

Council Meeting

Agenda

Monday 17 February 2025

Commencing 7:00 PM

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

Council Meeting

Monday 17 February 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Members: Cr Jack Kowarzik Mayor
 Cr Alanna Pomeroy Deputy Mayor
 Cr Liz Roberts
 Cr Samantha-Jane Potter
 Cr Casey Thomsen
 Cr David Nickell
 Cr Collin Ross
 Cr Brett Owen
 Cr Trudi Paton

Officers: Carol Jeffs Chief Executive Officer
 Peter Benazic General Manager Infrastructure and Environment
 Debbie Tyson General Manager Community & Planning Services
 Wayne Mack General Manager Corporate Services
 Peter Harris Manager Governance, Safety & Property
 Sharyn Tilley Coordinator Governance & Councillor Services

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA - 17 FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Councillor,

You are advised that a meeting will be held in the **Council Chambers, Cardinia Shire Council Civic Centre, 20 Siding Avenue, Officer** on **Monday 17 February 2025** commencing at **7:00 PM**.

Carol Jeffs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1 Opening And Reflection

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

2 Traditional Owners Acknowledgement

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

3 Apologies

4 Adoption And Confirmation Of Minutes

That Council confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

1. Council Meeting 16 December 2024.
2. Town Planning Committee Meeting 3 February 2025.

5 Declaration Of Interests

Carol Jeffs, Chief Executive Officer has declared a material conflict of interest in Confidential Agenda Item 3.1 CEO Performance Plan 2024/25, as the matter relates directly to her employment and performance.

6 Community Questions

7 Ordinary Business

7.1 Town Planning Reports

7.2 General Reports

7.2.1 ADVOCACY UPDATE AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Responsible GM:	Debbie Tyson
Author:	Pieta Bucello, Tom Ellis
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the following initiatives to be promoted as key priorities in the Federal Election Campaign 2025:
 - a. Lang Lang Sand Truck Bypass Road
 - b. Road Sealing Package
 - c. Cardinia Life Re-development
 - d. Princes Highway Intersection Upgrades between Nar Nar Goon and Longwarry
2. Endorse the list of projects being put forward for the Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) 2025, including:
 - a. Kester Kitchin Park Toilet Upgrade, Lang Lang
 - b. High Street Public Toilet Upgrade, Bunyip
 - c. View Street Public Toilet Upgrade, Tynong
 - d. Charing Cross Public Toilet Upgrade, Beaconsfield
 - e. Ritchie Street Public Toilet Upgrade, Garfield
 - f. Princes Hwy Trail Missing Links
 - McMullen Road to Majestic Drive, Officer
 - i. Beaconsfield – Emerald Road to O’Neil Road, Beaconsfield
 - g. Wood St Shared Path, Beaconsfield
 - h. Mulcahy Rd Shared Path, Pakenham

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA - 17 FEBRUARY 2025

3. Endorse the list of projects being put forward for the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) Fund 2025, including:
 - i. Princes Hwy / Thewlis Rd Intersection
 - ii. Princes Hwy / Brunt Rd / Whiteside Rd Intersection
 - iii. Princes Hwy Trail Missing Links
 - McMullen Road to Majestic Drive, Officer
 - Beaconsfield – Emerald Road to O’Neil Road, Beaconsfield
 - iv. Wood St Shared Path, Beaconsfield
 - v. Mulcahy Rd Shared Path, Pakenham
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve final submissions to the Growing Suburbs Fund and Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) Fund 2025, based on the list of endorsed projects by the grant deadline 28th February 2025.

Executive Summary

This report provides an update of the initiatives Council are currently advocating for, the proposed priorities for the Federal Election Campaign, along with two current funding opportunities for Council to consider.

Background

A key function of Local Government is to advocate for the needs of current and future residents. As a geographically large, demographically diverse and rapidly growing municipality, Cardinia Shire faces a unique combination of challenges to meet the community’s current and projected needs.

These challenges and opportunities are currently documented in the Council Plan 2021-25 and provide direction for Council’s current advocacy efforts. Council is advocating for several issues and initiatives, as outlined in the Advocacy Prospectus 2025 (Attachment 1).

Over the past four years, Council has achieved numerous successes through advocacy efforts, effectively championing the needs and interests of our community. These accomplishments reflect Council’s dedication and strategic approach to addressing key issues. However, as with any ongoing endeavour, there remain opportunities for growth and improvement. By reflecting on past experiences and embracing new strategies, Council can continue to enhance its advocacy efforts, ensuring even greater impact in the future.

Reviewing our advocacy priorities

The current advocacy priorities and approaches are being reviewed alongside development of the new Council Plan 2025-29. Community consultation and engagement with Councillors is being undertaken to understand emerging issues and opportunities which require advocacy.

These emerging issues and opportunities will be assessed against the Advocacy Framework to understand their readiness for advocacy and the potential next steps or actions to be taken. An Advocacy Agenda will be developed and presented to Council for adoption, following adoption of the Council Plan.

Discussion

Federal election priorities 2025

The next federal election must be held by May 2025. Council officers are preparing a local campaign to highlight Cardinia Shire's key priorities.

Four local initiatives have been identified as priorities for the Federal Election including:

Lang Lang Sand Truck Bypass Road	<p>Council is calling for \$24 million to commence planning and construction of the new road, which will remove large trucks from the Lang Lang town centre, increasing safety, improving amenity and providing a more direct route for trucks to access construction sites.</p> <p>The bypass is an action within the Lang Lang Township Strategy. Council has undertaken a feasibility study in consultation with the Department of Transport and commenced some initial land acquisition.</p>
Road Sealing Package	<p>Council is calling for \$109 million to seal roads in emergency prone areas in the northern region of the Shire, to enhance access and safety during natural disasters.</p> <p>The Morrison Government had previously committed \$150 million over 10 years to seal roads in the northern region of the Shire through "Sealing the Hills". Following the change of government, ultimately only \$41 million was provided.</p> <p>Council is committed to continuing the road sealing program via the remaining federal funding and the special charge scheme currently in place. More than 38 roads are already complete or underway.</p>
Cardinia Life Re-development	<p>Council is calling for \$28.54 million from each the Australian and Victorian Government to commence Stage 1 of the Cardinia Life re-development, providing modern sports and aquatic facilities in the heart of Cardinia Shire. The redevelopment will ensure the facility can cater for current demand and is future proofed for the expected population growth.</p> <p>Council has prepared a business case and applied to the Federal Government's Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program in 2024. If successful, Council has committed \$10.6 m towards Stage 1.</p>
Princes Highway Intersection Upgrades between Nar Nar Goon and Longwarry	<p>Council is calling on funding to develop a business case and construct four grade separated interchanges along the Princes Highway between Nar Nar Goon and Longwarry. Since 2017 there have been more than 115 road accidents along this 30km stretch of road, including four fatalities.</p> <p>These critical intersection upgrades will enhance road safety and improve access to the townships of Tynong, Garfield and Bunyip.</p>

If endorsed, further work to refine the messaging and develop campaigns for the four initiatives will commence.

Current funding opportunities

There are currently two State Government grant programs that Council is eligible to apply for. Both close on February 28th and require a Council resolution endorsing the chosen projects. Evidence of this resolution and Council's commitment to deliver each project is a mandatory requirement of both applications.

Growing Suburbs Fund

The Growing Suburbs Fund provides a \$5 million pool to Melbourne's seven growth councils. Eligible projects include community facilities, open space upgrades, and placemaking projects.

Each applicant is able to make unlimited applications, however the total funding pool available is limited. Council must make at least a 1:1 contribution to the cost.

Officers have identified projects that are eligible for the grant, have sufficient plans and budgets to include in the application, and have existing capital works funding allocated. Any successful grant money will offset Council funds and will not require additional spending.

The current projects suitable for the Growing Suburbs Fund are:

- Priority upgrades from the Public Toilet Strategy 2020-30:

Project	Total cost
Kester Kitchin Park Toilet, Lang Lang	\$150,000
High Street Public Toilet, Bunyip	\$150,000
View Street Public Toilet, Tynong	\$150,000
Charing Cross Public Toilet, Beaconsfield	\$150,000
Ritchie Street Public Toilet, Garfield	\$150,000

- Active transport links:

Project	Total cost
Princes Highway Trail – McMullen Road to Majestic Drive, Officer	\$850,000
Princes Highway Trail – Emerald Road to O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield	\$750,000
Wood Street Shared Path, Beaconsfield	\$600,000
Mulcahy Road Shared Path, Pakenham	\$375,000

Growth Area Infrastructure Contributions (GAIC) Fund

GAIC funding is collected from developments in certain LGAs and then distributed by the State Government in the form of grants. There is at least \$150 million available in this round.

Projects must be related to transport and must be located within the urban growth boundary. There is also a 1:1 funding requirement.

The following projects have been identified as eligible and having sufficient plans and designs to submit with the application:

- Intersections:

Project	Total cost
Thewlis Road / Princes Highway Intersection, Pakenham	\$5.6m-\$9m
Brunt Road / Whiteside Road / Princes Highway Intersection, Officer	\$14.5m-\$17.4m

- Active transport links:

Project	Total cost
Princes Highway Trail – McMullen Road to Majestic Drive, Officer	\$850,000
Princes Highway Trail – Emerald Road to O’Neil Road, Beaconsfield	\$750,000
Wood Street Shared Path, Beaconsfield	\$600,000
Mulcahy Road Shared Path, Pakenham	\$375,000

Policy Implications

Council’s current advocacy initiatives are currently being reviewed and emerging advocacy issues and opportunities being identified. An Advocacy Agenda will be developed alongside the Council Plan 2025-29.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council’s Federal Election Campaign is funded within the operational budget 2025-26.

Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF)

The GSF requires Council to provide a 50% contribution towards the total project cost. Projects being considered for the GSF have been identified from Council’s current Capital Works Plan. Any grant funding received will offset Council’s budget.

