutions meaningfully considered?

Response

The tender was a full public tender, open from 6th September to 14 October 2025. All tenders were considered through a multi-stage evaluation process set out in an approved evaluation plan. The full tender evaluation was reviewed by independent probity advisors, who confirmed that the tenderers were treated fairly and assessed on their merits in accordance with that plan.

Question 7

Did Council consider, or seek guidance from the MAV or other avenues, on shared purchasing opportunities?

Response

Council considered the advice of independent advisors during consideration of the business gap analysis, and the tender evaluation. Due to the nature of the tender, and the fact that neighbouring Councils have made their own independent purchasing commitments in recent years, shared purchasing opportunities were not considered feasible.

Question 8

How were projected costs over the four-year contract determined and reviewed?

Response

Council engaged an independent and experienced consultant to determine the business case and projected costs of the project. These projections were reviewed against equivalent, recent projects of a similar nature by other local governments. These projections have proven to be accurate.

Question 9

What measures are in place to ensure value for money and contract performance?

Response

The project will include a governance and benefits realisation framework, and progress will be periodically reported to the Audit & Risk Committee and via reporting to Council.

Question 10

How has Cardinia Shire Council ensured the multiple Victorian councils adopting the Technology One system at similar cost will not lead to inefficiencies or overcharging?

Response

Following an extensive evaluation process, TechnologyOne was recommended as it represented the best value for money in accordance with the tender put to the market.

Question 11

Were implementation, training, and integration risks formally assessed?

Response

Yes

Question 12

What oversight mechanisms will councillors have during the contract term?

Response

The progress of the project will be routinely reported to Councillors and the Audit & Risk Committee, as well as reporting on the Council Plan initiatives. Formal project governance and reporting mechanisms will also apply.

Re: Agenda Council Meeting 20 April 2026 - 7.1.1 – Governance Rules Review

Question 13

Can Council explain the rationale for requiring a questioner to be physically present for their question and response to be included in the public record, and how this aligns with the transparency and community engagement principles under the Local Government Act 2020?

Response

When the questioner is not present at the Council Meeting, the question and response is not read and therefore there is no record to be included in the meeting minutes. Residents can always submit questions via mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au We will be welcoming feedback from the community on the proposed changes as part of the Governance Rules review.

Re: Agenda Council Meeting 20 April 2026 - 7.4.2 – Draft Budget 2026–27

Question 14

What is the total expected whole-of-life cost of the Council's IT transformation project, including implementation, licensing, variations and ongoing operational costs, and what level of borrowings or financial commitments are required to fund it?

Response

The whole budget of the IT Transformation Project is \$32million phased over 4 years. This includes the licencing and implementation costs of the software itself, and the relevant expertise to complete each phase of the project. After the completion of the implementation phase, software licencing and technical support are ongoing operational expenses. The contract term with Technology 1 is for an initial 5-year term, with the option of a further 5-years.

The use of borrowings was explicitly identified in the original business case presented to Council and formed part of the funding strategy considered and approved by Council.

Question 15

What governance and independent oversight mechanisms are in place to ensure major projects of this scale are subject to appropriate review, cost control and transparency to Councillors and the community?

Response

The progress of the project will be routinely reported to Councillors and the Audit & Risk Committee, as well as reporting on the Council Plan initiatives. Formal project governance and reporting mechanisms will also apply.

Goran Vukasovic was not present and their question was not read at the meeting.

Question 1

I would like to know has the cost benefit analysis been done? If they have can you provide the report and if not, why not?

Response

Before Council made the decision to award the contract for enterprise software, Council fully considered a review of the current business systems, and the business case to set out the costs and benefits of the proposed investment. This report and business case is available on the Council meeting minutes of the April 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting – these documents can be obtained on the Council website

James Brereton submitted 7 questions. These will be read and answered by the Acting General Manager Corporate Services.

Question 1

What is the total cost to Council associated with the Intercultural Festival at PB Ronald Reserve, including all direct and indirect financial contributions?

Response

The Intercultural Festival received \$48,000 seed funding, consistent with a tier 1 event available through Council's Festival & Events Grant program.

Question 2

Has any funding been reallocated from road maintenance or other infrastructure budgets to fund the TechnologyOne implementation? If so, please specify the amounts.

Response

No

Question 3

Will the business case, including benefit estimation and risk management plan be made publicly available? If not, why not?

Response

This report and business case is available in the Council meeting minutes of the April 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting – these documents can be obtained on the Council website.

