



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2025

6:30PM

**BLAIRGOWRIE COMMUNITY HALL,
12 WILLIAM ROAD, BLAIRGOWRIE**

MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COUNCIL

WARDS AND COUNCILLORS

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Beek Beek | Cr Kate Roper |
| Benbenjie | Cr Max Patton |
| Briars | Cr Anthony Marsh |
| Brokil | Cr Patrick Binyon |
| Coolart | Cr David Gill |
| Kackeraboite | Cr Stephen Batty |
| Moorooduc | Cr Bruce Ranken |
| Nepean | Cr Andrea Allen |
| Tanti | Cr Paul Pingiaro |
| Tootgarook | Cr Cam Williams |
| Warringine | Cr Michael Stephens |

EXECUTIVE TEAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr Mark Stoermer Ms Cheryl Casey Mr David Simon Mr Davey Smith | Chief Executive Officer Director – Communities Acting Director – Planning and Liveability Director – Assets and Infrastructure |
|---|---|

RECORDING

Please note that this Council Meeting will be livestreamed to the Mornington Peninsula Shire's YouTube channel and a recording of the meeting will be available on the Shire's website.

Recording of persons in the public gallery is not intended but may occur incidentally. By attending this meeting, you consent to being filmed at the meeting and the possible use of subsequent recordings in a live streaming or published video of the meeting.

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1 OPENING AND WELCOME

Appointed Chairperson – Mayor, Cr Anthony Marsh

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

To be read by Cr Roper

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Bunurong people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years; and pays respect to their elders past and present. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region..

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Apologies

2.2 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest Pursuant to Sections 126 – 131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*

2.3 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the previous unscheduled Council Meeting held on 17 November 2025 and the Annual Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025, be confirmed.

2.4 Councillor Briefing Sessions

Councillor Briefing Sessions – 11 November 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the record of Councillor Briefing Sessions for 11 November 2025.

2.5 Petitions and Joint Letters

Dust suppression treatment

A petition of 12 signatories has been received. The petition is requesting for the dust suppression treatment in Barker Street, Flinders be extended to cross over Stokes Street to the end of Barker Street at St. John's Church. The reason for this request are the significant amount of traffic and parking along the street when there are events at the church.

Immediate Comment

Council advises that to be included in the Shire-funded Dust Suppression Program, unsealed roads must meet the following selection criteria:

- Significant average traffic volumes
- Proximity or access to Mornington Peninsula Shire community facilities (e.g. recreation reserves, schools)
- Road classification (with higher priority given to access roads)
- Environmental considerations

In relation to the sections of Barker Street, Flinders, leading to St Johns Anglican Church, increases in traffic volumes appear to occur only for short periods, presumably during the Christmas holidays and private events. As a result, the average traffic data may not reflect these peak periods.

Given these factors, it is unlikely that this section of Barker Street will meet the selection criteria in future assessments and is therefore unlikely to be included in future Shire-funded programs.

As a gesture of goodwill, the Shire has agreed to include an additional 50 metres along the road reserve of Barker Street (from Stokes Street) to maximise the benefit for the two residential properties that have committed to the Resident Funded Dust Suppression Program.

Considering the overall cost of treatment, it would be difficult to justify including any additional sections of road, as they do not meet the required criteria.

Action Officer: Manager – Infrastructure Services

Waterfall Gully Shops Car Parking, Rosebud

A petition of 1,712 signatories has been received. The petition is requesting the provision of a dedicated angled car parking area at the Waterfall Gully Shops, Rosebud to address capacity, safety and amenity of the centre.

Immediate Comment

Council advises that the Traffic and Transport Team is currently investigating opportunities to increase car parking capacity at the Waterfall Gully Shops. This includes reviewing previous assessments and actions undertaken in response to community feedback, including a petition received in May 2024.

Recent improvements have included updated parking restrictions to increase turnover and flexible guideposts to improve parking alignment and pedestrian safety. The current investigation will build on this work and explore additional feasible options to improve parking supply and accessibility.

Action Officer: Manager – Strategic Planning, Transport & Environment

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes:

- 1. The petition requesting the dust suppression treatment be extended from Barker St to the end of Barker St.**
- 2. The petition requesting the provision of a dedicated angled car parking area at the Waterfall Gully Shops, Rosebud.**

2.6 Public Question Time

Questions from the public shall be dealt with at commencement of the meeting.

The aim of public question time is to provide an opportunity for the public to ask general questions at Council Meetings requiring routine responses. Questions with or without notice can be submitted.

Questions with notice are to be received in writing by 12.00pm the Friday prior to the relevant Council Meeting and can be lodged via the Shire's website. Questions received by this time will be provided with a considered response prepared by the relevant Shire officer and read by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Council Meeting.

Questions without notice must be lodged in person no later than 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting. The question will be read by the CEO and taken on notice with a written response forwarded to the person asking the question within 7 days of the Council Meeting and published on the Shire's website.

This segment does not substitute for appeal or other formal business procedures with the Council.

3 COUNCILLORS AND DELEGATES REPORTS

At each Council Meeting, all Councillors will have the opportunity to provide an overview of any meetings attended as an appointed representative of Council.

If a Councillor chooses to provide details, the name of the conference/event and the Councillor attending will be noted in the Minutes for that meeting. If a Councillor requires additional information on the conference/event to be included in the Minutes, the Councillor must submit it in writing to Governance by 12.00 noon the day following the meeting.