Growth Area Infrastructure Contributions (GAIC) Fund

The GAIC fund also requires Council to provide a 50% contribution towards the total project cost. Projects being considered for the GAIC which are Council assets (active transport links) will include a contribution from Council. However, the larger intersection upgrades are state government assets and have developer contributions available. Officers will seek the full cost for intersection upgrades be covered by GAIC and developer contributions.

Further work to refine the final funding applications and Council’s contribution will be undertaken in collaboration with the Capital Works Governance Committee and Council’s Finance Team.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Council’s Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-33 identifies an action to “Advocate for climate change adaptation initiatives from all levels of government that increase resilience to climate change”. Current advocacy initiatives that support this action include:

- Financial sustainability of local government
- Emergency Ready Roads
- Pakenham Revitalisation
- South East Melbourne Airport
- Dedicated Growth Area Funds
- Mental Health Services
- Financial Crisis and Material Aid Funding
- Homelessness and Housing Support Services

Consultation/Communication

Community engagement will be undertaken in the lead up to and during the federal election to understand emerging issues and opportunities requiring Council’s advocacy. Councillors and community will also be engaged to assist in amplifying the advocacy priorities for the federal election.

Conclusion

Officers are seeking Council's support to progress development of four key priorities for promotion during the Federal Election Campaign 2025 and to prepare applications for the current rounds of the Growing Suburbs Fund and Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution Fund.

Attachments

1. CSC 2025 Advocacy Prospectus [7.2.1.1 - 22 pages]



Cardinia Shire Council

Advocacy Prospectus





Acknowledgement of Country

Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the lands of Cardinia Shire. Council pays its respects to elders past and present, recognising their role in continuing traditions, knowledge, language and culture for over 65,000 years. Cardinia Shire's name is derived from the Kulin word 'Kar-din-yarr', meaning 'look to the rising sun' or 'sunrise'. Council's logo, which includes a motif of the rising sun, reflects this meaning. Council continually works to strengthen relationships and progress reconciliation through the delivery of actions developed in partnership with our Traditional Owners and First Nations community.

Our inclusive statement

Cardinia Shire Council encourages a sense of belonging within our shire. We support an inclusive community comprised of people from diverse backgrounds, including and not limited to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, those identifying as LGBTIQ+, people of faith, and people of all ages, genders and abilities.

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Advocacy priorities snapshot

The project	The ask	The benefit
Local Priorities		
Cardinia Life Redevelopment	\$28.5 million from each level of government for design and construction	A modern and future-proofed sports and aquatic centre servicing the entire shire.
Racecourse Road Duplication	\$60 million total from all levels of government for design and construction	Removal of the last major bottleneck in the Pakenham road network.
Emergency Ready Roads	\$109 million in Australian Government funding reinstated	Improved emergency access during emergency events such as storms and bushfires.
Lang Lang Truck Bypass	\$24 million from each level of government for construction	Improved road safety and reduced air and noise pollution.
Princes Highway intersection safety upgrade - Nar Nar Goon to Longwarry	Funding from all levels of government to deliver a business case and masterplan	Improved safety of intersection along the Princes Highway.
Pakenham Revitalisation Project	Funding from the Australian and Victorian governments.	Upgrade and refresh of Pakenham CBD streetscape to boost economic opportunities.
Regional Priorities		
Financial sustainability of local government	Additional grants and funding support for local governments nationwide.	Better service delivery and additional local investment, reducing pressure on state and federal governments.
Thompsons Road Extension	\$900 million total from the Victorian and Australian Governments for design and construction	Unlocks Officer South employment zone and reduces congestion on the Monash Freeway.
South East Melbourne Airport	\$5 million from the Australian Government for a comprehensive business case	Increased exports and tourism for the Gippsland and Dandenong regions.
Dedicated Growth Area Funds	Funding streams for infrastructure delivery and aquatic centres.	Targeted infrastructure investment in high growth regions.
Fostering liveability and community		
Biolinks Plan	\$2 million in operation funding from the Australian and Victorian governments.	Protection of endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and other at-risk species.
Establishment of mental health centres	Funding from the Australian and Victorian governments.	Fills a major gap in mental health services locally, and those targeted at children.
Financial crisis and material aid funding	Ongoing funding from the Australian and Victorian governments.	Financial support for at-risk residents
Homelessness and housing support services	Ongoing funding from the Australian and Victorian governments.	Fills a major gap in crisis accommodation locally.

Mayor's message



On behalf of the Cardinia Shire community, I am proud to present Cardinia Shire Council's advocacy priorities and seek increased support and investment to meet the needs of our growing community, now and into the future.

At Cardinia Shire, our vision is for our growing community to be healthy, active and connected, with a thriving environment and a prosperous economy.

With our distinct urban, hills and rural areas in Melbourne's South East, the shire is an attractive place to live for more than 135,000 residents. With an average of 3 new households moving into the shire each day, and a population projected to rise by almost 40,000 over the next 10 years, we are one of Victoria's fastest growing municipalities.

To help sustain this growth and ensure our shire remains a great place to live, Council works hard to deliver essential services and projects for our community, including improving local roads and footpaths, supporting community infrastructure such as libraries, parks and sporting facilities, and managing natural assets, waste and biodiversity.

Council recognises that there is more to be done and strongly advocates to other levels of government for the infrastructure and services our community needs. Unfortunately, many of these needs remain unmet.

Nationwide, there is a shortage of investment in our fastest-growing suburbs due to a lack of adequate funding. Growth areas like Cardinia Shire require investment in infrastructure to keep up with demand for new roads, parks, sporting facilities and other amenities. In order for Council to ensure that new and existing residents have the same quality of life as people in more established local government areas, additional investment and support is needed.

Employment opportunities also need to keep pace with growth. Our local economy currently supports thousands of jobs in the construction, health, and education sectors, as well as a strong agricultural sector which produces almost all of Australia's asparagus. While jobs are being created in our economy over time, almost two-thirds of residents still need to leave the shire for work. Cardinia Shire would welcome initiatives that create more local jobs, such as better higher-education pathways, an acceleration of employment precincts, and planning controls to protect the land for a South East Melbourne Airport.

Demand for local services also continues to expand. We are home to a growing number of households experiencing financial hardship. As the cost of living continues to rise, more and more residents are relying on external support to meet their basic needs. However, our shire is home to only one emergency relief provider that is struggling to cater to demand – more funding and resources are desperately needed.

Cardinia Shire Council remains committed to working with all levels of government as we advocate for increased support and investment in our community. We need cooperation from all levels of government to meet the challenges of managing population growth, improve outcomes for our residents, deliver more local jobs and ensure a better future for everyone who calls Cardinia Shire home.

Cr Jack Kowarzik
Mayor, Cardinia Shire Council

Our councillors

Nine councillors were elected in October 2024 to serve for a 4-year period until October 2028.



Beacon Hills Ward
Cr Brett Owen



Pakenham Hills Ward
Mayor
Cr Jack Kowarzik



Bunyip Ward
Deputy Mayor
Cr Alanna Pomeroy



Ranges Ward
Cr David Nickell



Central Ward
Cr Collin Ross



Toomuc Ward
Cr Casey Thomsen



Henty Ward
Cr Liz Roberts



Westernport Ward
Cr Trudi Paton



Officer Ward
Cr Samantha-Jane Potter

Community profile



More than 135,000 people call Cardinia Shire home.



An average of **3 new households** move into the shire every day.



Cardinia Shire's population is predicted to rise by approximately **39,658 over the next 10 years.**



More than 60 per cent of Cardinia Shire's residents travel outside the area for work.

Cardinia Shire is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia and is situated in the Greater South East Melbourne region, which is predicted to grow to a population of 2 million people over the next decade.

As one of 10 'Interface Councils' on the outskirts of metropolitan Melbourne, Cardinia is where urban and rural areas meet, with the shire spanning an area of 1,280km².

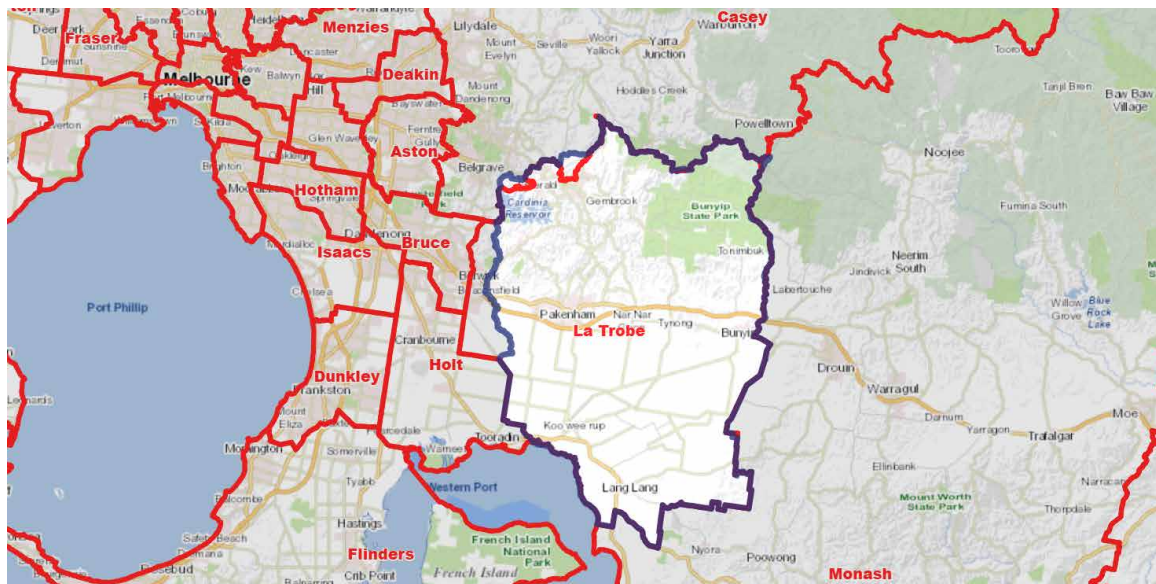
In recent years, Cardinia Shire has become a powerhouse for population, housing, food production, and economic growth in Victoria. However, there are risks that come with this rapid growth; critical infrastructure and employment opportunities are not keeping pace with population and housing development. More people are moving to Cardinia Shire but the roads and transport infrastructure are showing signs of stress.

