

Candidate Request for Information Register - 2024 Election

Request	Response	All candidates advised
<p>Could you provide me with information on remuneration for Councillors duties. Specifically, is it optional to be paid? Is it compulsory? Can you just claim costs accrued?</p>	<p>The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) stipulates that Councillors are entitled to be paid an allowance. The allowance amount is determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019.</p> <p>The Act also states that A Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor may elect— to receive the entire allowance to which they are entitled; or (b) to receive a specified part of the allowance to which they are entitled; or (c) to receive no allowance.</p> <p>Councillors are entitled, under section 40 of the Act, to reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties. This is further detailed in Cardinia Shire Council's Councillor Expenses Policy found here: https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/downloads/download/1923/councillor_expenses_policy_-_cardinia_shire_council</p>	<p>24/9/2024</p>

Request	Response	All candidates advised
<p>I have received the roll from VEC for Henty Ward, in which i'm standing.</p> <p>The council roll which has been provided as labels has just 36 electors.</p> <p>All of these have the A code.Owner ratepayer (by application).</p> <p>This is all that is on the Council roll for Henty Ward ?</p> <p>I was supplied with no others from other categories ie. P Occupier ratepayer,Corporation (owner) (by application) or T Corporation (occupier) (by application).</p> <p>It just seems light on. I was expecting more.</p> <p>Can you confirm that is all or do I need to talk to VEC for confirmation?</p>	<p>I have sought a second opinion internally on your query. It appears to us that you have only been provided with the Council Enrolled voters and that information you have is correct.</p> <p><i>We would advise you to enquire further with the VEC who should provide you with the State and Council enrolled voters.</i></p>	<p>24/9/2024</p>

Request	Response	All candidates advised
<p>Cardinia Ratepayer/Resident, (name redacted) has provided me the attached letter. This content is concerning. Can you please advise all Councillors and Candidates the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? 2. What other correspondence in relation to the matter has been received? 3. Why did Cardinia Shire Council fail to complete a review of it's planning scheme by June 2021 as was required being 12 months post endorsement of the 2020-24 Council Plan? 4. Why was this failure to meet Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act not communicated to the Councillors nor Audit and Risk Committee? 5. Why (eff 2 January 2024) had the organisation not submitted a review of it's planning scheme or requested additional time? 6. What progress has the organisation made on this matter since January 2024? Please provide a detailed record. 7. What inconsistencies in form and content in the current Cardinia Planning Scheme need to be addressed via a Planning Scheme amendment? Please provide a detailed record. 8. What steps have you taken to address this breach in legislative obligations? 9. Are you satisfied with your handling of this obligation? As the Councillors engage you in your role can a detailed self-assessment please be provided with your response. 10. Is it typical for local government Council's to ignore these legislated obligations? If so, can you please provide benchmarking for context. 11. Has the Victorian Ombudsman and/or Local Government Inspectorate contacted Council with regard to complaints about this matter? If so, please provide a detailed record. 	<p>Council is aware of this letter dated 2 January 2024 and the obligation to review the Planning Scheme. Council has had numerous conversations with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regarding this matter as the Department is currently translating the Planning Scheme into a new format. Although DTP is undertaking the translation of the PPF, our officers are supporting this process to assess DTP's work. At the last meeting between Council and DTP in July 2024, it was further conversed that the Planning Scheme Review will be completed following the translation of the Planning Policy Framework (PPF). We are also in discussions with the DTP to conduct the review once it has been approved by the Minister for Planning and the new format has been tested.</p> <p>The Audit and Risk Committee have not been advised as we have an agreement with the Department on this.</p> <p>As a review has not been undertaken at this stage, any inconsistencies in form and content cannot be provided.</p> <p>It is regarded that there has been no breach to the legislation as Council has been working with DTP at all times, Council has received no concerns from the Victorian Ombudsman and/or Local Government Inspectorate.</p>	<p>04/10/2024</p>

Request	Response	All candidates advised
<p>Can you please provide information on how the advice about the legal matter was provided to (redacted) and the Audit and Risk Committee, as I have no recollection of this being presented or discussed, nor was aware of any need to share significant information items with Council following the meeting.</p>	<p>In response a Community Question was raised at the September Council Meeting relating to officers' response to a legal matter. The CEO report contains a section for litigation matters and we can confirm that this matter was included in the 13 September CEO report for the Audit and Risk Committee at its September 2024 meeting.</p>	<p>4/10/2024</p>