| Association/Committee | Representative/s | Substitute Representative/s | Shire Contact |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Arts and Culture Advisory Panel | Cr Gill | Cr Patton | Tori Hayat, Team Leader – Arts and Culture |
| Association of Bayside Municipalities | Cr Patton | Cr Batty | Hayden Forrest, Team Leader – Water and Coasts |
| Audit and Risk Committee | Cr Ranken Cr Batty | Cr Roper | Mark Stoermer – Chief Executive Officer |
| Australian Coastal Councils | Cr Patton | Cr Batty | Hayden Forrest, Team Leader – Water and Coasts |
| Bass Park Trust | Cr Gill | Cr Stephens | Pam Vercoe, Manager – Governance and Risk |
| Climate Emergency Community Reference Group | Cr Stephens | Cr Patton | Chris Yorke, Energy and Carbon Management Officer |
| Disability Advisory Committee | Cr Binyon | N/A | Monica Seal, Disability Community Inclusion Officer |
| Friends of Lospalos | Cr Binyon | N/A | Chris Munro, Manager – Community Partnerships |
| Greater South East Melbourne | Mayor | Deputy Mayor | Mark Stoermer, Chief Executive Officer |
| Health and Wellbeing Committee | Cr Williams | N/A | Kate Hills, Team Leader – Community Wellbeing |
| Hinterland Local Area Action Plan Advisory Committee | TBC | N/A | Jayde Hayes, Manager – Economic & Cultural Development |
| Metropolitan Transport Forum | Cr Batty | Cr Williams | Peter Bourlotos, Traffic & Transport Coordinator |
| Mornington Liquor Industry Accord | Cr Batty | N/A | Katherine Cooper, Team Leader – Economic Development |
| Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation – Council Liaison Group | Cr Patton | Cr Stephens | James Rose, Team Leader – Natural Systems |

| Association/Committee | Representative/s | Substitute Representative/s | Shire Contact |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Mornington Peninsula Cemetery Trust | Cr Roper Cr Batty Cr Pingiaro | N/A | Jenny Brown, Senior Cemeteries Officer |
| Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) | Mayor | Deputy Mayor | Pam Vercoe, Manager – Governance and Risk |
| MAV Emergency Management Committee | Cr Batty | Cr Pingiaro | Andrew Brick, Team Leader – Community Resilience and Emergency Management |
| Northern Mornington Peninsula Local Area Action Plan Advisory Committee | TBC | N/A | Jayde Hayes, Manager – Economic & Cultural Development |
| Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders | Cr Williams | N/A | Helen Ridgeway, Positive Ageing Officer |
| South East Councils Climate Change Alliance | Cr Stephens | Cr Patton | Nicci Tsernjavski, Climate Change Partnerships Officer and Daniel Kabel, ESD Infrastructure Officer |
| Southern Mornington Peninsula Local Area Action Plan Advisory Committee | TBC | N/A | Jayde Hayes, Manager – Economic & Cultural Development |
| Triple A Housing Committee | Cr Gill | N/A | Petrina Dodds-Buckley, Housing Projects Lead |
| Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) | Cr Roper | Cr Pingiaro | Pam Vercoe, Manager – Governance and Risk |
| Western Port Local Area Action Plan Advisory Committee | TBC | N/A | Jayde Hayes, Manager – Economic & Cultural Development |

4 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

PLANNING & LIVEABILITY

4.1 Planning Permit Application PA2403185 submitted to the Minister for Planning for the expansion of the existing Arthurs Seat Eagle facility at 795 & 1085 Arthurs Seat Road, Arthurs Seat

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Issued By | Manager - Statutory Planning |
| Authorised By | Acting Director - Planning & Liveability |
| Document ID | A13924444 |
| Briefing Note Number | BN2126 – 21 October 2025 |
| Attachment(s) | Nil |

***Addendum – Late Report
To be circulated separately***

4.2 Planning Application PA2403198 submitted to the Minister of Planning for Use and Development of Industry (Boat Manufacturing) at 1A-5 Lumeah Road and 4 Yaringa Road, Somerville

Issued By Manager - Statutory Planning
Authorised By Acting Director - Planning & Liveability
Document ID A13931823
Briefing Note
Number Not Applicable
Attachment(s) Nil

***Addendum – Late Report
To be circulated separately***

4.3 Framework for the development and implementation of a Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan - Notice of Motion 497

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Issued By | Manager – Strategic Planning, Transport & Environment |
| Authorised By | Acting Director - Planning & Liveability |
| Document ID | A13914886 |
| Briefing Note Number | BN2139 – 11 November 2025 |
| Attachment(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Proposed Framework for the Climate Resilience Plan ⇒2. Climate Resilience Plan Resourcing and Development Timeline ⇒3. Audit of Current and Planned Climate-Related Projects and Initiatives Funded in the 2025-2026 Budget ⇒4. Potential Priority Projects for the Next Four Years with Indicative Costs and Potential Funding Sources ⇒ |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council meeting of 23 September 2025, Council resolved for the Chief Executive Officer to present a report to the Council Meeting on 2 December 2025, setting out a proposed Framework for the development and implementation of a Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan (Framework). The content of the proposed Framework was outlined within the Notice of Motion 497. A proposed timeline and key decision points for preparing and considering the Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan was to also be provided.

Council requested additional reports be provided including:

- An audit of current and planned climate-related projects and initiatives funded in the 2025-26 Budget.
- Recommended priority projects for the next four years, with indicative costs and potential funding sources, for Council's consideration and referral to the budget process.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3. **Endorses the Framework for the Climate Resilience Plan (Attachment 1) and the Climate Resilience Plan Resourcing and Development Timeline (Attachment 2).**
4. **Notes the Audit of Current and Planned Climate Related Projects and Initiatives Funded in the 2025-2026 Budget (Attachment 3) and the Potential Priority Projects for the Next Four Years with Indicative Potential Funding Sources (Attachment 4).**

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029, in particular:

4.3 (Cont.)

Place: Celebrate, protect and enhance our unique blend of coast, hinterland, Green Wedge and connected villages and townships.

Strategic Objective 1.1: Protected, resilient and enhanced natural environments.

Strategic Objective 1.2: Connected townships with integrated and accessible transport and well-maintained infrastructure.

People: A safe, accessible, inclusive and engaged community that fosters our diverse culture, supporting health and wellbeing and a connected and compassionate society for all.

Strategic Objective 2.1: A safe, accessible, inclusive and healthy community.

Strategic Objective 2.2: An engaged and connected community.

Prosperity: Enabling balanced growth through innovation, empowering community groups and volunteers, and fostering a resilient, thriving and vibrant local economy.

Strategic Objective 3.1: A vibrant, innovative and thriving local economy.

Strategic Objective 3.2: Valued partnerships and empowered community groups and volunteers.

Performance: A transparent, accountable Council delivering measurable, community-centred services that are cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, future-proofed, and responsive to community needs.

Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

Strategic Objective 4.2: Community-centred, responsive, and fit-for-purpose services.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles A-I which are:

- A. Council decisions are to be made, and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- C. The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.
- D. The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- E. Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued.
- F. Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought.
- G. The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

4.3 (Cont.)

- H. Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.
- I. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

At the Council meeting on the 22 April 2025, Council resolved to discontinue the Climate Emergency Declaration and associated Climate Emergency Plan.

At the Council meeting on the 23 September 2025, Council resolved to request the Chief Executive Officer to present a report to the Council Meeting on 2 December 2025, setting out a proposed framework for the development and implementation of a Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan as per Notice of Motion 497.

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

To present a proposed framework and timeline for the development and implementation of a Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan, the audit of current and planned climate related projects and initiatives funded in the 2025-26 Budget and the list of potential priority projects for the next four year for Council's consideration as per Council's resolution on the 23 September 2025.

Background

At the Council meeting of 23 September 2025, Council resolved:

That Council:

1. *Requests the Chief Executive Officer to present a report to the Council Meeting on 2 December 2025, setting out a proposed framework for the development and implementation of a Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan.*
2. *The proposed framework must:*
 - A. *Align with Council's statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2020, Climate Change Act 2017 (Vic) and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic).*
 - B. *Focus on practical, place-based, costed and measurable outcomes for climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, biodiversity protection and sustainable infrastructure.*
 - C. *Integrate with existing strategies, policies and programs, including coastal asset protection, drainage and stormwater upgrades, renewable energy initiatives for Council assets, erosion management overlays and biodiversity corridor enhancements.*
 - D. *Avoid duplication of Federal or State responsibilities, targeting local priorities within Council's direct influence where the greatest community benefit can be delivered.*
 - E. *Include a clear monitoring and reporting approach with proposed indicators, baselines and reporting frequency.*
 - F. *Identify resourcing implications and potential external funding sources and partnerships.*

4.3 (Cont.)

3. *The report must also include:*
 - A. *An audit of current and planned climate-related projects and initiatives funded in the 2025-26 Budget.*
 - B. *Recommended priority projects for the next four years, with indicative costs and potential funding sources, for Council's consideration and referral to the budget process.*
 - C. *A proposed timeline and key decision points for preparing and considering the Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan.*
4. *For the avoidance of doubt, this resolution does not reinstate any prior "Climate Emergency" declaration or plan, but seeks a practical, locally focused resilience framework for Council's consideration*

A proposed framework for the development of a Mornington Peninsula Climate Resilience Plan has been developed (Attachment 1). The framework sets out the proposed structure of the Climate Resilience Plan with a brief summary of what is intended to be included in each section.

The proposed timeline and key decision points for developing the Climate Resilience Plan is provided in Attachment 2.

Attachment 3 is an audit of current and planned climate-related projects and initiatives funded in the 2025-26 Budget that are delivered by the Climate Resilience team.

Attachment 4 is a list of potential priority projects for the Climate Resilience team for the next four years, with indicative costs and potential funding sources. This list is indicative as officers are currently scoping future budget bids for the 2026-27 Financial Year and future year projects would be guided by the Climate Resilience Plan.

Options for consideration**Option 1 – Recommended**

Council endorse the proposed framework for the Climate Resilience Plan and timeline for the development of the Plan and note the audit of current and planned climate related projects and initiatives funded in the 2025-26 Budget and the list of potential priority projects for the next four years.

This option will enable the development of the Climate Resilience Plan to commence.

Option 2 – Not Recommended

Council does not endorse the proposed framework for the Climate Resilience Plan and timeline for the development of the Plan. This is not recommended as it will delay the development of the Climate Resilience Plan.

ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement has been undertaken to develop the proposed framework for the Climate Resilience Plan. Community engagement is proposed should Council endorse the framework as outlined in Attachment 1. It is proposed that a mix of broad and deliberative engagement methods will be used.

4.3 (Cont.)**COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

A communications plan, to support community engagement, will be developed should Council endorse the proposed framework for the Climate Resilience Plan.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Development of the Climate Resilience Plan will help guide and prioritise Council's actions in response to Climate Change in line with the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Victorian Climate Action Act 2017* and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed framework for the Climate Resilience Plan sets out the proposed structure of the Climate Resilience Plan with a brief summary of what is intended to be included in each section.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is estimated that the cost to develop the Climate Resilience Plan will be 0.5 Full Time Employee for 12 months plus an estimated cost of \$25,000 - \$50,000 for community engagement. This cost can be accommodated within existing budgets.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

4.4 Adoption of Community Disaster Resilience Plan and Year 1 Action Plan

Issued By Manager - Regulatory Services
Authorised By Acting Director - Planning & Liveability
Document ID A13931848
Briefing Note
Number BN2140 – 11 November 2025
Attachment(s) Nil

***Addendum – Late Report
To be circulated separately***

OFFICE OF THE CEO

4.5 Quarterly Reports July-September 2025

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Issued By | Manager – People and Culture |
| Authorised By | Chief Executive Officer |
| Document ID | A13893996 |
| Briefing Note Number | Not applicable |
| Attachment(s) | 1. Community Report July-September 2025 ⇒ 2. Quarterly Finance Report July-September 2025 ⇒ |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Quarterly Community Report (Attachment 1) and the Quarterly Finance Report (Attachment 2) to a meeting of Council, which is open to the public, in accordance with section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Community Report and Quarterly Finance Report for July-September 2025 (Attachments 1 and 2).

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029, in particular:

Place: Celebrate, protect and enhance our unique blend of coast, hinterland, Green Wedge and connected villages and townships.

- Strategic Objective 1.1: Protected, resilient and enhanced natural environments.
- Strategic Objective 1.2: Connected townships with integrated and accessible transport and well-maintained infrastructure

People: A safe, accessible, inclusive and engaged community that fosters our diverse culture, supporting health and wellbeing and a connected and compassionate society for all.

- Strategic Objective 2.1: A safe, accessible, inclusive and healthy community.
- Strategic Objective 2.2: An engaged and connected community.

Prosperity: Enabling balanced growth through innovation, empowering community groups and volunteers, and fostering a resilient, thriving and vibrant local economy.

- Strategic Objective 3.1: A vibrant, innovative and thriving local economy.
- Strategic Objective 3.2: Valued partnerships and empowered community groups and volunteers.