This rapid growth needs to be supported with critical infrastructure and employment opportunities, to ensure that the people who have made, or will make, Cardinia Shire home are adequately supported.

The infrastructure needs of the region are significant and include strategic road upgrades, improved public transport linkages and investment to ensure coordinated activation of residential and industrial land.

This prospectus addresses this issue and outlines the essential priority projects and initiatives that will support our community to grow. Each priority project will have a considerable, wide-reaching economic and social benefits, including opportunities for community members to focus on their health and wellbeing, easing traffic congestion, improving the liveability of the area, and promoting safety.

Cardinia Shire Council in relation to Greater Melbourne and its federal electorates



Our partners

Cardinia Shire Council works closely with a number of partner organisations that represent councils on a regional, state or national level. These partnerships are essential in amplifying our message and highlighting the shared challenges that local governments are facing across the country.

Many of our projects are being advocated for and delivered with the support of our partners.

Our key partners include:



Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM)

GSEM includes the shires of Cardinia and Mornington Peninsula, and the cities of Casey, Frankston, Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Knox and Monash.

GSEM advocates for jobs, infrastructure, investment, liveability, sustainability and wellbeing for the southeast region.

www.gsem.org.au



Outer Melbourne Councils (OMC)

Outer Melbourne Councils is a group of 10 municipalities that form a ring around metropolitan Melbourne, including the shires of Cardinia, Mitchell, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik and Yarra Ranges, and the cities of Casey, Hume, Melton, Whittlesea and Wyndham.

Outer Melbourne Councils was formed to advocate for better services and infrastructure for all 1.6 million residents that live in the outer suburbs.

www.outermelbournecouncils.com.au



National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA)

The NGAA is a member-based organisation that advocates at the Federal Government level for a stronger focus on the needs of Australia's fast-growing outer suburbs.

www.ngaa.org.au

Regional Priorities

Financial sustainability of local government



The Ask

- Additional funding from all levels of government is needed if local councils are to continue providing the level of services expected by residents. In particular, Council is calling for the Federal Government to restore Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue
- The Victorian and Australian Governments should recognise that growth areas face particularly significant challenges in raising revenue and reducing costs
- Council needs additional support to continue funding the increasing number of responsibilities we have been given in vital sectors like child health and immunisation, kindergarten, and emergency management and response

The plan

Council is seeking recognition of the fact that the local government sector is bearing an increasing number of responsibilities and costs but is receiving less and less financial support from higher levels of government. This is particularly acute in Victoria, where there is a rate cap.

This is an issue that we are working closely with the National Growth Areas Alliance to raise awareness of nationally. We are calling on both the Victorian and Australian Governments to address cost shifting and increase funding opportunities especially Financial Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth.

Why is this vital?

Local government is the main provider of a wide variety of services that are essential to liveable communities. Many of these services are the responsibility of the state or federal government but are operated by Council on their behalf.

Across the local government sector, costs have been rising at a rapid pace – significantly greater than the consumer price index. Without an equal increase in funding, the financial sustainability of local governments is becoming increasingly precarious.

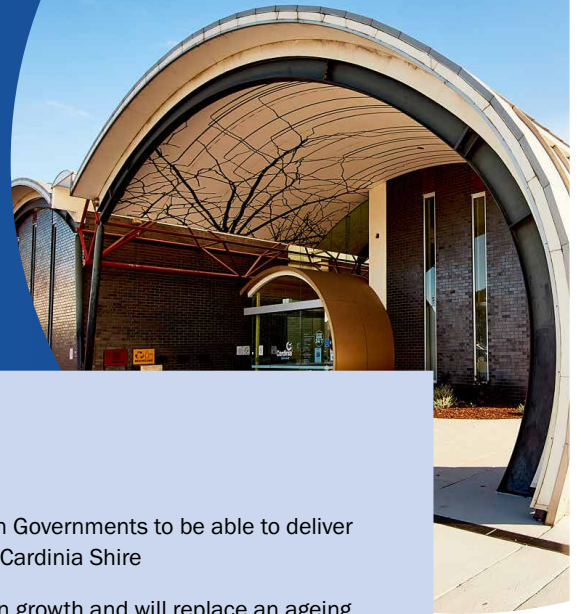
Council is being forced to prepare for a period of managed decline, where the quality and quantity of services is cut in order to preserve our finances. Without the other levels of government bearing more of the cost or providing revenue opportunities, this will only get worse.

Benefits to the community

The community and all levels of government benefit from proactive and well-resourced councils. Non-government sources of support are especially scarce in growth areas where charities and private enterprises have not yet established themselves. It is essential that Council has the resources to provide these kind of support services as well as our regular duties.

Local Priorities

Cardinia Life Redevelopment



The Ask

- **\$28.5 million** from each level of government to begin Stage 1
- Council requires the support of both the Victorian and Australian Governments to be able to deliver an expanded, modern sports and aquatic centre in the heart of Cardinia Shire
- The new Cardinia Life will be futureproofed to cater to population growth and will replace an ageing facility that is too small to cater to current demand
- The project is vital to ensuring that Cardinia Shire remains a healthy and active community

The plan

Council will deliver a total refurbishment of Cardinia Life in three stages, improving and expanding on aquatic, sporting, and community facilities. This will include:

New Aquatic Facilities

- Brand new 50m multipurpose pool
- New splash area and kids' aquatic playground
- Repurposed 25m pool
- Refurbished spa, steam and sauna facilities

Additional Sports Courts

- 4 new indoor courts, bringing the total to 12
- New show court with capacity for 1,500 spectators
- 3 new outdoor courts for casual use
- Refurbished change rooms and related amenities

Expanded Gym, Leisure, and Wellness Opportunities

- New wellness facility for community classes
- Expanded multi-storey 24-hour gym and group fitness room
- Major new gymnastics facility

Better Community Facilities

- Additional multipurpose space for hire
- Refurbished entrance foyer, café, and creche
- New and expanded footpaths, bike paths, and car parks, along with associated landscaping

Council has prepared a comprehensive business case and is preparing to begin detailed design of the new facility. We are calling on the Victorian and Australian Governments to partner with us to deliver this important project.

Why is this vital?

Residents know that Cardinia Life is an ageing facility that has been unable to keep up with our rapidly growing community. Since Cardinia Life first opened in 2006, Cardinia Shire's population has more than doubled and growth is projected to continue at a rapid pace over the coming decades.

Currently, many locals are missing out on swim classes, community sport, and leisure activities. These are essential to fostering a healthy and happy community where anyone who wants to keep active has the opportunity to do so. Residents with a disability are particularly affected by the lack of accessible equipment and amenities.

Council also places a strong emphasis on improving water safety by encouraging participation in swim classes for all ages. Expanding our local aquatic facilities is the only way to guarantee that everyone in the shire has the opportunity to become a capable and confident swimmer.

Council has a strong commitment to a sustainable and low-emission shire. Upgrading Cardinia Life will enable us to replace old and inefficient high-emission equipment with modern alternatives as well as avoiding extensive maintenance work that will be needed in future to keep the current facility operational.

Benefits to the community

The redevelopment will deliver almost \$230 million in gross economic benefits to our community over the next 3 decades. This includes the direct benefits to users and the local economy, as well as the social value of improved physical and mental health.

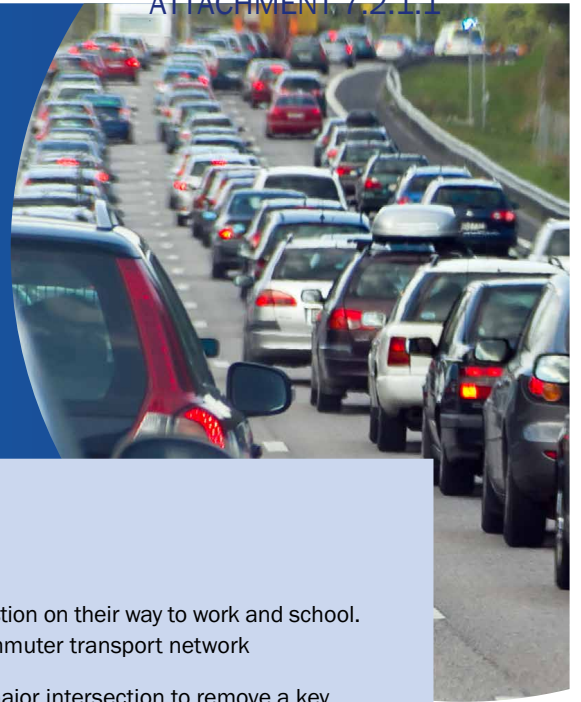
Locals will no longer be fighting for limited spaces in the pool and on the basketball court, with plenty of space dedicated to meeting demand, now and into the future. Everyone in Cardinia Shire will have access to a first-class facility for sport and aquatics on their doorstep.

The new Cardinia Life will provide new opportunities to stay active, whilst modernising existing facilities and equipment. The project will not only allow more community members to take advantage of the facility but will also provide a significantly improved experience for existing users.



Local Priorities

Racecourse Road Duplication



The Ask

- **\$60 million** total from all levels of government
- Pakenham residents have been crying out for solutions to congestion on their way to work and school. This project will deliver the final missing link in Pakenham's commuter transport network
- Council is asking for support to add new lanes and upgrade a major intersection to remove a key bottleneck and ensure that Pakenham is prepared for high levels of expected population growth in the immediate future

The plan

Council will deliver additional lanes in each direction along Racecourse Road, Pakenham, between the Princes Highway and Henry Street.