Question 4

What specific consultation took place with the public prior to the Council and Councillors awarding the contract to TechnologyOne?

Response

Community consultation does not occur prior to awarding contracts. All Council decisions were made in public meetings, and the Council Plan 2025, 10 year Financial Plan and Council Budget that refer to the digital transformation initiatives have been subject to community consultation.

Question 5

Will the TechnologyOne implementation include integration with Snap Send Solve? If not, was this integration considered during the procurement process, and why was it not included?

Response

The TechnologyOne contract includes a connector to integrate with Snap Send Solve. However, Snap Send Solve is a 3rd party provider and the service itself if not covered by the contract.

Question 6

Did any Councillors or Council employees declare a conflict of interest in relation to TechnologyOne or any part of the tender and procurement process?

Response

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Councillors or employees for any part of the tender and procurement process. The procurement process was overseen by an external Probity advisor, in accordance with Council's Procurement policy, who confirmed that no probity concerns arose.

Question 7

What reduction in council staff is expected as a result of the efficiencies of the new IT system implementation? What is the value of the staff cost benefit?

Response

The implementation of Technology One will improve the efficiency of Council operations and is a critical component of Council's financial sustainability strategy. This is reflected in the Long Term Financial Plan adopted by Council in October 2025.

As Cardinia Shire continues to grow rapidly, the efficiencies of the new IT system will result in *slowing the rate of staff cost growth* over the next 10 years. Council projects that staff cost growth will be limited to 4% per annum, from a current rate of 7.5%. This is reflected in the Long Term Financial Plan.

Trevor Budge submitted 2 questions, with parts that total 4 questions. These were read and answered by the Acting General Manager Community and Planning Services.

Re: The Emerald Village Association in relation to item 7.2.2 Planning Scheme Review

Question 1

That in view of Emerald being designated in the Planning Scheme as one of the two towns in the rural area as a focus for higher order commercial and community facilities and services, and the continuing growth and development of Puffing Billy Railway as one the state's leading tourist attractions, that the review of the Emerald Township Strategy be included in the forward strategic planning work that the Shire will undertake in the current term of Council?

Response

Thank you for your feedback. The Strategic Work Plan is due to be completed by 30 June, 2026 in line with Council Initiative 2.20. The review of Township Strategies (Emerald and Gembrook) are being considered as part of the Work Plan and scheduled to commence later this year. We encourage you to provide feedback during the public consultation process, expected to be undertaken in May/June 2026.,

Question 2

That Council in the review of the Emerald Strategy Plan will undertake an extensive and transparent community engagement and consultation program working in partnership with the Emerald Village Association (EVA) and all relevant groups and organisations in Emerald?

Response

Community consultation forms part of any township strategy review. The Emerald Village Association and other community groups would be consulted as part of the preparation of any updated Township Strategy.

Question 3

That in the preparation of the Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge Management Plan and the review of the Emerald Township Strategy Council will establish widely representative community advisory groups for each project that will: represent community views, provide advice on proposed strategies and plans, and support transparency and trust?

Response

Community consultation is an integral part of the Green Wedge Management Plan and Emerald Township Strategy. Background reports are currently being prepared for the GWMP which will inform the key issues and future consultation with all stakeholders.

With respect to community engagement and the GWMP/Township Strategies, an engagement strategy is currently being finalised.

Question 4

Given that the 2025 Cardinia Shire Community Satisfaction Survey identifies the Hills precinct as having the lowest overall satisfaction levels and the highest levels of concerns regarding infrastructure and service equity, will Council commit to developing and implementing a formal equity framework—such as an equity impact assessment or place-based funding model—to ensure that infrastructure investment and service delivery are prioritised according to need across all precincts, including the Hills district?

Response

Infrastructure is considered as part of the preparation of any Township Strategy and considers a wide range of factors including accessibility, need and quality. After endorsement, Council would consider and facilitate infrastructure investment (where appropriate) in alignment with the vision and objectives of the Strategy.

Greg Menzel submitted 1 question. These were read and answered by the Acting General Manager Community and Planning Services.

Question 1

Is it possible to carry out a staged project where a line of courts (courts 9-16 which run east/west in a row) could have the new lighting infrastructure up and running much sooner?

Response

Funding for this project is being considered in tonight's meeting. Subject to Council's decision, the first stage is to acquire the required materials. We will work with the club and contractors on the best way to stage the works.

Rosa Santo submitted 6 questions. These were read and answered by the Acting General Manager Community and Planning Services.