4.5 (Cont.)

Performance: A transparent, accountable Council delivering measurable, community-centred services that are cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, future-proofed, and responsive to community needs.

- Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.
- Strategic Objective 4.2: Community-centred, responsive, and fit-for-purpose services.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles B and I, which are:

- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- I. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

The Quarterly Community and Finance Reports provide the community with a detailed overview of Council's activities during the quarter, reporting items of achievement and progress in alignment with the Council Plan 2025-2029 and the financial performance and position of the Council.

Background

The Quarterly Community Report is a key component of our accountability to the community and outlines progress against each of Annual Actions that advance the Council Plan's Strategies and includes Community Highlights for each Strategic Direction for the first quarter of 2025-2025.

It includes:

- Achievement and progress in alignment with the Council Plan 2025-2026 related to the four strategic directions.
- Fast facts on how the community has engaged with the Mornington Peninsula Shire (Shire), including 'Have Your Say' activities.
- Updates on major projects, including Capital Works.

The presentation of the Quarterly Finance Report ensures compliance with section 97 of *the Act* in relation to budget reporting. Financial commentary is provided in the summary Finance Report at an organisational level in a Standard Financial Statements format. The Finance Report includes a user-friendly financial highlights section for the community, financial commentary and the status of key priority projects and capital works.

Council Plan Highlights

- Adoption of new Council Plan 2025-2029
- Road rehabilitation and resurfacing program underway

4.5 (Cont.)

- Capital Works – Black spot road safety improvements
- Community Investment Funding opened. \$1.4 million of \$4 million paid.
- Delivering housing for women and children on the Peninsula
- Business Excellence Finalists announced
- Public Art Policy.

Finance Highlights

- A net operating position of \$184.4 million.
- A cash position of \$128.8 million:
 - \$40.6 million invested in term deposits
 - \$77.6 million held in at call account
 - \$10.7 million of funds held in trust.
- Year to date spend on Capital Works \$12.1 million across 202 projects and programs
- Loan repayments of \$0.6 million has reduced total borrowings to \$29.7 million.

ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Community Report will be published on our website following the Council Meeting. We will also promote the report via our social media.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

In accordance with section 97 of *the Act*, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council Meeting that is open to the public (as soon as practicable after the end of each quarter of the financial year).

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

4.6 2026 Council Meeting Timetable

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Issued By | Manager – Governance & Risk |
| Authorised By | Chief Executive Officer |
| Document ID | A13917083 |
| Briefing Note Number | BN2141 – 11 November 2025 |
| Attachment(s) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2026 Council Meeting Timetable - Option 1 ⇒ 2. 2026 Council Meeting and Briefing Timetable - Option 1 ⇒ 3. 2026 Council Meeting Timetable - Option 2 ⇒ 4. 2026 Council Meeting and Briefing Timetable - Option 2 ⇒ 5. 2026 Council Meeting Timetable - Option 3 ⇒ 6. 2026 Council Meeting and Briefing Timetable - Option 3 ⇒ |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council adopt the 2026 Council Meeting Timetable – Option 3 (Attachment 5). Option 3 introduces a structured four-week cycle that incorporates Council Meeting Briefings (CMBs) within the existing Council Briefing process and balances online and in-person engagement. The cycle consists of an online Council Briefing, an in-person Council Workshop/Briefing incorporating approximately 30 minutes for CMBs, a non-meeting week for preparation and follow-up, and a scheduled Council Meeting.

Integrating CMBs into the briefing structure provides Councillors with dedicated time to review and discuss the draft Council Meeting Agenda, seek clarification from officers, and ensure complex or multi-topic items are well understood ahead of the formal meeting. This approach strengthens decision-making quality, enhances transparency, and supports more considered governance outcomes.

The proposed timetable also achieves a more sustainable balance between effective governance, operational efficiency and Councillor workload. The combination of online and in-person sessions reduces travel, supports work–life balance, and provides greater flexibility for both Councillors and Shire officers, while the scheduled non-meeting week creates consistent space for community engagement, report refinement and strategic planning.

Budget Briefings would be held separately on Thursday evenings, and consideration may be given to rotating or reducing Community Council Meetings to support overall workload management.

Overall, Option 3 delivers a clear, efficient and balanced annual meeting structure that embeds CMBs into the governance process, reduces meeting fatigue, and aligns with the Council Plan’s objectives for a high-performing, well-governed and community-focused organisation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Adopts the 2026 Meeting Timetable – Option 3 (Attachment 5) with the following options:**

4.6 (Cont.)

- A. All evening meetings to commence at 6.30pm.
 - B. Four community Council Meetings scheduled to coincide with the Community Report.
2. Notes the 2026 Council Briefing Schedule with the following options:
- A. The first Council Briefing in the recurring schedule is to be held online via Microsoft Teams.
 - B. The second Council Briefing is to be allocated to Council Meeting Briefings and Council Workshops and be held in person.
 - C. All Council Briefings are to commence at 5.00pm.

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029, in particular:

Performance: A transparent, accountable Council delivering measurable, community-centred services that are cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, future-proofed, and responsive to community needs.

Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles A, B and E which are:

- A. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- E. Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

Clause 3 (1-3) of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council's (Council's) Governance Rules states:

1. *At or before the last Meeting each calendar year, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Council Meetings and any Delegated Committee meetings for the following calendar year. Council will ensure that details of its Meetings are made available to the public.*
2. *Council by resolution, or the Mayor following consultation with the Councillors, may change the date, time and place of, or cancel any Meeting which has been fixed and must provide notice of the change to the public.*
3. *In case of an emergency, the Chief Executive Officer may postpone a Council Meeting, provided every reasonable attempt is made to notify every Councillor of the postponement.*

4.6 (Cont.)**DISCUSSION****Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of a meeting timetable for the 2026 year, in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

Background

The adopted 2025 Meeting schedule included:

- 24 Council Meetings, comprising:
 - 4 Community Council Meetings
 - 6 Council Meetings dedicated to Planning Matters
 - 1 Annual Council Meeting
- Notably, during the 2025 calendar year:
 - Five unscheduled Council Meetings were convened as required:
 - 4 March – in person
 - 14 August – via Zoom
 - 16 September – via Zoom
 - 30 October – in person
 - 17 November – via Zoom
 - Two meetings were cancelled:
 - 11 February (no scheduled reports)
 - 25 March (Councillor illness)

At the Council Meeting on 17 June 2025, Council resolved to amend the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule, reducing the number of scheduled meetings from 13 to 9, and rescheduling the remaining three Community Council Meetings. This included reinstating a Community Council Meeting in Flinders, which had previously been relocated to Rosebud.

