

2020 Election Candidate Information Request Register

Last updated 22 October 2020



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire

	Date Received	Requested Information	Response Date	Responding Department	Response/Information Provided
1.	23 September 2020	Traffic survey- Morrah St, Hasting and Robertson and Wills Street.	23 September 2020	Traffic and Transport	We conducted a traffic survey in the unsealed section of Morrah / Burke Street earlier this year. The traffic data from this survey indicated the street was quiet, with only 40 vehicle movements per day. 95% of the traffic was travelling below 40k/h or less. Traffic calming treatments wouldn't be warranted for such a street such as this. Funding for local area traffic management treatments must be considered as part of the annual capitol works project bids. This means that only high risk, priority locations can be selected for potential funding streams.
2.	25 September 2020	An update on the Industrial Land rezoning	25 September 2020	Strategic Planning	Advised that Council made a decision on this at the Planning Services Committee on the 14th September, and that this decision is confidential under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2020.
3.	28 September 2020	Councils position on VCAT Ref P973/2020 – 51, 59 and 67 Stuart Road and 52 and 62 Railway Road, Tyabb	28 September 2020	Statutory Planning	Council's position on the application has not changed since it was resolved to refuse the application at the May 18 Council meeting. VCAT requires that Council circulate a set of draft conditions for the purpose of discussion during the compulsory conference, and also later during the merits hearing. In the event that VCAT overturn Council's refusal, these conditions provide a base for the permit.
4.	21 September 2020	Rye Foreshore project – feedback on submission	29 September 2020	Project Delivery, Southern Peninsula	The feedback period has closed we have received nearly 200 submissions. This will take a bit of time to review and respond appropriately. An acknowledgement will be sent this week and will provide some advice on a path forward. We will endeavour to undertake an analysis of the responses over the course of the next few weeks and respond to individual submissions in a more detailed nature.
5.	29 September 2020	Drainage enquiry - Merricks Beach Hydrology Studies	29 September 2020	Strategic Water Infrastructure Planner	We undertook flood modelling studies in 2015 for the Merricks Creek and East Creek catchments which includes several Western Port coastal towns including Merricks Beach. The data from the studies have been used for building applications and also for drainage investigations.

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					If you would like to report any current flooding issues, you can report to our operations team through customerservice@mornpen.vic.gov.au. But if there is any ongoing flooding problem that requires a strategic investigation or upgrades, we can discuss that over a phone call
6.	25 September 2020	Motor Bikes in Weeroona Reserve. Tootgarook	30 September 2020	Community Safety Team	<p>Rosebud Police have posted the to their Facebook page. <i>Eyewatch - Mornington Peninsula Police Service Area 25 September at 02:32</i></p> <p>Council will continue to work closely with Police to assist in identifying these riders and would hope that the community in this area would do the same. The Shire will also continue to look at entry and exit points to restrict access where possible.</p>
7.	30 September 2020	Stuart Avenue, Tyabb Lifestyle development hearing at VCAT Council's position at the upcoming compulsory conference, and whether there was any change in Council's decision to refuse the proposal, as per the Planning Services resolution of 18 May 2020	30 September 2020	Planning Services	<p>Draft permit conditions (commonly referred to as 'without prejudice' conditions) which Council was required to circulate to all parties in the VCAT process. This includes VCAT, the permit applicant, external referral authorities, and any objectors who have chosen to join the VCAT proceedings.</p> <p>The requirement to circulate without prejudice conditions forms part of VCAT's usual processes and is not an indication of support or otherwise for the proposal – they merely serve as a point of discussion at the Compulsory Conference.</p>