Re: Artwork on Pakenham Outdoor Pool Fence

Question 1

What has happened to the Artwork that was removed from the fence that cost \$15,000 few years ago? Where has it gone to?

Response

The original artwork was damaged due to severe weather and was subsequently decommissioned.

Question 2

What is the cost of the new Artwork that has replaced the old artwork on the pool fence?

Response

The cost of the reprint was \$2,595.

Question 3

Why was the community not informed of this change and cost of the new artwork.

Response

Council responded to community online feedback to action a replacement of the mural after it was damaged during a significant storm. With the support of the original artist, the artwork was reprinted following artist consultation and reinstalled to preserve its longevity.

Re: Pakenham Outdoor Pool

Question 4

Will all these upgrade repairs be completed to re-open the pool before the start of this year summer season 2026/27?

Response

Council is working towards reopening the Pakenham Outdoor Pool ahead of the 2026/27 summer season.

Question 5

What is the full cost of removal of the existing chain link fence and gate, to installation of the new modern tubular flat fence panels?

Response

The cost to remove of the existing chain link fence and installation of new tubular fence panels was \$214,395 as part of the overall project works.

Question 6

Is the work being carried out by local tradies?

Response

The works are being delivered by Farley Pools Australia who are not local to Cardinia.

7 Ordinary Business

7.1 General Reports

7.1.1 GOVERNANCE RULES REVIEW

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:	5. Responsible Leaders 5.7 Governance - We maintain a high level of transparent, accountable, unbiased and representative governance.

Alternate Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council:

1. Notes information circulating within the local government sector indicating that draft Model Governance Rules may be publicly released for consultation by the Victorian Government in May or June 2026, and defers endorsement of the draft Governance Rules for community engagement at this time; and
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, in consultation with Councillors to lodge a submission on behalf of Council in response to any formal engagement from the State Government on the Model Governance Rules.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.1.2 OPTIONS FOR INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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:	5. Responsible Leaders 5.3 Long term financial sustainability - We manage Council's resources prudently and efficiently to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Resolution

Moved Cr Kowarzik, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. In response to Council Plan Item 5.13 establishes a committee with Senior Officers and up to three Councillors, including the Mayor of the day;
2. Appoints the Mayor and Cr Kowarzik and Cr Roberts to the committee; and
3. Confirms that appointments will be reviewed on an annual basis with existing Council Committees.

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 NOTICE OF MOTION 1118 - REPORT RESPONSE - TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT IN OFFICER

Responsible GM:	Ana Caicedo
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>1.5 Safe and accessible places - We plan for, provide and maintain safe, inviting and accessible public spaces and places, to promote pride of place and improve wellbeing.</p> <p>2. Vibrant Places</p> <p>2.3 Road network - We partner with agencies to plan, deliver and maintain an integrated transport network that supports connected communities into the future.</p> <p>2.4 Road advocacy - 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>2.7 Advocacy growth/funding - 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>

Resolution

Moved Cr Potter, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council notes that:

1. The deep concerns regarding the closure of the Station Street level crossing without the delivery of the North South Arterial Road, have been communicated to the State Government and relevant agencies on numerous occasions by officers.
2. The Mayor and CEO have met with relevant stakeholders at the State level to advocate on behalf of the community, emphasising the urgent need for the Department of Transport and Planning to commit to a funding and construction timeline.
3. Persistent and ongoing advocacy efforts by Council will continue to request the State Government fulfills its responsibility to deliver this critical infrastructure and mitigate the safety and traffic impacts currently being felt by the Officer community.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.1.4 LOCAL STREET SEALING INITIATIVE (LSSI) PROGRAM

Responsible GM:	Ana Caicedo
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>2.2 Annual capital project planning - We identify and deliver capital projects that provide and renew public infrastructure.</p> <p>2.3 Road network - We partner with agencies to plan, deliver and maintain an integrated transport network that supports connected communities into the future.</p> <p>2.4 Road advocacy - 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>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>

Alternate Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council:

1. Adopts the proposed assessment and weighting criteria for the proposed Local Street Sealing Initiative (LSSI) program as Council's endorsed framework for establishing the order of priority to guide initial engagement and consultation with affected property owners;
2. Endorses the approach to plan, assess, and investigate potential schemes in accordance with the adopted priority sequencing, with the outcomes of property owner consultation and investigations presented to Council for consideration;
3. Confirms the continuation of the bi-annual recurring budget allocation to support the ongoing preparation, consultation, and delivery of the LSSI program.;
4. Notes that Initiative 2.12 of the Council Plan 2025-29 (Develop an Unsealed Roads Improvement Plan) is progressing and will provide strategic guidance and supporting analysis to inform and possibly enhance the LSSI program; and
5. Receives a report in May 2026 listing the roads that satisfy the criteria established within the LSSI framework.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.1.5 PAKENHAM REGIONAL TENNIS CENTRE LIGHTING UPGRADE PROJECT

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>2.2 Annual capital project planning - We identify and deliver capital projects that provide and renew public infrastructure.</p> <p>2.5 Community and open space infrastructure - 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>

Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Thomsen.