Briefings

In 2025, Council Briefings were held twice per month and incorporated Council Workshops that were previously held (2024) on a Wednesday afternoon, commencing at 6.30pm and concluding at 9.30pm held in person at the Rosebud office.

Following the resolution at the 17 June Council Meeting to amend the meeting timetable, briefings were adjusted to occur every 3 weeks.

It is noted during the Budget process and towards the end of the year, briefings were in high demand, with most sessions booked well past the planned 9.30pm conclusion time.

For 2026, Shire officers have identified three Budget Workshops to be held on Thursday evenings and two Capital Works Workshops to be held on a Saturday. These sessions will

4.6 (Cont.)

be scheduled separately from regular Council Briefings to support clearer focus, improved time management and more effective discussion.

Consideration could be given to returning to holding Council Briefings online via Microsoft Teams.

Online Briefings would:

- Support work–life balance for Councillors, Shire officers and guests by reducing travel requirements and allowing participation from home.
- Deliver cost savings through reduced catering and venue use
- Contribute to sustainability outcomes by minimising vehicle travel and associated emissions.

Commencement Time for Meetings

In 2025, Council Meetings were scheduled to commence at 6.30pm with all but one meeting concluding with all agenda items considered.

Clause 11. of Council's Governance Rules states that:

4. *A Meeting shall conclude when all the business set out on the agenda has been dealt with or not later than 10.00pm.*
5. *A Meeting may be extended once by resolution of the Meeting until 10.30pm.*
6. *The Meeting may be adjourned to another date if all business set out on the agenda has not been dealt with.*

Online Zoom Meetings

Consideration may be given to holding a selection of the Council Meetings online via Zoom.

In 2025, four unscheduled Council Meetings were successfully conducted online, which reduced travel time and allowed Councillors to participate from their homes.

Online meetings can offer operational efficiencies and cost savings, as requirements for catering, livestreaming and on-site security are removed.

However, online meetings limit opportunities for public attendance and in-person observation, which may impact the perception of transparency and community engagement, therefore Shire officers do not recommend scheduling online meetings in 2026.

Pre-meet

In 2025, Pre-meet sessions were scheduled on the day of the Council Meeting, from 5.30pm to 6.00pm, preceding the 6.30pm meeting commencement.

Council may wish to consider whether this arrangement remains appropriate, or whether adjustments to duration or timing would improve preparation and efficiency.

Council Meeting Briefing

Shire officers propose incorporating Council Meeting Briefings (CMBs) into the existing Council Briefing process to create a more streamlined, consistent and transparent pathway

4.6 (Cont.)

for Council Meeting preparation. CMBs would serve as a dedicated forum for Councillors to review and discuss the draft Council Meeting Agenda ahead of its finalisation.

These sessions provide an opportunity for Councillors to:

- Examine the draft Agenda in detail.
- Seek clarification from Shire officers.
- Identify issues early, ensuring that any required adjustments or additional information can be addressed prior to the formal Council Meeting.
- Ensure alignment and preparedness, contributing to a more efficient, well-informed and constructive Council Meeting.

School Holidays

Consideration could be given to not holding meetings during school holiday periods, providing a scheduled break.

Prior to 2025, Council had not traditionally held meetings during school holidays. Reinstating this approach could provide consistency and support work-life balance for Councillors, and community participants.

Community Council Meetings

In 2025, four Community Council Meetings were scheduled offsite in various community halls across the Shire to coincide with the Quarterly Community Report.

The 20 May Community Council Meeting was rescheduled to Rosebud due to a high level of community interest in the meeting agenda.

Benchmarking conducted with ten neighbouring councils revealed that the Mornington Peninsula Shire is the only council still holding Community Council Meetings. Most neighbouring councils discontinued these meetings following the introduction of livestreaming, which improved public access and transparency.

Safety issues have been identified in relation to transporting and setting up the equipment required for these meetings. Risks include trip hazards from electrical cables, potential overloading of power circuits, and the physical and financial burden of transport and setup.

If Council wish to continue with Community Council Meetings in 2026:

- A determination will be required regarding which wards will host these meetings (as there are 11 wards in total).
- It should be noted that not all wards have suitable community halls, and some venues have recurring bookings that may need to be rescheduled or cancelled to accommodate Council meetings, which has previously caused frustration among community groups.

Options for consideration**Option 1 – Continue with the Current Structure (Attachment 1 and 2)**

- Maintain the existing format, with Council Meetings held every three weeks commencing at 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings and Briefings held every three weeks in person at the Rosebud Office.

4.6 (Cont.)

- Continue Pre-meets from 5.30pm–6.00pm prior to each Council Meeting.
- Maintain the integration of planning items within Ordinary Council Meetings.
- Continue meetings during school holidays as required.
- Retain four Community Council Meetings per year, held offsite and aligned with the Quarterly Community Report.
- Hold Budget briefings on a Thursday evening

Outcome

- 15 Council Briefings + additional Council Budget Briefings
- 15 Council Meetings

Option 2 – Refine and Adjust the Existing Schedule (Attachments 3 and 4)

- Implement a four-week Meeting schedule as follows:
 - Council Briefing (online)
 - Council Briefing (Workshops – in person)
 - Council Meeting
 - Non-meeting week for preparation and follow-up.

This allows complex or multi-topic items to be spread across consecutive briefings with workshops on a dedicated night (if required).

Budget briefings would be held separately on a Thursday evening.

Consideration could be given to reducing or rotating Community Council Meetings.

Outcome

- 11 Council Briefings (online)
- 12 Council Briefings (Workshops – in person) + additional Council Budget Briefings
- 12 Council Meetings

Option 3 – Incorporate CMBs and Adjust the Existing Schedule (Attachments 5 and 6)

- Implement a four-week Meeting schedule as follows:
 - Council Briefing (online)
 - Council Briefing (including 30mins for CMBs, Workshops to be held in person)
 - Non-meeting week for preparation and follow-up.
 - Council Meeting

4.6 (Cont.)