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8.	30 September 2020	Crib Point Outdoor Pool – is it going to open earlier than usual as per COVID-19 easing of restrictions.	01 October 2020r	Infrastructure Strategy and Climate	<p>Shire Officers are currently working closely with Belgravia Leisure to fast track the commissioning and ultimately opening of Crib Point Pool for the season.</p> <p>We have just received the relevant permits to empty the pool, which is step 1 in the process, and takes approximately 7 days to complete. Following this the pool shell will be cleaned, the pool refilled and finally the team will then work on getting the water quality suitable for use.</p> <p>The planned opening date for Crib Point Swimming is the 24th October, however if the above can be achieved sooner we will advise the community and open the facility. This information will be put up on the website and social media pages and sent to members and registered users of both Crib Point Pool and Pelican Park</p>
9.	07 September 2020	Atriplex removal Anthony's Nose	02 October 2020	Coastal Planning	<p>Atriplex removal and more broadly Anthony's Nose or 'The Rocks' both the Parks and Roadsides team and the Traffic team (who are responsible for the Bay Trail). There is a careful balance the Shire needs to achieve through retaining the natural vegetation and maintaining/enhancing a shared walking/cycling path at this key location. Your feedback and suggestions regarding the Atriplex have been taken on board and the future pruning of indigenous vegetation will be considered so to retain vegetation yet also maintain safe width for passing and sight lines along the Bay trail pathway.</p> <p>Looking forward, the Traffic team do note this as one of the key 'missing links' of the Bay trail and are in the early days of setting up a working group to investigate concepts to link the Bay trail from McCrae to Dromana with a safe all abilities shared pathway width. The Coastal team are working closely with Traffic and have flagged that your group along with other key community groups will be key in the initial inception and development of any concept.</p>

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10.	05 October 2020	<p>copies requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2019/2020 Financial reports (audited) and Statements. A copy of the 2020/21 Budget 	05 October 2020	Governance and Legal Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2019/2020 Financial reports (audited) and Statements. Council's 2019/2020 Financial and Performance Statements will be presented to Council Tuesday 13 October 2020 to be approved in principle before being forwarded to the Auditor-General. The 13 October 2020, Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda and live zoom link will be available via https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/About-Our-Council/Council-Meetings/CouncilCommittee-Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes no later than, Thursday 8 October 2020. A copy of the 2020/21 Budget Council's 2020/21 Budget was formally adopted on Tuesday 18 August 2020. A copy has been attached for your convenience and is also available to download via Council's website https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Strategies-Plans-Policies/Annual-Report-Budget
11.	07 October 2020	Where can I place election signs	07 October 2020	Governance and Legal Unit	Council's Electoral Signage Guidelines
12.	07 October 2020	How much it costs to run Council	08 October 2020	Finance	The Shire spends \$203M on operating activities, and a further \$35M on capital works, priority projects and debt servicing:
13.	07 October 2020	What is the cost of local government as a % of gross revenue?	08 October 2020	Finance	Total cost of Mornington Peninsula Shire operations is \$203.5M, from maintaining the roads, street cleaning, waste services to other essential services including providing and maintaining library services, sports & recreation facilities. This represents 85.3% of the Shire's operating income.

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14.	09 October 2020	Potential for the construction of a footpath extending beyond Weir St into Valley Drive, Rye	09 October 2020	Traffic and Transport	<p>New footpath requests that fall outside the Principle Pedestrian Network, can be considered under the Pedestrian Access Strategy to be funded via a special charge scheme, where property owners deemed to gain a special benefit from the works are required to contribute towards the cost of the project. To initiate a special charge scheme the Shire needs to have demonstrated support from the majority of residents (those who would form part of the special charge scheme) in the area/street.</p> <p>If you would like further information on this initiative please refer to the following website, https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Building-Planning/Engineering/Special-Charge-Schemes</p>
15.	05 October 2020	What can we do for people who may be in financial troubles due to COVID-19	09 October 2020	Health and Wellbeing	<p>There are a number of support services available for community members, which the Shire has listed on our website under 'Coronavirus and your mental health'.</p> <p>The Southern Peninsula Community Information and Support Centre in Rosebud offers a Financial Counselling support service or there is a National 'Money Smart' Financial Counselling service available to all Australians.</p> <p>The Shire upholds a strong commitment to working in partnership on local projects related to suicide prevention and mental health. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for the Chasing Change Suicide Prevention Network - Involvement in the Roses in the Ocean initiative - Key partner in local Suicide Prevention initiatives - Delivery of Youth Mental Health First Aid courses - Delivery of events for World Suicide Prevention Day