The project will also include an upgrade of the intersection between the Princes Highway and Racecourse Road to increase traffic flow.

Council has already completed preliminary planning work on the duplication. We are now calling on the Victorian and Australian Governments to partner with us to deliver the essential upgrade.

Why is this vital?

Pakenham has long experienced major congestion issues as the population growth has far exceeded the capacity of the road network.

Council welcomes major investment from the Australian and Victorian governments in recent years that has funded upgrades of McGregor Road, Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, and sections of Racecourse Road.

Even after these upgrades, there are still bottlenecks in Pakenham's major commuter routes that cause congestion. As Pakenham's population continues to grow, particularly with the development of Pakenham East, more work is needed to address traffic congestion.

Racecourse Road is a major bottleneck that restricts the flow of traffic between the Princes Highway and the Monash Freeway. Duplicating the full length of the road and upgrading the intersection with the Princes Highway will help reduce travel times and traffic across the local road network.

Benefits to the community

Over two thirds of Cardinia Shire residents leave the area for work every day. This places major pressure on arterial connections like the Monash Freeway, as well as the roads that feed into them. Far too many Pakenham residents will be familiar with the extended wait times to get on the freeway, just to sit in traffic.

Racecourse Road is a key connection between the north and south of Pakenham, and the Monash Freeway in particular. The duplication will ease the backlog of traffic as cars merge from 3 to 2 lanes, as well as expanding the Princes Highway intersection and allowing more cars through at once.

This will not only help commuters access the freeway but will ease congestion across the local road network, improving traffic flow and reducing travel times for local trips. Residents of Pakenham have put up with the stresses of major congestion for too long. It is time that they had a road network that focuses on getting them home sooner and safer.

Local Priorities

Emergency Ready Roads



The Ask

- **\$109 million** total from the Australian Government to finish sealing roads across the Dandenong Ranges area of Cardinia Shire
- Residents have been asking for safe, reliable roads in an area that is prone to dangerous storms and bushfires and is difficult for emergency services to access
- Sealed roads would reduce the financial burden that potholes, dust treatment, and other common road maintenance issues place on ratepayers across Cardinia Shire

The plan

Council will upgrade and seal hundreds of kilometres roads across the Dandenong Ranges, including in Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook, and the surrounding towns.

This will build on the 38 roads in the area that were previously sealed with the support of the Australian Government. We are calling for this previous funding to be reinstated so that we can finish the job before the next major storm or fire event.

Why is this vital?

The Dandenong Ranges are just a short trip from suburban Melbourne but are still home to an extensive network of unsealed roads. These present significant safety, maintenance and amenity issues across the region.

Safety is front of mind for Council, and no Cardinia Shire residents should feel uncertain about whether they will be safe in an emergency situation.

Sealed roads will ensure that storms do not prevent residents and emergency services from accessing homes and businesses and will guarantee escape routes during periods of high bushfire danger.

This project was previously funded by the Australian

Government and the sealing of several roads was completed. Unfortunately, over three quarters of the funding was later cut – Council is calling for this to be reinstated and the entire project finished.

Benefits to the community

Council understands that dust and potholes impact the quality of life for those living on unsealed roads. This is particularly true during unexpected weather events that are common in the Dandenong Ranges.

By sealing further roads in the area, residents will no longer have to deal with regular potholes, road surface issues and dust. They will also be safer and more reliable in emergency situations.

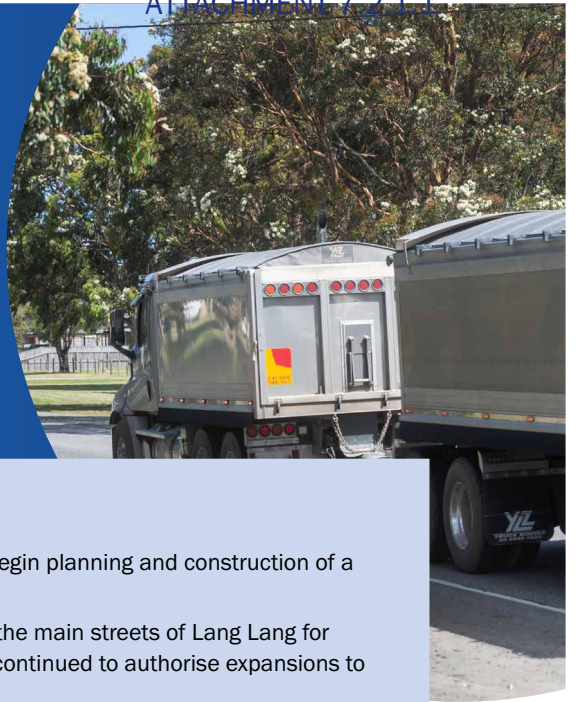
Council's maintenance costs for unsealed roads are significantly higher than those for sealed roads.

As vehicle numbers and adverse weather events increase, the financial burden of grading and maintenance will only grow.

Sealing the extensive road network in the hills will dramatically reduce ongoing maintenance costs and will free up Council funds for investment in other much-needed community services that benefit all residents, not just those on unsealed roads.

Local Priorities

Lang Lang Truck Bypass



The Ask

- **\$24 million** from the Victorian and Australian Governments to begin planning and construction of a dedicated truck bypass in Lang Lang
- Residents have been trying to get dangerous heavy vehicles off the main streets of Lang Lang for over a decade – during this time the Victorian Government has continued to authorise expansions to the local quarries and more trucks
- Council is urgently seeking support to establish an alternative route that connects quarries directly to the South Gippsland Highway for easy access to construction sites across the city

The plan

Council will construct a dedicated bypass for trucks travelling from sand quarries in Lang Lang towards the South Gippsland Highway, diverting them from local roads.

Council has already commenced land acquisitions and initial planning of the bypass, as well as making multiple submissions to the Victorian Government in response to their plans to expand the quarries. We are calling on the State and Commonwealth to help us support the quarry industry without jeopardising the safety and wellbeing of the Lang Lang community.

Why is this vital?

Sand extraction is a major industry in Lang Lang and the Victorian Government is actively encouraging the expansion of existing quarries. Lang Lang sand is essential to the building industry across Melbourne.

However, all trucks must pass through the main streets of Lang Lang to reach the rest of Melbourne. Currently, an average of 50 trucks an hour are travelling on each of Lang Lang's main local roads. This is an average of one truck every 1.2 minutes, all day long.

In order to support this major industry, the residents of Lang Lang deal with degraded roads, dangerous streets, and constant air and noise pollution. In situations like this, residents should always be put first.

A bypass would improve traffic flow for quarry trucks and other heavy vehicles travelling through Lang Lang and futureproof the area by accommodating more trucks with larger loads. Most importantly, the project would make the main street a safe, quiet place for the community.

Benefits to the community

Residents will once again be able to enjoy the businesses and amenities of their town centre. This is something that all Australians expect from their communities and Lang Lang residents deserve no less.

School children in particular will be safer and less impacted by dust and noise when travelling to Lang Lang Primary School. The danger of trucks racing past the school entrance and bus stop is not something that any parent should have to worry about on a daily basis.

The quarries are also a significant source of local jobs in the region and the sand that they extract is vital to construction companies across Cardinia Shire. The bypass will support the local economy and encourage growth in this industry without compromising the liveability of Lang Lang.

Local Priorities

Princes Highway intersection safety upgrade – Nar Nar Goon to Longwarry



The Ask

- **Funding** from all levels of government **to deliver a business case and masterplan**
- The construction of 4 highway-grade separated interchanges along this stretch of road is the missing piece of the 'National Highway'
- The intersection upgrades will address major safety issues that exist in the in the current road design and prepare the highway for rapid growth in Cardinia and Baw Baw shires, particularly Pakenham East.

The plan

Council will partner with the other levels of government to deliver a business case and masterplan that outlines the safest and most effective solutions to the current intersections linking Nar Nar Goon, Tynong, Garfield, Bunyip and Longwarry to the Princes Highway. These plans will then be used to deliver the new interchanges with the support of the Commonwealth and State governments.

The Victorian Government has already trialled reduced speed zones around the current intersections. Council is now calling on both the Victorian and Australian governments to help us plan and deliver a permanent solution.

Why is this vital?

The current intersections do not include slip lanes or overpasses, forcing vehicles entering the highway to pull out in front of oncoming traffic. Cars turning right to enter or exit the highway are forced to cross two lanes of traffic with oncoming traffic travelling up to 100 km/h. The lack of slip lanes or an overpass and limited space for vehicles to queue when giving way in the highway median strip means that traffic builds up easily, resulting in rushed and frustrated drivers who are more likely to make mistakes when entering the highway. This compounds the danger and will only get worse as the population of the surrounding areas continues to grow.

The fast-tracked development of Pakenham East will see approximately 20,000 new residents moving to Cardinia Shire in the coming years. At the same time, the population of towns along the Princes Highway in both Cardinia and Baw Baw shires continues to grow.

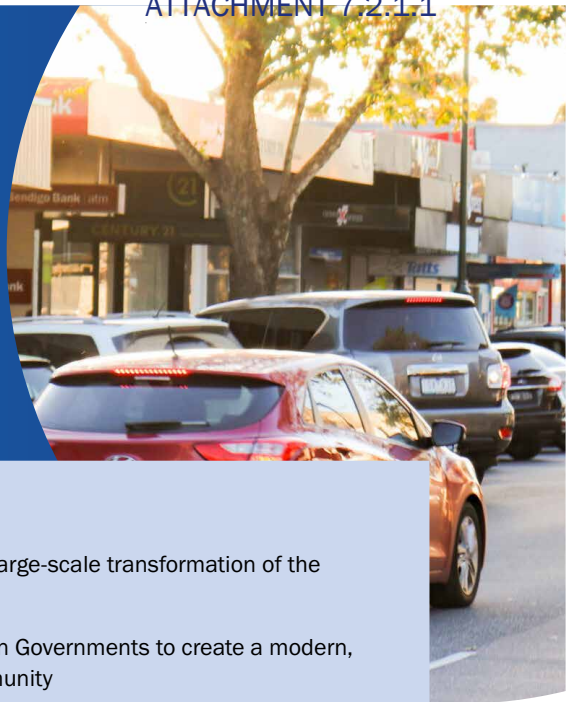
Benefits to the community

These intersections are known for near misses and accidents. Council's priority is to ensure the safety of residents, and significant improvements to road design are needed to ensure visitors and locals arrive at their destinations safely and on time.