That Council:

1. Approves the expenditure of \$300,000 for the Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre lighting project in the 2025/2026 capital program.
2. Notes that \$775,000 is allocated in the draft 2026/27 capital works program for the completion of this project.

Cr Kowarzik left the meeting at 7:14 pm and returned at 7:15 pm.

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

Against: Cr Nickell and Cr Paton

Carried

7.1.6 INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

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:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves that:

1. The member of Council staff referred to in the attached Instrument be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument:
 - a. Ryan Harris
 - b. Sam Smith
 - c. Nathaniel Knight

2. That the instrument comes into force immediately it is signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

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 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C282 OFFICER KILN CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS

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:	2. Vibrant Places 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.

Resolution

Moved Cr Potter, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council:

1. Notes and consider all submissions made to Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C282card, in accordance with Section 22(1) of the of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Council officers report and Attachment 1-4.
2. In accordance with section 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, refer all submissions for consideration to an independent Planning Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning under Part 8 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
3. Authorises Council officers to consider late or modified submissions received prior to a Planning Panel hearing appointed by the Minister for Planning under section 22 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
4. Authorises Council officers to present a submission at a future Planning Panel and make decisions at the Planning Panel regarding any proposed changes or revisions to the exhibited Amendment, generally in accordance with the officer report, officer recommendations and Attachments 1-4;
5. Authorises Council officers to write to the applicant and all submitters to advise of Councils resolution to the submissions received to proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C282card.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

7.2.2 ENDORSEMENT OF DRAFT PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW (PART A) FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

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>3. Adaptive Environments</p> <p>3.1 Biodiversity - We protect our biodiversity and enhance our natural assets and diverse ecosystems.</p> <p>4. Prosperous Economies</p> <p>4.1 Investment attraction - We advocate for major infrastructure projects and investment that secure and enhance the economic potential of the municipality.</p> <p>5. Responsible Leaders</p> <p>5.1 Customer focus - We deliver customer-centred 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>5.9 Gender and social equity - We consider gender and social equity when making decisions, and we ensure that our policies, programs and services promote gender equality.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council:

6. Endorses the Cardinia Planning Scheme Review to be split into Part A and Part B to meet the obligations set by the Minister for Planning, as defined in Attachment 1.
7. Notes and consider the Draft Planning Scheme Review Report Part A (Attachment 2) and the Marked-up Planning Scheme (Attachment 3).
8. Endorses the Draft Planning Scheme Review Report Part A (Attachment 2) and the Marked-up Planning Scheme (Attachment 3) to be placed on public engagement for four weeks from the 21 April 2026.
9. Authorises Council officers to consider all submissions received and determine if any changes are required to the Draft Planning Scheme Review Report Part A (Attachment 2) and the Marked-up Planning Scheme (Attachment 3), before presenting back to Council on the outcomes.

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 KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION GUIDELINES ENDORSEMENT

Responsible GM:	Ana Caicedo
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive 3.1.2 Actively move towards zero waste through increasing waste recovery and reuse.</p> <p>5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.</p>

Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Potter.

That Council endorses the Kerbside Waste Collection Guidelines.

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 AMENDED DRAFT 2025-29 REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

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> <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 Kowarzik, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council:

1. Amends the proposed Urban Residential differential rate from 110% to 107%, aligning it with the rate currently being levied; and
2. Adopts in principle the amended draft 2025-29 Revenue and Rating Plan subject to revision to reflect this amendment and commence community exhibition

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

Against: Cr Nickell and Cr Paton

Carried

7.4.2 DRAFT 2026-27 BUDGET, INCLUDING CAPITAL PLAN FOR ADOPTION IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible GM:	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. Responsible Leaders 5.3 Long term financial sustainability - We manage Council's resources prudently and efficiently to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Nickell.

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft 2026-27 Budget (including the draft 2026-27 Capital Works Program) to be prepared in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* be approved in principle for the purpose of giving public notice and providing a period of public exhibition of the draft Budget.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. Give public notice in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy of Council's intention to adopt the 2026-27 Budget (including the 2026-27 Capital Works Program) at the Council meeting to be held on 15 June 2026.
 - b. Undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy.