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1	09 October 2020	Easing of the 5km limit for green waste disposal	09 October 2020	Infrastructure Services	The waste team will be working with the comms team today to inform residents about the easing of the 5km limit for green waste disposal. Our customer service and contractor teams will be updated to ensure the revised service is delivered effectively from this weekend.
17.	09 October 2020	Mental Health Services for those over 25 years and older	09 October 2020	Youth Services	<p>The Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services is well connected to all of the local community health services and depending on the needs of the individual and where they are located we would suggest they either connect with Peninsula Health Community Health, Mentis Assist or Kindred Clubhouse who all offer fantastic individual and group based services for adults seeking mental health support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindred Clubhouse- https://www.kindredclubhouse.org.au/ • Peninsula Health Community Health (Mental Health Services)- https://www.peninsulahealth.org.au/locations/peninsula-community-mental-health-service/ • Mentis Assist- https://mentisassist.org.au/ <p>Whilst our service is only available to those 25 years and under, we make every effort to support those within our age range to appropriately transition across to adult services to ensure the experience is appropriate and importantly safe and comfortable for the individual.</p>
18.	09 October 2020	Fire Preparedness and Green Waste Disposal	09 October 2020	Director Place	Fire Preparedness and Green Waste Disposal
19.	09 October 2020	Somerville Recreation Hub Request for detailed design, and the approved budget details, of the Somerville Recreation Hub and complete timeline of the approval of the	12 October 2020	Sport and Recreation	Somerville Recreation Hub - Response

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		location and community consultation process undertaken.			
20.	09 October 2020	Somerville Recreation Hub Dates for construction to commence and will there be an ongoing dialogue with the organisers of the Somerville Family Day, in relation to construction and the impacts that may have on the Somerville Family Day going forward	12 October 2020	Sport and Recreation	For construction, we do not have anything certain at this point, however we are aiming to commence works in early 2021 (pending any further restrictions). Throughout the construction process, we will be in close contact with the Family Day organisers to inform them of everchanging site conditions.
21.	09 October 2020	Somerville Skate Ramp Will the temporary skate facility, currently at Somerville, be able to be relocated to Tyabb, (Tyabb Central Oval) which is where it used to be located, for Tyabb residents to use?	12 October 2020	Sport and Recreation	We acknowledge that the relocatable skate ramp was originally at Tyabb Central prior to its current location to Fruit Growers Reserve. The purpose of these ramps are to be shared across the Shire's many townships. The future location of the ramp is currently under review.
22.	12 October 2020	Hastings Foreshore Paths	12 October 2020	Roads, Drainage and Cleansing Operations	<p>The Shire maintains over 100 kilometres of unsealed paths and it's not possible to ensure that all of the Shire's path network remains dry throughout winter, and particularly a winter and spring as wet as we're experiencing this year.</p> <p>The paths along Hastings Foreshore are particularly challenging to maintain due to continual subsidence and grass growing up along the sides of the paths and preventing water from running off them. However, it's not only unsealed paths that suffer from the problem of grass holding water on paths, many of the paths in the Shire's path network of over 650 kilometres suffer from the same problem, and it's</p>

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					<p>not possible to keep them free from water permanently. Generally, the water soaks away between rain events, but this year the ground is waterlogged, and the rain events are frequent, resulting in the water taking longer to soak away.</p> <p>We've inspected the paths on Hastings Foreshore and identified several areas for improvement, however we'd be unable to undertake any work on the paths until later in the year when the ground firms up.</p>
23.	11 October 2020	Eco Park Active Recreation Hub Concept Design	14 October 2020	Sport and Recreation	<p>Eco Park Active Recreation Hub Concept Design</p>
24.	13 October 2020	Road repairs in Dromana and Safety Beach	13 October 2020	Roads, Drainage and Cleansing Operations	<p>The Road Management Plan details the frequency of programmed inspections and response times for the repairs to be undertaken. If you'd like any further information the Road Management Plan is available for public viewing on the Shire's website at this location.</p> <p>https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Community-Services/Roads-Footpaths/Roads/Road-Management-Plan</p> <p>With respect to Country Club Drive in particular, resurfacing alone won't prevent potholes from occurring. The problem lies underneath the road pavement due to the nature of the ground that the road has been constructed on. The underlying ground is black peaty clay that's very reactive to water, and any treatment will need to strengthen the ground under the road pavement. Our intention was to undertake a site visit to identify particularly bad areas with the view to improve the drainage and allow the area to dry out prior to undertaking remediation works, however Stage 4 lockdown caused us to postpone the site visit.</p>