These towns are also significant tourist destinations, with many people travelling from Melbourne to visit Gippsland, many of whom would be unfamiliar with the potential dangers. Gumbuya World is a particularly notable tourist attraction that hosts large numbers of visitors from across Victoria. Unfortunately, the highway intersection is not equipped to handle such a large volume of traffic, particularly on busy weekends and holiday periods. As a family destination, it is especially important that upgrades are undertaken to ensure the safety of visitors and to foster the continued growth of the tourism industry in Cardinia Shire.

Local Priorities

Pakenham Revitalisation Project



The Ask

- **Funding and support** from all levels of government to deliver a large-scale transformation of the heart of Pakenham
- Council is seeking the partnership of the Victorian and Australian Governments to create a modern, people-first town centre for the rapidly growing Pakenham community
- Residents and businesses will have easy access to public transport, a community hospital, and a welcoming, walkable retail precinct in the heart of Pakenham

The plan

Council is implementing a 12 stage plan to refresh and reinvigorate the Pakenham town centre. This will transform the area into a vibrant, active, and connected zone for residents to spend time.

The key focus will be on enhancing pedestrian safety and experience by widening footpaths, adding better lighting, and establishing new outdoor gathering spaces and street furniture.

Council has already completed the initial planning and design work and is now moving towards a public tender on key aspects of the project. Funding from the Victorian Government has kick-started construction on the first stages. We are now calling for further funds from both levels of government to lock in construction on the next steps of the project.

Why is this vital?

Pakenham's population is projected to grow by more than 25,000 new residents in the near future. Major infrastructure projects have provided new train stations, better freeway access and improved intersections across the suburb. Despite this, the current Pakenham CBD has not received an overhaul or facelift. It is important that the space is refreshed and modernised to suit the growing community.

A proper plan for the future of Pakenham's town centre is essential to ensuring that it caters to the current and future population and has a blueprint for expanding into a large, modern suburb. Residents expect a safe, vibrant town centre that supports an all-hours economy and provides an inviting destination to gather and attend community events.

Benefits to the community

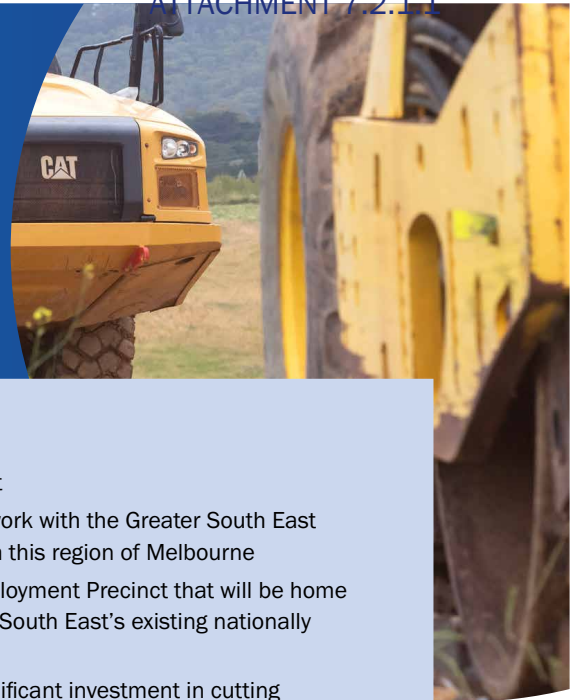
The revitalisation will establish Pakenham as a people-first town, with more pedestrian crossings, road speed reductions, and lighting. Local businesses will benefit from the growth in foot traffic and the support for a night-time economy.

In addition to providing better, safer access to the existing precinct, the revitalisation will also establish brand new meeting places and community-focused areas that can host events.

When complete, the plan will link the current Pakenham CBD with the new train station and community hospital, establishing a welcoming and connected town for all residents.

Regional Priorities

Thompsons Road Extension



The Ask

- **\$900 million** to deliver this major regional infrastructure project
- Council is asking the Australian and Victorian Governments to work with the Greater South East Melbourne group of councils on a key arterial that will transform this region of Melbourne
- The completed road will unlock the huge new Officer South Employment Precinct that will be home to tens of thousands of new, high-skilled jobs that augment the South East's existing nationally significant commercial zones in Clayton and Dandenong
- A dedicated arterial for this commercial centre will be state-significant investment in cutting congestion on the Monash Freeway and creating jobs

The plan

Council is calling for the transformation of Thompsons Road into a major new arterial road connecting Berwick-Cranbourne Road in Clyde with Koo Wee Rup Road in Pakenham.

This will establish an alternative east-west route to the Monash Freeway as well as unlocking the development of a major regional jobs and employment hub in Officer South.

Cardinia Shire Council has worked closely with the eight other councils that form the Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) organisation to develop and advocate for this project. Thompsons Road will cross both Cardinia Shire and the City of Casey and will deliver a major economic and employment boost to the additional six GSEM councils.

Why is this vital?

Many Cardinia Shire residents leave the area for work every day via the Monash Freeway. Fostering more high-skill local job opportunities and cutting congestion are two of Council's highest priorities.

An extended Thompsons Road will solve both of these problems by connecting Cranbourne, Clyde, Officer, and Pakenham with the new Officer South Employment Precinct. Commuter and commercial traffic will no longer need to rely on the Monash Freeway to access well-paid and high-skilled jobs elsewhere.

As Cardinia Shire's population grows, new infrastructure is required to unlock land for commercial and business use. Officer South is a prime location for this, and a major investment in Thompsons Road will allow private development to complete the precinct.

The extended road will help to relieve major regional connections, change travel demands and enhance liveability of the region by attracting business and investment.

Benefits to the community

Residents across the south east of Melbourne will benefit from reduced commercial traffic along the Monash Freeway and other major arterials in the area as Thompsons Road becomes a key connection between commercial zones.

Opening up the Officer South Employment Precinct will also allow for tens of thousands of new jobs to be created in the local area which will provide opportunities to work closer to home, reducing the length of commutes and taking cars off the roads in peak periods.

The extended Thompsons Road will also provide a direct connection between residential-heavy suburbs like Clyde, Clyde North, and Pakenham and major employment hubs in Cranbourne, Carrum Downs and Dandenong South. This will ensure a more efficient flow of workers across the south east.

Regional Priorities

South East Melbourne Airport

The Ask

- **\$5 million** from the Australian Government to deliver a business case identifying opportunities and next steps
- A comprehensive business case will then encourage private investment in the project and mean minimal taxpayer involvement
- Council is also seeking planning protections from the Victorian Government to ensure the ideal site is not a location for future housing development
- The finished airport will be a huge source of local jobs, as well as boosting the tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors across Gippsland the South East

The plan

Council will undertake a business case to outline the opportunities for private investment in a new international airport located in Cardinia Shire.

Along with appropriate planning protections, this will encourage private development of the new airport over time.

Cardinia Shire Council has partnered with the Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) group of eight councils to pursue this major, state-significant piece of infrastructure. We are now seeking the support of the Victorian and Australian Governments to take the next steps.

Why is this vital?

Melbourne's existing airports are approaching their maximum capacity and are located to the west of the city. It is essential that planning begins now on a new international gateway for freight and passengers.

Unless planning starts now, Melbourne will not be prepared for when our current airports become outdated and congested in coming decades.

An airport in this location would boost exports by cutting travel time and costs for manufacturers and agricultural producers in Melbourne and Gippsland, growing the economy. Congestion across the city would be slashed as an alternative export option opens up with an existing road and rail connection.

The airport will create a huge number of jobs from construction to operation and will provide a convenient, local option for travellers from the south east of Melbourne.

Benefits to the community

Melbourne's existing airports are all located in the west and north of the city. Residents of Cardinia Shire and the wider south east deserve equal access and our shire is home to prime land that can be dedicated to this project.

Locals will have airport travel times cut by over an hour and an existing rail connection allows for easier access in future.

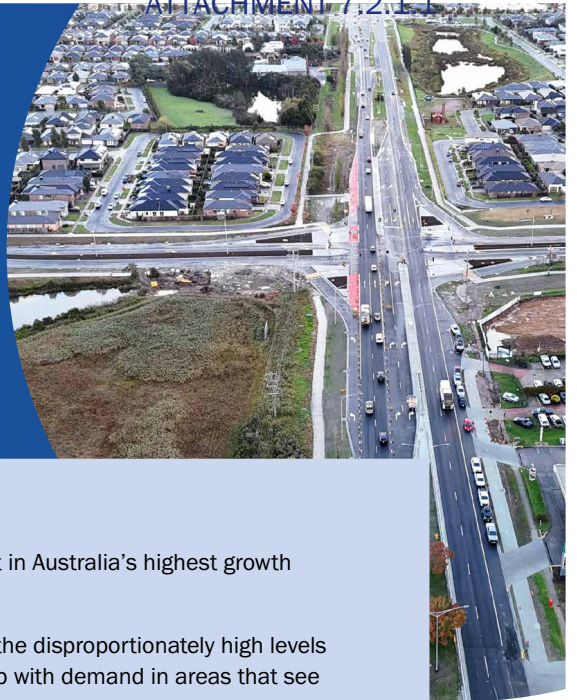
The major benefits will be economic, with hundreds of jobs being created in the construction and operation of the airport.