Cr Thomsen left the meeting at 8:39 pm and returned at 8:44 pm.

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 CONTRACT AWARD CT000075 - PROACTIVE TREE MAINTENANCE

Responsible GM:	Ana Caicedo
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>1.5 Safe and accessible places - We plan for, provide and maintain safe, inviting and accessible public spaces and places, to promote pride of place and improve wellbeing.</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 Nickell, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council:

1. Awards contract approval to award tender RFT000075 in separable portions to the following companies:
 - a. Zone 1 – award to Lucas and Co Pty Ltd t/a Lucas Tree Services
 - b. Zone 2 – award to Austree Pty Ltd
 - c. Zone 3 – award to Lucas and Co Pty Ltd t/a Lucas Tree Services
 - d. Zone 4 – award to Antler Tree Services Pty Ltd
 - e. Electric Line Clearance – award to Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd
 - f. Provision of After-Hours Services – award to Lucas and Co Pty Ltd t/a Lucas Tree Services
2. Delegates authority to the CEO to execute agreements with the companies listed in recommendation 1., for the Provision of Tree Maintenance Services contract, for the initial 4-year contract, and subject to performance and Council's discretion, up to two additional 2-year extensions.
3. Delegates to the CEO the authority to approve up to 10% variation on the total contract value as declared in Recommendation 1.

Cr Roberts left the meeting at 9:00 pm and returned to the meeting at 9:03 pm.

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

Carried

At 9.12pm, The Mayor adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

7.5 Activity Reports

Nil

8 Reports by Councillors

At 9.19pm the meeting resumed.

Cr Pomeroy addressed Council by reporting on:

- Anzac Day Dawn Services in Bunyip ward on Saturday.

Cr Potter addressed Council by reporting on attendance at the following:

- First Westernport Biosphere Meeting.
- Cardinia Foundation Business Lunch.
- Turning Point Church Easter event.
- Intercultural Festival
- New Life Presbyterian Church
- Vaisakhi celebrations at Officer Sikh temple
- Have Hope Colour Run
- Multicultural Commission regional advisory committee meeting
- Australia Afghan Anzac Day
- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Multicultural Advisory Committee
- International Women's peace day.

Cr Kowarzik returned to the meeting at 9:21 pm.

Cr Ross addressed Council by reporting on:

- Acknowledged Doug Evans for reading citizenship ceremony names for the last 20 years.
- Acknowledged Cr Kowarzik for stepping in for Doug at the last ceremony and reading the names.
- Attended Peter Benazic's farewell event and acknowledged his time at Cardinia.
- Met with Wurundjeri leaders at Emerald Lake Park.
- Held Councillor Briefing at Old Shire Officers in Pakenham.
- Attended Youth Advisory Committee

Cr Roberts addressed Council by reporting on:

- Invited to address the BAPS International Women's Day Celebration in Cranbourne.
- Relunched the Liveability Plan on behalf of the Mayor.
- Celebrated Harmony Day at Living and Learning Pakenham
- Attended the Cardinia Cultural Centre for the launch of a debut EP, *Pieces of Me*, by local artist, Magdalia.

Cr Paton addressed Council by reporting on:

- Attended inaugural meeting of Food and Agriculture Advisory Committee.
- Mayor received a letter from Minister of Transport and Planning to advise that the Lang Lang Strategic Extractive Resource area has been approved.

Cr Thomsen addressed Council by reporting on:

- As part of the Together We Can Committee advised that for the second year the candlelight vigil will be held on 6 May at the Cardinia Cultural Centre.

Cr Owen addressed Council by reporting on:

- Passing of Ron Meates former Pakenham Shire Councillor.
- Lisa Barrand, independent chair of the Environmental Review Committee for Mt Shamrock Quarry is retiring and thanked her for her service.
- Thanked Penny Harris-Jennings for hosting Councillors at the old shire offices.
- Acknowledged Beaconsfield netball courts works being completed.

9 Presentation Of Petitions

Nil

10 Notices Of Motion

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 1130 - CR NICKELL

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Paton.