<p>A previous Council Resolution directed the organisation to support and fund, a community group, to lead a Pakenham Christmas Carols in 2024 and 2025. I was disappointed to read in the local paper this has been withdrawn. I understand that the PC3 Church was selected by staff and had commenced planning.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am advised that the Church does not have the incorporated status required for the organisations Contract. What efforts were made to connect the church to another Community Group under an auspice arrangement? What efforts to amend Council's contract were made? My understanding is that this is exactly the type of support that was intended to be provided per the Council Resolution. Would you please confirm and explain. 2. I am advised that the Church has requested Council's assistance with insurance, and that this was refused. My understanding is that this type of support was also intended in the Council Resolution. My understanding is that the organisation has advised it will run the event itself – thus taking on insurance requirements. Would you please confirm and explain. 3. I am advised that the Church and volunteers commenced extensive programming planning with the community. I am advised the volunteers would like their programming integrated into the event which Council is 	<p>CCLF advised that due to the group's current structure and the lengthy process required to implement the necessary legalities to protect themselves, they would not be able to proceed as the event organiser.</p> <p>Council Officers met with CCLF to discuss suggested changes put forward by the group to the agreement. Council was unable to alter the terms and conditions to the extent requested. Council did not approach other groups on behalf of CCLF to auspice this event.</p> <p>As per Council's Insurance Coverage Policy, for some events Council is able to offer the community liability policy for a set fee to some hirers that do not hold public liability insurance. However, events such as the Pakenham Carols are not eligible for this coverage. Like other organisations CCLF would require public liability insurance to run the event.</p> <p>CCLF have expressed an interest in proceeding with the 2025 event which provides more time to "restructure the CCLF as an incorporated entity with not-for-profit status and get a high-level insurance policy that is fit for purpose". This was confirmed in an email from CCLF.</p> <p>After notifying they were not delivering the event, CCLF expressed interest in continuing to plan the event program. CCLF have been invited to participate in the event, including potentially hosting the previously discussed "Hope Tent" which would have a tremendous positive impact for the community.</p> <p>Council can provide contact details to any candidate who wishes to speak with the representative from PC3 Church.</p>	<p>07/10/2024</p>
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<p>running, and this was refused. Would you please confirm and explain.</p> <p>The Cardinia Christian Leaders Forum (CCLF) were initially engaged to run the event, and the PC3 Church is the contact church. The CCLF was delayed in establishing incorporated status not PC3 Church.</p>		
<p>Request for a copy of letter received from Minister Sonya Kilkenny regarding public consultation on draft planning provisions Strategic Extractive Resource Areas-Draft planning provision for Lang Lang.</p>	<p>Letter attached to email</p>	<p>07/10/2024</p>

Request	Response	All candidates advised
<p>Can all Councillors and Candidates please be advised on if/what action Council may have taken in relation to new Affirmative Laws issued last year?</p>	<p>Council works in partnership with several Community agencies funded to deliver projects aligned with State governments legislation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together We Can • Good Health Down South Partnership (GHDS), Women’s Health in the South East (WHISE). • Respectful Relationships <p>Reducing Family Violence is also a priority action under Councils Liveability Plan.</p> <p>In 2023/24 Cardinia Shire’s Youth Services were a member of the Good Health Down South Partnership led by WHISE. As part of this Regional Partnership Cardinia Youth Services contributed to a number of deliverables from the Good Health Down South Strategy Year Three and Four Action Plan, including working in partnership with WHISE and Sexual Health Victoria on the Consent Matters Community of Practice. The objective of the project was to build the capacity of youth and community service professionals to deliver affirmative consent information to young people disengaged from mainstream schooling in line with legislative changes, and to build the capacity of youth and community service professionals to respond appropriately to disclosures of violence. Three youth groups in Cardinia Shire were engaged in the development of professional development resources. Read the evaluation report here https://whise.org.au/resources/consent-matters-evaluation-august-2023/</p> <p>Our Youth Services team deliver young men’s and young women’s programs within secondary schools across the Shire each term. Affirmative consent is a topic that is included in school programs.</p> <p>In September 2024 the Victorian Legal Aid presented at the Cardinia Youth Network on affirmative consent and online safety to ensure professionals working with young people continue to be aware of laws and best practice.</p>	<p>17/10/2024</p>

Request	Response	All candidates advised
<p>Could you please provide the maintenance expenditure for each of the following local connector roads for FY23/24? This includes, grading, resheeting, pothole maintenance, drains, bitumen supply, rock etc (not sure how Cardinia categorises the various maintenance tasks for roads)...</p> <p>Paternoster Road Emerald/Mt Burnett Bessie Creek Road Nar Nar Goon Nth/Gembrook Huxtable Road Upper Pakenham MtBurnett Road Gembrook/MtBurnett Ure Road Gembrook Mountain Road Gembrook Wright Road Avonsleigh Phillip Road Avonsleigh Cardinia share of Selby-Aura Road Menzies Creek AuraVale Road Menzies Creek</p>	<p>Maintaining our unsealed road network costs approximately \$6,000 per kilometre each year, while basic maintenance for the sealed roads are budgeted at around \$2,500 per kilometre. These figures do not include the costs associated with maintaining adjacent drainage infrastructure. Our drainage budget is used not only for maintaining side road drains but also for other infrastructure within the drainage network.</p> <p>The investment required for road maintenance varies depending on the materials and equipment needed, as well as seasonal factors. For example, this year, the cost of resheeting unsealed roads ranges between \$30,000 and \$50,000 per kilometre. Additionally, the day-to-day maintenance costs can vary between \$300 and \$5,000 per kilometre.</p>	<p>25/10/2024</p>