There will also be a flow on economic effect as Cardinia Shire becomes an ideal location for businesses taking advantage of the airport.

The airport will be privately-funded and operated, meaning taxpayers are not directly involved in its construction or operation. However, Council is seeking government investment to kick-start this project by delivering a business case to show the potential to investors.

Regional Priorities

Dedicated Growth Area Funds



The Ask

- Funding pools dedicated to supporting infrastructure investment in Australia's highest growth municipalities
- Both the Victorian and Australian Governments must recognise the disproportionately high levels of spending on community amenities that are needed to keep up with demand in areas that see multiple new families move in each day
- Council is seeking dedicated funds that will support growth area councils like us to deliver the libraries, sporting facilities, pools, and parks that all Australians expect to have access to

The plan

Council is seeking an increase in funding streams and opportunities from all levels of government that recognise the high costs and demand for infrastructure investment in growth areas.

Nationwide, there is a shortage of investment in our fastest-growing suburbs due to a lack of adequate funding and residents in Cardinia Shire are paying the price. Funds that are dedicated exclusively to growth area infrastructure are urgently needed to rectify this.

Council has worked closely with the National Growth Areas Alliance and Outer Melbourne Councils to raise awareness of this issue with the Victorian and Australian Governments.

Why is this vital?

Growth areas like Cardinia Shire are home to lower total populations, fewer businesses, and less amenities than more established local government areas. At the same time, they are dealing with the highest rates of population growth in the country and host new and rapidly expanding suburbs.

This situation means that growth area councils have a lower revenue base but a much higher level of demand for new roads, parks, sporting facilities, and other

amenities. These projects have only become more expensive as construction costs have outpaced the Consumer Price Index in recent years.

In order for Council to ensure that new and existing residents have the same quality of life as their peers in neighbouring local government areas, additional external investment is needed. Without it, the divide between inner and outer suburbs will only grow.

Benefits to the community

Currently, Council is splitting our limited financial resources between an extensive infrastructure pipeline and ongoing costs of operating amenities and services. Without further assistance dedicated to growth areas, one or both of these spending streams will need to be cut back. Either way, the community will suffer.

Conversely, an increase in growth area funding would allow Council to invest in the infrastructure that our growing population needs whilst also maintaining the level of service that residents expect from their council. This is particularly essential as there are few charities and non-profit groups operation in the area and Council has a role to play in filling this gap.

Fostering liveability and community



Implementing our Biolink Plan

Council is seeking \$2 million over 4 years to help protect the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

The Southern Brown Bandicoot is considered endangered by the Australian Government and is particularly threatened by housing development reducing their habitats.

This funding will enable Council to work with the community on the following:

- Revegetation.
- Pest plant and animal control.
- Creation of artificial habitat.
- Installation of road culverts.
- Community education and awareness.



Establishment of mental health centres

Council is seeking support from other levels of government to establish dedicated adult and youth mental health centres in Cardinia Shire.

Currently, there is a major shortage of adequate mental health services and facilities locally. Residents face long referral processes, travel times, and waiting periods in order to access the support that they need. This is particularly acute in emergency situations.

Establishing dedicated facilities catering to both adults and children will fill this gap and reduce pressure on GPs and hospitals. As the population of Cardinia Shire grows and the number of residents in financial distress increases, adequate investment in mental health support becomes increasingly urgent.

Fostering liveability and community

Other projects



Financial crisis and material aid funding

Council is seeking funding from the Australian Government to establish a Financial Wellbeing Hub in Cardinia Shire and support our most vulnerable residents.

Council is pleased to see that the Australian Government undertook a Financial Wellbeing and Capability Review and engaged with our submissions and briefings on this topic.

We are home to a growing number of households experiencing financial hardship. As the cost of living continues to increase, a growing number of residents are relying on external support to meet their basic needs.

However, Cardinia Shire is home to only one emergency relief provider that is struggling to cater to demand. Annual increases in crisis presentations of over 30% are now being reported. A dedicated Financial Wellbeing Hub would co-locate emergency relief and financial counselling services in one integrated facility supporting the whole shire.



Homelessness and housing support services

Council is seeking funding for services to build and operate crisis accommodation locally. Within Cardinia Shire, there are no providers of housing support.

Currently, the closest homelessness support service operates from St Kilda and the nearest accommodation facility is in Dandenong and is at full capacity.

There is an urgent need for local outreach services to contact individuals facing homelessness and provide them with referral pathways and housing options.

Cardinia Calls For...



Cardinia Shire Council

Customer Service Centre

20 Siding Avenue, Officer

Postal Address

PO Box 7 Pakenham 3810

Phone: 1300 787 624

Email: mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Web: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

TTY users: 1300 677

(ask for 1300 787 624)

Speak and Listen users:

1300 555 727

(ask for 1300 787 624)

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS):

131 450 (ask for 1300 787 624)



Learn more about Council's advocacy priorities
www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cardinia-calls



7.2.2 ASPHALT RESURFACING PROGRAM 2024-25

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Yasara Imaduwa Vithanage
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places 2.1.5 Upgrade Council's road network to improve safety and connectivity while considering traffic demand and freight transport needs.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Award the road packages to the following Contractors to undertake the Asphalt Resurfacing Program 2024-25
 - a. Road packages 01, 02, 03, and 05 to Prestige Paving Pty Ltd for a sum of \$1,043,759.38 excluding GST.
 - b. Road packages 04 and 06 to R & C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd for a sum of \$353,546.00 excluding GST.
2. Approve the use of project contingency budget as outlined in the confidential attachment for the delivery of work under the program.

Executive Summary

This report provides consideration for the appointment of a contractors to undertake the asphalt road resurfacing of various roads within Cardinia Shire. The proposed works under this programme include the overlaying of over 55 rural and urban road segments throughout the Shire.

The quotes submitted by Prestige Paving Pty Ltd for packages 01, 02, 03, and 05 and R & C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd for packages 04 and 06 provides the best value for money and is the most advantageous for Council. It is therefore recommended that asphalt resurfacing work of various roads within Cardinia Shire be awarded accordingly

Background

The roads considered under Asphalt Resurfacing Program were identified as high-priority candidates for treatment in the Council's asset management system. The existing asphalt roads requiring resurfacing were identified through Councils' Asset Management System which is based on the age and condition assessment of the existing surface, road classification hierarchy and traffic volumes.

The proposed works under this programme include the overlaying of over 55 rural and urban road segments throughout the Shire.

The list of roads in the 2024-25 Asphalt Resurfacing Program was grouped into 7 packages based on the location. Each of the six contractors on Council's existing Asphalt Supply Panel were asked to submit quotes for the first 6 packages.

Discussion

During the tender evaluation for the Asphalt supply contract (CT000494), a detailed assessment of the contractors' experience, capacity, and quality of workmanship was conducted, and all six contractors demonstrated the capacity and capabilities to complete these asphalt overlaying works.

Following an quote evaluation based on the above criteria, Prestige Paving Pty Ltd and R & C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd provide best value for money and therefore recommend that the quotes submitted by Prestige Paving Pty Ltd for packages 01, 02, 03 & 05 for a sum of \$1,043,759.38 excluding GST and R & C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd for packages 04 and 06 for a sum of \$353,546.00 excluding GST be accepted.

Policy Implications

The works have been developed in accordance with Council's Asset Management Plans.

Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for works on these roads is available under the 2024-2025 Capital Works Program for Sealed Road Resurfacing Program. The total cost for the asphalt resurfacing of road segments in packages 01 to 06 is \$1,397,305.38 excluding GST. There are sufficient funds available in the Capital Works program to award these works

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil

Consultation/Communication

Consultation with the community, affected property owners and commuters to notify them of disruptions throughout the resurfacing works will form part of the project planning and delivery after the award of these works.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the quotes submitted by Prestige Paving Pty Ltd for packages 01, 02, 03 & 05 for a sum of \$1,043,759.38 excluding GST and R & C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd for packages 04 and 06 for a sum of \$353,546.00 excluding GST be accepted for the 2024 - 25 Asphalt Resurfacing Program and approves the use of the project contingency budget as outlined in the confidential memo.

Confidential Attachments

The consideration of confidential information in a closed session of Council is in accordance with section 66(2)(a) and s.66(5)(a) and (b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The Confidential Attachment (listed in Attachments section) – **Confidential Attachment 1 - Asphalt Resurfacing Program 2024-25** – is designated confidential information pursuant to the Act, s.3(1) 3(1)(l) Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Attachments

1. Confidential Attachment 1 - Asphalt Resurfacing Program 2024-25 [7.2.2.1 - 4 pages]

7.4 Financial Reports

7.4.1 VARIATION REPORT - CONTRACT CT000560 CONSTRUCTION OF OXFORD ST IN LANG LANG

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Aaron Kuriakku
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places 2.1.5 Upgrade Council's road network to improve safety and connectivity while considering traffic demand and freight transport needs.

Recommendation

That Council note the contents of this report and provides authorisation for the variation of \$54,020.60 (excl GST) to the contract CT000560 Construction of Oxford St in Lang Lang to increase the contract limit to \$493,977.54 (excl GST).

Executive Summary

This report is to seek authorisation from Council for the recommended cost variation of \$54,020.60 (excl GST) for Contract CT000560 Construction of Oxford St in Lang Lang. During construction, a review of the CCTV inspection report of the existing drainage network revealed that it was unsuitable for use and would risk undermining the new road assets if it was not replaced. A variation of \$58,622.05 (excl GST) for the replacement works was submitted by the contractor. It has been necessary to approve the variations to continue the works. It was also noted that given that Council was at the time in the Caretaker period, the next opportunity to seek approval by Council resolution for the variation would be in February of 2025. Recognising that an active construction contract for the roadworks was underway, it was not considered possible to delay the works for this period without incurring significant additional contractual costs and project delays.