That Council:

1. Writes under the Mayors signature to the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, Minister for Climate Action, and Minister for the State Electricity Commission and the Hon Sonya Kilkenny the Minister for Planning and Attorney-General of Victoria in reference to the development of large scale Battery Storage Systems (BESS) in Victoria and the need for a strong, transparent State-wide strategic framework to balance energy infrastructure needs with other critical planning considerations including community safety, the protection of valued agricultural and landscape significant land, local amenity, and the need for demonstration of local community benefits.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to write to Alistair Parker the CEO of Vic Grid, and Chris Miller the CEO of the SEC requesting a briefing to Council in the next six months on:
 - a. the Victorian Transmission Plan;
 - b. the role of VicGrid in planning and setting policy for BESS facilities; and
 - c. what safeguards protect communities from adverse siting and operation of individual BESS proposals.
3. Prepares an Officers report following the briefing by VicGrid, that includes principles for guiding Councils advocacy to government and relevant agencies on the strategic planning framework; and to inform engagement with BESS proponents and the local communities on BESS proposals within Cardinia Shire.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION 1131 - CR NICKELL

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Paton.

That Council writes under the Mayors signature to the Hon Chris Bowen MP Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, and to the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio Victorian State Minister for Energy and Resources, Minister for Climate Action, and Minister for the State Electricity Commission seeking urgent action including further legislative reform and financial incentives for landowners/developers to facilitate the installation of solar panels on all new industrial buildings within the Officer-Pakenham State Significant Industrial Precinct (SSIP) and investment in network infrastructure to enable connection to the grid network noting that:

1. The Officer-Pakenham SIPP with an estimated industrial land supply of over 1262 hectares represents an enormous opportunity to generate, store and use clean energy.
2. Includes the CEO's of Vicgrid and SEC in the distribution of the letter to the Ministers, with a view to their organisations' being informed of the State significant greenfield renewable energy design and construction opportunity currently available for a limited window in Cardinia Shire Council.
3. The Officer-Pakenham SIPP is currently under planning and subject to rapid development, and the opportunity may be lost without action now.
4. The National Construction Code (2022) does not mandate solar provisions for industrial buildings. The National Construction Code 2025 introduces a roof top solar PV obligation however also provides an alternate of reduced operational kW output.
5. Connection to the grid is constrained by caps on solar infeed because of aging infrastructure, the need for transformer upgrades, and the existing infrastructure is designed one way not for back feed into industrial estates.

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 1132 - CR NICKELL

Resolution

Moved Cr Nickell, seconded Cr Roberts.

That Council writes under the Mayors signature to the Hon Sonya Kilkenny the Minister for Planning and Attorney-General of Victoria seeking formal update on the status and progression of Cardinia Planning Scheme Amendment C278card (Am C278card), which was submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval on 10 January 2025 and has yet to progressed to approval. Amendment C278card introduces a new local ESD policy (Clause 15.01-2L-03) requiring environmentally sustainable design measures for development above a specified threshold and utilises a policy template developed collaboratively with DTP (formerly DELWP) and the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE).

Moved Cr Kowarzik, seconded Cr Thomsen

The motion be put.

Carried

The motion was put to the vote.

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

Against: Cr Paton

Carried.

10.4 NOTICE OF MOTION 1133 - CR OWEN

Resolution

Moved Cr Owen, seconded Cr Kowarzik.

That Council:

1. Writes under the Mayors signature to the Hon Sonya Kilkeny the Minister for Planning and Attorney-General of Victoria expressing the Councils concern with the operation of the deemed to comply assessment pathway for approval of residential developments introduced in March 2025 by the State government and more specifically, the inability for Council to consider and address objector concerns in its decision making; and to make decisions that consider character elements and amenity considerations beyond the standards contained in clause 55.
2. Requests that the Minister Commence a review of the deemed to comply assessment pathway provisions for residential development that includes consulting on the operational experiences of the local government sector, industry, and impacted objectors from over the last 12 months, and tests whether the provisions are resulting in good sustainable planning outcomes and processes that meet the expectations of communities.

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 Anzac Day taking place this Saturday and paused to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who have served our country, past and present. The Mayor acknowledged the significance of this day and the opportunity to commemorate the courage and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand service men and women, dating back to the landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

Anzac Day is a time for our community to unite in remembrance and to honour the enduring legacy of service and sacrifice. A number of services will be held across the shire this Saturday. Further details can be found on Council's website or through the RSL website.

14. Confidential Business

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

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

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

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

Resolution

Moved Cr Roberts, seconded Cr Thomsen.

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

1. Agenda Item 14.1 – Land Acquisition is designated confidential 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 Owen, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen

Against: Nil

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10.16pm to allow the gallery to leave the meeting.

15 Meeting Closure

Meeting closed at 10.19pm

Minutes confirmed
Mayor