This model incorporates CMBs within the existing briefing structure, allowing Councillors additional opportunities to consider the draft Agenda, ask questions of officers, and ensure complex or multi-topic items can be discussed across consecutive briefings.

Budget Briefings would continue to be held separately on a Thursday evening.

Consideration could be given to reducing or rotating Community Council Meetings.

Outcome

- 12 Council Briefings (online)
- 12 Council Briefings (CMB's + Workshops – in person) + additional Council Budget Briefings
- 11 Council Meetings

ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Once adopted the 2026 Meeting Timetable will be published on the Shire's website.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Not applicable.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Holding several Council Briefings online will help to reduce carbon emissions with Councillors, Shire officers and guests not required to travel to and from offices.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost of Council Meetings is accounted for in the Budget, however it is worth noting that Community Council Meetings involve additional costs such as:

- Equipment required to be transported to and from venues
- Shire officer time – setup and pack down of the space
- Additional catering costs
- Cost to hire facility (if not a Shire owned building)
- Loss of income when moving existing hall bookings.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

4.7 Adoption of Procurement Policy 2025-2029

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Issued By | Manager – Contracts and Procurement |
| Authorised By | Chief Executive Officer |
| Document ID | A13919731 |
| Briefing Note Number | BN2136 – 11 November 2025 |
| Attachment(s) | 1. Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Procurement Policy 2025-2029 ⇒ |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to review its Procurement Policy at least once every four-year term. The current policy, previously adopted on 14 December 2021, has now been comprehensively updated to reflect significant sector-wide procurement best practice advancements and position Council as a leader in ethical, efficient, and sustainable procurement.

The revised Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Procurement Policy (Policy) (Attachment 1) presented for adoption, incorporates the latest 2024 Local Government Best Practice Procurement Guidelines and aligns with the Municipal Association of Victoria's new procurement policy framework. It strengthens Council's commitment to transparency, accountability, and value for money while embedding principles that deliver long-term benefits to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Procurement Policy 2025-2029 (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve administrative changes to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Procurement Policy 2025-2029.**

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029, in particular:

Performance: A transparent, accountable Council delivering measurable, community-centred services that are cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, future-proofed, and responsive to community needs.

Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles A, F, G and I which are:

4.7 (Cont.)

- A. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
- F. Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought.
- G. The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.
- I. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

At the Council meeting on 14 December 2021, Council resolved:

That Council adopts the Procurement Policy (Attachment 1) with clause 4.1 amended to include:

Local Economic Impact

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek adoption of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Procurement Policy 2025-2029 (Attachment 1).

Background

The Policy and its appendices, including financial delegations, establishes a robust and transparent framework for all procurement activities undertaken by Council. It aims to ensure consistency, control, and probity across all processes, while promoting ethical, equitable, and accountable practices. The Policy is designed to support value-driven decision-making that optimises outcomes for the community and reinforces good governance.

By embedding these principles, the Policy strengthens Council's ability to deliver procurement outcomes that are not only compliant with legislative requirements but also aligned with strategic objectives and community expectations. It reflects a commitment to continuous improvement and positions Council as a leader in responsible and sustainable procurement.

Key Enhancements:

- Integration of quadruple bottom line principles—economic, environmental, social, and ethical considerations.
- Improved guidance on procurement exemptions and probity engagement
- Updated financial delegations aligned with the new organisational structure
- Public tender threshold increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000, enabling efficient and prompt competitive quotation processes.

Transparency

Council publishes all contracts awarded both at Council (unless confidential) and under delegation on its website and in the quarterly community reporting. This reporting also includes contract over-expenditure.

Options for consideration

It is recommended that Council adopt the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Procurement Policy 2025-2029 to ensure best practice procurement, legislative compliance and value for money outcomes are achieved.

ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The adopted policy is published on Council's website and available to the public.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Council must comply with *section 108 of the Local Government Act 2020, which includes:*

1. *A Council must prepare and adopt a Procurement Policy which specifies the principles, processes and procedures applying in respect of the purchase of goods and services by the Council, including for the carrying out of works.*
2. *A Procurement Policy must seek to promote open and fair competition and provide value for money.*
3. *A Procurement Policy must include the following—*
 - a) *the contract value above which the Council must invite a tender or seek an expression of interest*
 - b) *a description of the criteria to be used by the Council to evaluate whether a proposed contract provides value for money*
 - c) *a description of how the Council will seek collaboration with other Council and public bodies in the procurement of goods or services*
 - d) *the conditions under which the Council may purchase goods or services without inviting a public tender or expression of interest*
 - e) *a description of the process to be undertaken in inviting a public tender or expression of interest*
 - f) *any other matters prescribed by the regulations.*
4. *The contract value to be included in a Procurement Policy in accordance with subsection (3)(a) must not exceed the value prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.*
5. *A Council must review its Procurement Policy at least once during each 4 year term of the Council.*

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Draft Policy now includes the integration of a "Quadruple Bottom Line" including:

- Investing in a circular economy
- Minimising environmental impact

4.7 (Cont.)

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Procurement Policy establishes clear financial delegations, financial commitment methods and guidance for all Procurement activities.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

4.8 Rating Strategy Review - Community Engagement

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Issued By | Financial Controller |
| Authorised By | Chief Executive Officer |
| Document ID | A13920961 |
| Briefing Note Number | BN2135 – 11 November 2025 |
| Attachment(s) | 1. Rating Strategy Review - Options Paper ⇒ |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Rating Strategy Review was undertaken following the Council decision on 8 April 2025, to review the rating strategy as part of the development of the 2026-27 Budget, to ensure rate distribution reflects principles of equity, transparency, and fairness across all property classifications.

In undertaking this review, Shire officers held workshops and briefings with Councillors to ensure the options being reviewed were understood and representative of this recommendation.