The approved contract limit is \$444,867.90 (excl GST) and, the required cost variation to achieve the required outcomes is over 10% of the approved contract limit.

Under Council's Procurement Policy, contract variations over 10% of the contract limit must go to a Council Meeting for authorisation. The required additional funding is available from the project's approved capital planning budget of \$553,880.00 (excl GST) for the 2024/25 financial year.

Background

A construction contract (CT000560) was awarded to A1 Civil Pty Ltd for the construction of Oxford Street in Lang Lang for the contract sum of \$374,867.90 (excl GST), this included provisional sums totalling \$49,547.80 (excl GST). Refer to the **Attachment 1**.

A further \$70,000.00 excl GST contingency sum was approved that was not to be put in the contract for the contractor to see but in our own system (CiA) to allow future expenditure of the approved contingency amount bringing the total approved contract limit to \$444,867.90 (excl GST). Refer to the **Attachment 2**.

The project's approved capital planning budget for the 2024/25 financial year is \$553,880.00 (excl GST)

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA - 17 FEBRUARY 2025

During construction, several variations arose as additional site conditions and constraints became evident. The variations are summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Variation Code	Description	Amount – Excl GST	Invoiced-Excl GST	Comment
P9.2	Removal of trees	\$4,837.00	\$4,837.00	Removal of 10 trees as scheduled
V01	Removal of extra trees	\$1,934.80	\$1,934.80	Removal of 4 additional trees for public lighting installation
V02	Additional crushed rock carpark for Bowling club	\$5,520.15	\$5,520.15	Additional 75m ² of carpark to accommodate parking
V03	Soft Area rectification	\$55,865.60	\$55,865.60	Rectification required for unsuitable ground conditions
V04	Supply and installation of 500m ² of Geogrid	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	Rectification required for unsuitable ground conditions
V05	Drainage changes	\$15,485.05	\$15,485.05	Additional drainage required to achieve cover requirements on pipe
V06	Kerb height changes	\$1,052.10	\$1,052.10	Additional regulation crushed rock required
V07	Nellie street footpath	\$17,425.69	\$17,425.69	Link of new footpath to existing footpath network
V08	Extra prep for footpath along Oxford st	\$4,865.00	\$4,865.00	Additional footpath prep works required to suit Sewer pit level
V09	Replace pit 2 lid and lintel	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00	Existing pits were required to be lifted to match road height
	Total	\$110,035.39	\$110,035.39	

The lump sum component of the contract is \$325,320.10 (excl GST). The addition of the \$110,035.39 (excl GST) variations above would bring the contract spend to \$435,355.49 (excl GST). It was considered at the time that approval through Council resolution would not be needed for these variations as they totalled less than the approved contract limit in Council's financial system CiA of \$444,867.90 (excl GST).

However, subsequently during construction, a review of the CCTV inspection report of the existing drainage network revealed that it was unsuitable for use and would risk undermining the new road assets if it was not replaced. Our contractor A1 provided an estimate for these works of \$58,622.05 (excl GST).

It was recognised that road works could not proceed prior to the approval of this variation, however, it was noted that coupled with the previously approved variations, the value of the variation would bring the approved contract value to \$493,977.54 excl GST, which would be more than 10% overspend beyond the contract limit, where the Procurement Policy requires referral back to Council for authorisation.

It was also noted that given that Council was at the time in Caretaker period, the next opportunity to seek approval by Council resolution for the variation would be in February of 2025. Recognising that an active construction contract for the roadworks was underway, it was not considered possible to delay the works for this period without incurring significant additional contractual costs and project delays. This issue was flagged with Council's relevant teams with advice on how we can proceed on the 10/10/2024. Our team was advised that given the invoiced amount at the time was less than the approved contract limit, that the drainage works should proceed to avoid any additional contractual delay costs, with the remaining works to be value managed.

The contracted works are now complete, and practical completion was achieved on 18/11/2024. To date, the total contract spend is \$435,355.49 (excl GST) including paid variations to the value of \$110,035.39 (excl GST). It has now become clear that it will not be possible to value manage the contract within the contract limit.

While the current contract spend to date is lower than this threshold, the final invoice will bring the contract spend beyond this threshold. The contract's expected expenditure is detailed in table 2 below.

Table 2

Description	Amount Excl GST
Lum Sum	\$325,320.10
Provisional	\$49,547.80
Original Signed Contract Sum	\$374,867.90
Approved Contingency Sum	\$70,000.00
Approved Contract Limit in CIA	\$444,867.90
Expected total contract spend including variations	\$493,977.54
Expected contract spend over Approved Contract Limit	\$54,020.60
Expected contract spend over Approved Contract Limit %	11%

Policy Implications

Procurement Policy

Financial and Resource Implications

The total expected contract expenditure, including all variations listed in this memo, is \$493,977.54 (excl GST). While this can be accommodated in the approved Project Budget of \$553,880 (excl GST), approval of this contract expenditure will require the council's approval to spend more than 10% of the contract limit.

Consultation/Communication

Consultation with the community, affected property owners and commuters to let them know of disruptions throughout the construction works has formed a key part of the project planning and delivery of this Contract.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the contract variation of \$54,020.60 (excl GST) be authorised by Council for Contract CT000560 Construction of Oxford St in Lang Lang resulting in a revised contract limit of \$493,977.54 (excl GST).

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - CONFIDENTIAL - Contract 000560 Construction of Oxford St in Lang Lang [7.4.1.1 - 130 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - CONFIDENTIAL - RFT 000051 - Construction of Oxford St in Lang Lang Contract Approval Me [7.4.1.2 - 8 pages]

7.5.2 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL PLAN INITIATIVES QUARTERLY REPORT

Responsible GM:	Peter Benazic
Author:	Desiree Lovell and Misty Johannsen
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	<p>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive</p> <p>3.1.1 Partner with community, business and industry to take action on, and adapt to, climate change.</p> <p>3.1.2 Actively move towards zero waste through increasing waste recovery and reuse.</p> <p>3.1.3 Work with community to improve and manage our natural assets, biodiversity and cultural heritage.</p> <p>3.1.4 Plan and advocate for better water cycle planning and management to reduce environmental impacts.</p> <p>3.1.5 Facilitate community stewardship to build preparedness for natural threats.</p>

Recommendation

That Council notes the Environmental Council Plan Initiatives quarterly report for the three months to December 2024.

Executive Summary

This quarterly report provides an update on projects, services and actions that are undertaken by Council to deliver on the Council Plan focus area number three: thriving environments and its associated initiatives.

Priority: We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive

We place a high value on our natural assets and biodiversity. We take action to help our natural assets and biodiversity thrive and build their resilience to climate change and natural hazards. We enhance green spaces and habitat links, support our communities to live sustainably, and champion sustainable development and waste management practices.

Council Plan initiatives

The initiatives have been categorised according to the *Sustainable Environment Policy (SEP) 2018-28* themes of: Biodiversity, Climate change, Water, Waste and resource recovery. The SEP is the roadmap for the future direction of Council's environmental and sustainability strategies, plans and activities.

Background

There are a broad range of projects, services and actions delivering environmental benefits throughout the organisation. While many of these occur within or are led by the Environment and Infrastructure Group, most of the organisation is involved in environmental sustainability to some degree.

Council Plan initiatives and how they link to the Sustainable Environment Policy themes:

- Biodiversity
 - Implement initiatives in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- Climate change
 - Implement initiatives in the Aspirational Energy Transition Plan
- Water
 - Implement initiatives in the Integrated Water Management Plan

- Waste and resource recovery
 - Implement the action plan for the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

This report also covers the Council Plan initiative: actively protect key heritage sites within the shire.

Project update

Projects and updates are included in the attached report.

Attachments

1. Environment Council Plan initiatives quarterly report - December 2024 [7.5.2.1 - 15 pages]

Biodiversity

Council Plan initiative

- Implement initiatives in the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*

This section also includes updates on the implementation of the *Weed Management Strategy and Biolink Plan*

Biodiversity monitoring project

Description	<p>Action 29 and 30 of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy addresses the need to undertake biodiversity monitoring to develop strong baseline data for Council’s natural resource areas and private property.</p> <p>Officers commissioned an ecological consultant to carry out targeted nocturnal surveys for <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC) and <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee</i> (FFG) listed threatened species the powerful owl (<i>Ninox strenua</i>) and the yellow-bellied glider (<i>Petaurus australis</i>).</p> <p>A third species, the EPBC listed swamp skink (<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>) was also included due to the inactivity of this species through the winter months. Consultants carried out robust habitat assessments for where this species may occur.</p> <p>Officers selected monitoring areas in both the northern and southern sections of the shire, the boundaries of the areas were selected where known data and survey work was missing.</p> <p>26 sites were selected to survey powerful owl and yellow-bellied glider and 16 sites for the swamp skink habitat assessments.</p>
Funding	<p>This project is fully funded by Council.</p>
Update	<p>Surveys and reporting are now complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 powerful owl observations were made across the northern monitoring areas. • 11 yellow-bellied glider observations at Gembrook Park, Mountain Recreation Reserve, Wattle Creek and Emerald Lake Park. • 16 habitat sites were assessed for swamp skink viability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 3 were deemed as high quality. – 11 were found to be of a moderate viability. – 2 sites were of low viability. <p>Other significant species detected were sooty owl at Mountain Recreation Reserve and southern greater glider at Gembrook Park.</p>