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					Despite the lockdown, it's too wet to undertake extensive remedial works at the moment anyway and any treatment would be undertaken when the area dries out later in the year or next year prior to autumn.
25.	14 October 2020	Given the current delay until March 2020, can you advise what Council will be doing to ensure the Peninsula Swimming and Aquatic Centre is able to operate until such time as the new pool is completed?	14 October 2020	Sport and Recreation	<p>Council has offered support to local businesses within its capabilities during Covid-19 and will continue to do so where it can.</p> <p>Council also recognise the importance of making sure that there are aquatic and recreation opportunities are available for the community, however it will be at the operator of Peninsula Swimming and Aquatic Centre discretion when they decide to open and how they plan to operate, once restrictions have lifted.</p> <p>Despite COVID-19 restrictions, construction has continued for Yawa as a priority for Council and site contractors have been working at maximum capacity within Victorian government Stage 4 restrictions, to work towards project completion.</p>
26.	15 October 2020	Has the Shire refused to renew the Peninsula Aero Club's Secondary Consent approval to facilitate emergency aircraft after the end of the 2020 fire season.	15 October 2020	Planning and Building	<p>The Peninsula Aero Club has not lodged an application for Secondary Consent to allow emergency service aircraft to land at the authorised landing area that are above the restricted weights within the three key planning permits for the site. Furthermore, no Secondary Consent is required to allow emergency aircraft to land at this site. Therefore, there is no risk to the community of the Mornington Peninsula regarding provision of emergency services aircraft attending emergency matters.</p> <p>Council did not seek to join other parties to the Enforcement Order Application</p>
27.	16 October 2020	Continental Hotel – current appeal status	16 October 2020	Planning and Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current owners of the Continental Hotel have lodged a Section 87A appeal at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for amendments to existing planning permit of P15/2392. The proposed amendments include:

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changes to the built form; - inclusion of land 12 Riley Lane as part of the new hotel development - increasing the number of additional hotel rooms from 68 to 106; - works on public land located in Ocean Beach Road and Constitution Hill Road; - café to be replaced as a wellness centre; - removal of dwellings from the proposal; - internal layout changes • The following dates have been scheduled for the hearing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary Hearing: 12 November 2020 (online platform) - Compulsory Conference: 11 December 2020 (online platform) - Merits hearing: 29, 30 and 31 March and 1 and 2 April 2021 (online platform) • Interested third parties, who seek to be joined as a party to proceedings are required to lodge their statement of grounds by 27 October 2020 • As the original decision was made by Council resolution, Council officers will be listing this item for the first available Council meeting or Planning Services Committee meeting following the election period. The subsequent Council resolution will represent the Responsible Authority's position at the Tribunal.
28.	16 October 2020	Please provide the Mayor and Councillor Expenditure for the 2016-2020 Council Term	16 October 2020	Finance	2016-2020 Mayor and Councillor Expenditure
29.	17 October 2020	How will the Omnibus has passed. How will this impact Council meetings going forward? In particular to online rather than face to face meetings.	17 October 2020	Governance and Legal	The Act maintains the status quo until 26 April 2021. That is, it gives councils the ability to continue to close meetings for health and safety reasons provided they are livestreamed. It doesn't prevent Council from going back to face to face meetings should the Directions allow for it.

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30.	17 October 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the Shire have a budget surplus in the last financial year? If not why not? 2. How has the Shire approached the issue of farm gates in the green wedge zone, both before and during COVID 19, and what legislation does the Shire compliance operate under? What advocacy is the Shire undertaking? 3. Why has the Shire initiated both an enforcement order and a planning scheme amendment in relation to the Tyabb Airfield and how will the process work from here? What would it take to stop those processes and what conflicts of interest would future Councillors have to declare before they did so? 4. What factors were at play in the Shire increasing the rates in the FY in line with the State Governments 	20 October 2020		<p>Under the Local Government Act 2020, Council has an obligation to ensure that it does not publish election material or electoral matter during caretaker. Accordingly, some responses may be briefer than would normally be provided and not all questions can be addressed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Did the Shire have a budget surplus in the last financial year? If not, why not?</i> <p>The Shire did show a budget surplus in its draft financial and performance statements. These were presented to Council on 13 October 2020 and can be found at https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/About-Our-Council/Council-Meetings/CouncilCommittee-Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>How has the Shire approached the issue of farm gates in the green wedge zone, both before and during COVID 19, and what legislation does the Shire compliance operate under? What advocacy is the Shire undertaking?</i> <p>Council operates under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme for all land use compliance and has approached Farm Gates pursuant to that Framework. It would not be appropriate to comment on advocacy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Why has the Shire initiated both an enforcement order and a planning scheme amendment in relation to the Tyabb Airfield and how will the process work from here? What would it take to stop those processes and what conflicts of interest would future Councillors have to declare before they did so?</i>