The review undertaken has resulted in a number of options to be put to the community for consideration and feedback. This feedback along with the proposed hearing will then be considered by Council ahead of adopting the rating strategy for the 2026-27 Annual Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council endorses the Rating Strategy Review - Options Paper (Attachment 1) for community consultation.**
- 2. Community consultation begins from week commencing 8 December 2025 until 1 February 2026.**
- 3. All community submissions be provided to Councillors following the community consultation to inform adoption of the updated Rating and Revenue Plan ahead of the 2026-27 Annual Budget.**
- 4. The submitters are given the opportunity to speak to their submission for up to 3 minutes in the week commencing 9 February 2026 or 16 February 2025.**
- 5. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to make any administrative changes to the Rating Strategy Review Options paper.**

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029, in particular:

Performance: A transparent, accountable Council delivering measurable, community-centred services that are cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, future-proofed, and responsive to community needs.

4.8 (Cont.)

Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles A, D and G which are:

- A. Council decisions are to be made, and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
- D. The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- G. The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029, adopted 17 June 2025.

At the Council meeting held 8 April 2025, in relation to report '4.1 2025-26 Budget – Revenue', Council moved the following amended recommendation:

4. *That Council calls for a full review of the Rating Strategy as part of the development of the 2026/2027 Budget, to ensure rate distribution reflects principles of equity, transparency, and fairness across all property classifications.'*

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the community with options for feedback on changes to the currently adopted rating strategy ahead of the 2026-27 annual budget process.

The options presented in this report do not change the revenue for Council, rather they look to ensure the rate distribution reflect principles of equity, transparency and fairness across all property classifications.

Council rates are a property-based tax (ad valorem tax) that allows Council to raise revenue to fund essential public services and major initiatives to benefit the municipality.

Importantly, it is a taxation system that includes flexibility for councils to utilise different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers.

A Rating strategy is the method by which Council systematically considers factors of importance that informs its decisions about the rating system.

The rating system determines how Council will apportion revenue from property categories in the municipality.

It does not influence the total amount of money to be raised; only the share of revenue contributed by each property.

The rating system comprises the valuation base and the actual rating instruments that are used to calculate property owners' liability for rates.

4.8 (Cont.)

Public finance theory and practice implies that taxation revenue whether it is at Federal, State or Local Government level is generally used to finance various forms of “public goods, services and community obligations” not necessarily in direct relation to user benefit, but ultimately to benefit the community.

Background

In line with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the revenue and rating plan was adopted by Council on 17 June 2025. Following the amended recommendation by Council on 8 April 2025, work has been undertaken by Shire officers to review the strategy ahead of the 2026-27 Annual Budget.

This has included briefings and workshops with Councillors in addition to seeking internal and external advice.

Council has established a rating structure comprised of two key elements:

- General Rates – Based on property values (using the *Capital Improved Valuation (CIV)* methodology), which is indicative of capacity to pay and form the central basis of rating under the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- Fixed Charges - A fixed service charge to recoup the full cost of waste services. The charge is not capped under the Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) and applies equally to all properties.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire rating structure comprises six differential rates (general, vacant land, agricultural, conservation or trust for nature).

These rates are structured in accordance with the requirements of section 161 ‘Differential Rates’ of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the *Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013*.

The differential rates are set as follows:

- General 100%
- Vacant land - residential 140%
- Vacant land - commercial / industrial 140%
- Conservation land 75%
- Mornington Peninsula agricultural 35%
- Trust for nature 35%

The formula for calculating General Rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

- Property Valuation (Capital Improved Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type)

Options for consideration

The options presented include the five following considerations for the community:

4.8 (Cont.)***Retirement Village Differential rate***

Introduce a differential rate of 80% of the general rate for retirement village properties. This adjustment acknowledges the unique nature of retirement communities and the services provided within the village.

This option results in an average rate reduction of \$181 for retirement village properties and an increase \$4 to average rates for general residential properties.

Farm Land Differential rate

Review the current farm land differential rate which is made up of the Farm Land receiving a 35% reduction to the General rate, and the Farm House curtilage of 2,000 square metres around the Principal residential building being rated at the full general rate.

This option is to consider rating the whole premises as one property (excluding commercial/industrial) at a rate of 51%. This change would better reflect the value and contribution of agricultural land while maintaining fairness across property classes.

To ensure equity, any commercial and/or industrial improvements would be rated at the Commercial/Industrial Improved Rate.

Application for Classification of Rateable Property as Farm Land

Proposal is to begin a rolling 4-5 year program to review all currently classified farm land properties, to be reassessed by completing the application contained in Appendix 2. This will include reviewing approximately 240 properties each year.

This process to ensure each property remains eligible for the differential rate discount and equity across all rate payers.

Waste charge

Implement a two-tiered waste charging structure

- Public amenity cleaning – to recover indirect waste management costs
- Waste collection charge – to recover direct collection costs for properties receiving this service.

This approach ensures transparency and equitable cost recovery. This proposal remains subject to the Minister for Local Government undertaking a review of the 'Local Government Services Rates and charges - Minister's Good Practice Guidelines', which are aimed to clarify the use of Service Rates and Charges under section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Rate Payment Collections

Remove the due date for full payment of rates, offering four instalments only. This change aims to improve cash flow and support ratepayers in managing their obligations more effectively.

ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement will run for eight weeks, allowing for community input into the options provided. There will also be the opportunity for submitters to speak to their submission.

4.8 (Cont.)

This feedback will be considered by Council before adopting the revenue and rating plan ahead of the 2026-27 annual budget.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Community will be informed through social media and online platforms. Following the decision of Council to review the rating strategy, a number of groups have been preparing their submissions.

These options could impact to varying degrees across all of the community.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Local Government Act 2020*

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The overall financial implication on Council with these options is nil. The rates options are a redistribution of the rates burden, and the waste service charge option ensures that the amounts charged remain at full cost recovery.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 Notice of Motion 506 (Cr Gill) - Election Donations

Cr Gill has given notice of his intention to move the following motion at the meeting.