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		<p>state-wide rate cap and what alternative measures has the Shire put in place to provide support and relief to those residents and businesses experiencing Financial hardship due to COVID 19? How else is the Shire seeking to support our community and boost our local economy?</p>			<p>Council as the regulatory authority is responsible to ensure compliance with legislation and policy. If there is non-compliance then Council may take action pursuant to the Act and its Planning Scheme. A Planning Scheme Amendment was identified as appropriate pursuant to Policy for the area and this amendment was conducted in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987. It is not possible to identify what future Councillors would need to declare as a conflict of interest, other than to say that conflict of interest provisions are contained within the Local Government Act 2020, and any future Councillors would need to comply with those provisions.</p> <p>4. <i>What factors were at play in the Shire increasing the rates in the FY in line with the State Governments state-wide rate cap and what alternative measures has the Shire put in place to provide support and relief to those residents and businesses experiencing Financial hardship due to COVID 19? How else is the Shire seeking to support our community and boost our local economy?</i></p> <p>Council's 2020/21 Budget was the subject of a number of Council reports and decisions. The Budget document and the Council reports and minutes are all public documents and are available at https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/About-Our-Council/Council-Meetings/CouncilCommittee-Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes. It is not appropriate to comment on the Shire's policy responses.</p>

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31.	20 October 2020	What is happening with the Two Bays Trail Run?	20 October 2020	Property and Strategy	<p>The Property & Strategy Unit is working with all event organisers to help plan if/how their proposed events can proceed (without expending/committing significant financial resources for an event that may not be able to occur), based on the current and forecast State Government COVID Restrictions. It is highly unlikely any events will be able to realistically proceed in January.</p> <p>In particular, we are working with event organisers to determine what will be possible in the events space, noting public gatherings are limited to 10 and then 50 people, and the Unit has started to request organisers submit event applications. Events such as the ones detailed below will need to be balanced against community expectations and the ability to accommodate day trippers and the local community rather than lock up roads and public space for individual commercial activity/events.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor the State Government announcements carefully to ensure we are ready to permit events promptly, when the restrictions allow, and in the interim have requested organisers begin to submit applications again. Whilst we do usually have set timelines in which event applications and supporting materials are to be submitted, we will be flexible with this given the current COVID environment.</p> <p>We are keen to see events return to the community but it is imperative that we ensure that these don't occur until it is safe to do so.</p>
32.	17 October 2020	Update - Wilkinson and Carmichael Streets, Tootgarook upgrade	20 October 2020		<p>The upgrade of Wilkinson and Carmichael Streets, Tootgarook has been identified as a priority project and is included in the capital works program. The tender for works was awarded in July 2020 with preliminary site establishment works undertaken. The on-ground works are expected to begin in early November.</p>

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					Updates can be tracked through the Shire's Major Projects page on the website which will be reinstated post Caretaker period.
33.	21 October 2020	Does the Shire know about Virtual Fauna Fencing	21 October 2020	Natural Systems	The Mornington Peninsula Shire is aware of the virtual fencing technology being trialled in Queensland as mentioned in the Facebook post you've provided below, along with several other trials that are being conducted in Victoria and Tasmania. A local environment group has recently approached the Shire to discuss their proposal of a virtual fencing trial on the Mornington Peninsula. Shire officers are working closely with the group to further consider their proposal. The concept of the virtual fencing proposal to reduce vehicle collisions with wildlife is generally supported by Shire officers. However, further consideration is required regarding the effectiveness of the technology and the appropriateness of its use within the Mornington Peninsula's landscape. Shire officers will continue to work closely with the group and other organisations trialling the technology to determine if and how this proposal could best be supported by the Shire.
34.	21 October 2020	Does the Council have information about suicide rates on the Mornington Peninsula since the advent of coronavirus and are these publicly available?			<p>The Victorian Suicide Register releases a monthly report since the start of the pandemic and publishes statistical information. The report indicates that year to date frequency has been relatively steady over the past five years, with the 2020 frequency slightly lower than in 2019. A copy of the October report can be obtained via the following link https://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Coroners%20Court%20Suicide%20Data%20Report%20-%20Report%202%20-%2005102020.pdf</p> <p>It is also important to note the latest Victorian Population Health Survey data showed the following for Shire residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23.8% reported experiencing depression or anxiety in their lifetime, similar to Victoria at 24.2%

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12.7% have sought professional help for mental health problem in the past 12 months, lower than Victoria at 16.0%• Further, 11.6% of young people on the Mornington Peninsula report having a high level of psychological distress and 0.5% have been hospitalised for intentional self-harm (per 1000 adolescents).