That Council advocates to the State Government to:

1. *Restrict donations for Candidates in Council elections to donors on the electoral roll for each municipality with caps and disclosure thresholds that discourage large donations from companies or bodies where individual donors are unknown to electors.*
2. *That recipients of candidate donations declare donations in full on the Victorian Electoral Commission website immediately on receipt and no donations be allowed within two weeks of an election.*
3. *That the State Government be asked to follow up and investigate to ensure that no donations to any of the candidates are received after a Council election as that may circumvent the above advocacy aimed at helping ensure that Council elections are fair and transparent.*

Background

Nil.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Officer Comment Issued by | Manager – Governance & Risk |
| Authorised by | Chief Executive Officer |

OFFICER COMMENT

The *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020* currently establish requirements for the disclosure of donations and campaign funding for candidates. Under these provisions, candidates are required to submit a campaign donation return to the Chief Executive Officer within 40 days after election day, regardless of whether they were elected and/or did not receive donations.

Under section 306 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, all donations that meet the gift disclosure threshold of \$500 or more received during the donation period must be declared. The donation period begins on the day after the last general election and ends 30 days after election day for the next general election.

The matters raised in this Notice of Motion, including limiting donations to local electors, introducing real-time disclosure and prohibiting donations close to or after elections, would require legislative amendment at the State level.

If Council supports this Notice of Motion, Shire officers will prepare correspondence to the Minister for Local Government and relevant State agencies to advocate for consideration of these reforms.

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Financial and Resourcing Implications

5.1 (Cont.)

Not applicable.

Potential Alternative Wording

Not applicable.

5.2 Notice of Motion 507 (Cr Gill) - Property Strategy Workshop

Cr Gill has given notice of his intention to move the following motion at the meeting.

That Shire officers consider:

1. *A Council workshop regarding property strategy be held in December, to help ensure property related decisions are informed by community needs, aspirations and feedback with the ability to carry out decisions in a timely manner, with the right information and to consider the way sales and acquisition of property are managed by the Shire.*
2. *The property strategy detail targeted sales or purchase actions over this Council term.*

Background

Nil.

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| Officer Comment Issued by | Manager – Assets, Buildings & Property |
| Authorised by | Director – Assets & Infrastructure |

OFFICER COMMENT

Whilst Shire officers are supportive of holding a Councillor workshop in December 2025 to discuss the strategic property framework, it is not considered feasible due to existing Council Briefing and Meeting schedule constraints.

As an alternative, Shire officers propose to provide a non-verbal briefing to Councillors on 9 December 2025, ensuring key information is shared before the end of the year. A dedicated workshop would then be scheduled in early 2026 once the Council Meeting calendar for the new year has been confirmed.

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Financial and Resourcing Implications

Not applicable.

Potential Alternative Wording

That Shire officers consider:

1. *A Council workshop regarding Property Strategy be held in early 2026, to help ensure property related decisions are informed by community needs, aspirations and feedback with the ability to carry out decisions in a timely manner, with the right information and to consider the way sales and acquisition of property are managed by the Shire.*
2. *The Property Strategy will provide a comprehensive framework for the strategic management of Council Property to ensure Council continues to support effective service delivery, community wellbeing, and financial sustainability over the next five years. This will lead to the development of a Sale and Acquisition of Land Policy and a Property Portfolio Plan that will identify Council owned land potentially deemed surplus and suitable for sale.*

5.3 Notice of Motion 508 (Cr Gill) - Revocation

Cr Gill has given notice of his intention to move the following motion at the meeting.

That Council revoke Agenda Item 4.4 – Planning Matters Policy which was adopted at the Council Meeting on Wednesday, 5 November 2025.

Background

This revocation is necessary and comes about because of the late Council report notifying of Shire officer alterations to the Planning Matters Policy to Councillors.

This is an important Planning Policy that has repercussions related to the elected representative role in raising planning matters on behalf of our community yet there has been no real opportunity for the public to see and scrutinise or raise questions about the proposed changes.

The marked-up changes were confusing, and it was difficult to understand or amend alterations to the existing policy.

The public were not aware of the alterations until the day of the Council Meeting which is a lapse in governance and transparency requirements.

Not all of the information necessary for the alterations was put out for initial public feedback and consultation.

The policy is detailed with many complicated aspects and repercussions, and this may have resulted in some councillors being confused, unsure or not fully informed on an important planning policy.

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| Officer Comment Issued by | Manager – Governance & Risk |
| Authorised by | Chief Executive Officer |

OFFICER COMMENT

Clause 22 of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Governance Rules outlines the process for motions to revoke or amend a resolution as follows:

- 1) *Motions to revoke or amend a resolution can be made in the following ways:*
 - (a) *By Notice of Motion signed by at least two Councillors, including one Councillor who previously supported the resolution and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer*
 - (b) *By recommendation contained in an Officer’s report included on the agenda.*

The Council Decision to adopt the Planning Matters Policy was made on Wednesday 5 November 2025. A Notice of Motion to revoke this decision was subsequently submitted to the Chief Executive Officer on Thursday 6 November 2025 and signed by three Councillors, including one Councillor who previously supported the resolution, as required under the Governance Rules.

If Council resolves to revoke this decision, the effect will be that the Planning Matters Policy will not be adopted. It will be for Shire officers to review the policy and engage with Councillors prior to presenting for further consideration.

5.3 (Cont.)

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Financial and Resourcing Implications

Not applicable.

Potential Alternative Wording

Not applicable.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

Under Council's Governance Rules, no business may be admitted as urgent business unless it:

5. Relates to a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda.
6. Cannot because of its urgency, be reasonably listed in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.
7. Councillors by a majority vote, vote in favour of a matter being dealt with as urgent business.

7 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Advice to the Public

All reports, information and recommendations contained in 'Section 7 – Confidential Items' of this Agenda have been designated by the Chief Executive Officer as confidential pursuant to section 66 (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

The Council may resolve that the meeting be closed to members of the public in accordance with section 66 (5) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* if the meeting is discussing any of the following:

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
- (b) Security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person.
- (c) Land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values.
- (d) Law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person.
- (e) Legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.
- (f) Personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.
- (g) Private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that:
 - (i) Relates to trade secrets.
 - (ii) If released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.
- (h) Confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66 (2) (a).
- (i) Internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145.
- (j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169.
- (k) Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition.
- (l) Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with section 66 (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

7.1 Council Committee Terms of Reference and Community Member Appointments

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3 (1) (f) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

7.2 Laneway adjoining Glenisla Drive, Normanby Terrace, Kilburn Grove, Elmie Terrace and Dominion Road, Mount Martha

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3 (1) (e) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as it contains legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.