Southern brown bandicoot artificial habitat

Description	Artificial habitat for the southern brown bandicoot along the Koo Wee Rup rail trail. The southern brown bandicoot is a native marsupial, which is listed as a threatened species under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> and known to occur within the reserve.
Funding	This project is fully funded by Council
Update	<p>Council is currently trialling the effectiveness of artificial habitat installation for the southern brown bandicoot along the Koo Wee Rup rail trail.</p> <p>Southern brown bandicoots require dense plantings of long, tussocky plants and shrubs that help them seek refuge from predators. As revegetation with suitable indigenous species takes time to establish, officers are constructing a range of shelter points through the reserve in order to provide suitable refuge so that noxious weed control (predominantly blackberry) can be undertaken in a staged manner.</p> <p>Natural regeneration of swamp scrub indigenous vegetation is also being protected to enhance the connectivity of vegetation patches, and supplementary planting is being considered.</p> <p>Monitoring will continue through the site to inform the effectiveness of artificial habitat.</p>

Peri Urban weed partnership

Description	<p>This partnership has been an opportunity to bring together various land managers, community groups and other stakeholders along Cardinia Creek to mitigate the impacts of weeds.</p> <p>8 sites are serviced through the funding in a landscape scale approach alongside project partners Parks Victoria, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC), Melbourne Water, Cardinia Environment Coalition and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).</p> <p>The program has included on ground weed control delivery, community revegetation, cultural restoration through burning and an education program for schools.</p>
Funding	This partnership is jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government.
Update	<p>At the start of the project, the weed control target was to complete 268ha of weed control works. At the end of the second year (of the three-year funding agreement) a total of 326ha of weed control works had already been undertaken by the project partners. This is a huge testament to all the project partners involved.</p> <p>600 plants were planted at Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve in collaboration with the friends of Cardinia Creek and the local SJD homes team.</p> <p>BLCAC have been engaged to lead a cultural ecological burn with assistance from Parks Victoria and DEECA in March 2025.</p> <p>The Gould League have been appointed as the education facilitator and are in the process of engaging schools near Cardinia Creek to run on site sessions with students highlighting the environmental values of the area and to create awareness of weed impacts.</p>

Roadside weed control program update

Description	<p>The Victorian Government’s Roadside Weeds and Pests Program (RWPP) provides funding support to plan and implement control activities for weeds and pest animals on municipal rural roadsides.</p> <p>The significance of vegetation on roadsides is widely recognised and many roads are dominated by largely undisturbed remnant vegetation, providing habitat for flora and fauna, landscape character and provide important corridors to larger areas of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>Council is responsible for more than 1,600 kilometres of local roads including approximately 350 kilometres of roadside of conservation significance, of which approximately 87 kilometres are considered to have high to very high conservation value.</p>
Funding	<p>This program is jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government (Department of Government Services)</p>
Update	<p>Council’s current control plan (2023-26) focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritising Council managed high conservation value roadsides where biodiversity values can be protected and enhanced, • prioritising areas adjacent to sites of high biodiversity value such conservation reserves, • addressing community requests, particularly where landholders are actively addressing weed issues within their properties, or weeds are causing nuisance, • undertaking complementary works which benefit programs undertaken by community groups and/or other key agencies, • continuing to monitor, identify, and record emerging weed infestations and current infestations. • continuing to monitor, identify and record as well as report pest animal presence and impacts. • aligning program works to support and enhance the objectives from Council’s Biolink Plan and Weed Management Strategy • ensuring public safety and social implications are addressed. <p>The roadside weed control works for 2024-25 are well underway with prioritised weed control being undertaken by our contractor. Primary targets include blackberry, broom, watsonia and ragwort. Additionally, the Natural Reserve Team respond to customer requests, prioritising those requests which align with the goals of the control plan.</p>

Greening Cardinia Program

Council's Greening Cardinia Program aims to improve biodiversity on private and public land, and conserve habitat for threatened species. The program has three categories:

1. Weed control grants
2. Indigenous plant giveaway
3. Biodiversity incentive community group grants

This report provides an update on category 2 and 3, with an update on the weed control grants provided in the June report (at end of financial year).

Category 2: Indigenous plant giveaway

Description	<p>The aim of this program is to support residents, landowners, schools, kindergartens and community groups to use indigenous plants in and around their property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small property vouchers (\$50) are available to residents and landowners on properties of less than 4,000m², • Large property vouchers (\$125) are available to landowners with properties greater than 4,000m², as well as schools, kindergartens and community groups. <p>The vouchers enable landowners to select from a range of indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses from either the Cardinia Environment Coalition nursery or the Friends of Helmeted Honeyeater nursery.</p>
Funding	This program is fully funded by Council
Update	<p>This year the voucher application system has moved to the Smartygrants platform to align with all other grant programs run by Council. It also allows for residents to choose which location they want to use the voucher at.</p> <p>The giveaway opened at the start of November; and as of 26 November (the date of writing this report), over \$6500 in vouchers had been claimed by landowners.</p>

Category 3: Biodiversity incentive community group grant

Description	<p>This grant program provides 'Friends of' groups, Landcare and other community groups with funding and support to undertake large-scale biodiversity projects that will protect and enhance indigenous species within Cardinia Shire. Priority is given to projects that enhance the natural environment on public or private land with activities such as revegetation, weed and animal control or vegetation protection fencing. Projects are ideally located in, or have connectivity to, areas mapped by Council's Biolink Plan, support threatened species, support opportunities for volunteerism, and collaborate with multiple community stakeholders.</p>
Funding	This program is fully funded by Council
Update	<p>Four projects were supported with grants exceeding \$17,000 and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockey's Legacy Wildlife Shelter, Pakenham Upper to support them in their treatment of mange in wombats. • Greening Garfield group for weed control and revegetation at the Garfield Recreation Reserve. • Westernport Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN) for weed removal and biodiversity and habitat improvement along Lovers Lane, Garfield. • WPCLN for weed removal and biodiversity and habitat improvement along Martin Road extension, Bunyip.

Engaging the community in biodiversity

Description	<p>In partnership with Myli Libraries, Council held a story time session at Pakenham Library reading to engage children and families on the importance of biodiversity.</p> <p>Gardens for wildlife pop up stalls were held at the Children’s Week and Clothing Swap events in October.</p>
Funding	<p>These initiatives are fully funded by Council.</p>
Update	<p>Story time at Pakenham Library was held on 4 July, during the school holidays, and included the reading of “<i>The Perfect Hollow</i>”, followed by a craft activity celebrating one of the Shire’s indicator species, the greater glider. This event raised awareness about local wildlife and the importance of biodiversity and attended by over 70 community members.</p> <p>The Gardens for Wildlife Victoria pop up stall was displayed at the Children’s Week event on 26 October at James Bathe Reserve, Pakenham, and the clothes swap event on 13 October at Hills Hub, Emerald.</p> <p>This children’s week event featured a stall, plant giveaway, and an engaging hands-on activity run by Living with Wildlife. Children had the opportunity to build their own bird or insect baths to take home, encouraging them to create wildlife-friendly spaces in their gardens.</p> <p>These initiatives have successfully engaged the community, strengthened connection with the local environment and encouraged sustainable practices to support biodiversity in the shire.</p>

Trees for Weeds swap event

Description	<p>Friends of Emerald Lake Park (FELP), supported by Council, hosted their annual ‘Trees for Weeds’ swap day at Emerald Library on Saturday 7 September. Residents were invited to come along with a sample of weeds to swap for 5 free indigenous plants. Experts from the Friends group and Council were on hand to help identify weed species, offer advice on ways to control them, and suggest alternative indigenous species to plant.</p>
Funding	<p>Council funded the plant giveaway for this event.</p>
Update	<p>The event was well supported with 7 members from the friends’ group, a facilitator from Cardinia Environment Coalition, members of Johns Hill Landcare, Meander, and the Emerald Star Bush Community Partnership Project.</p> <p>On the day, 25 attendees from the community, supplied 48 different weed species for identification, and took home 200 indigenous tube stock to be planted in their gardens.</p>

Climate change

Council Plan initiative

- Implement initiatives in the *Aspirational Energy Transition Plan*

This section also includes projects that are run by South-East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA), of which Cardinia Shire is a partner and the implementation of the *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*.

Development of an electrification plan

Description	<p>To support Council’s ongoing transition away from gas, audits of several large Council facilities, sporting pavilions, maternal and child health facilities and community facilities were undertaken. This initiative is in line with Council’s Aspirational Energy Transition Plan 2014– 24 to improve the environmental performance of Council buildings and to achieve the target of net zero council emissions.</p> <p>The findings from the audits will inform future upgrade works planning and result in a fully costed pathway to the energy transition of all Council-owned facilities.</p>
Funding	<p>The audits were fully funded by Council.</p>
Update	<p>Electrification of Council facilities would result in cost savings and mitigate approximately 1,085 tonnes CO2-eq based on current annual emissions and requires a total investment of approximately \$3.92 million over a 10–15-year period.</p>

Energy Resilience at Emerald, Cockatoo and Gembrook

Description	<p>This project involved the installation of three back-up power systems at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worrell Reserve Pavilion, Emerald • Gembrook Community Centre, Gembrook • Cockatoo Community Complex, Cockatoo. <p>The systems include rooftop solar energy, batteries and back-up generators to provide a source of power during a prolonged power outage.</p>
Funding	<p>This project was funded by the Victorian Government’s Energy Resilience Solutions Program</p>
Update	<p>The works are now complete at Cockatoo Community Complex, Cockatoo and Worrell Reserve Pavilion Emerald. Final commissioning and testing is being completed at Gembrook Community Centre, Gembrook.</p>

Environmental education sessions to preschool and school aged children

Description	<p>Council offers a variety of environment education programs aimed at kindergarten and primary school-aged children to foster a connection with their local environment and promote sustainable practices.</p> <p>In collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology, PrimeSCI, Council co-developed a climate change education program at Deep Creek Reserve, Pakenham. The program caters for local school groups to explore the biodiversity of the demonstration wetlands, understand variations in different environments, and learn about renewable energy solutions. The program highlights the environmentally sustainable design (ESD) features of the award-winning reserve, showcasing practical applications of environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The four-year-old kindergarten program offers incursions aimed at encouraging young children to connect with the environment and learn simple, impactful actions to protect and enhance the local environment. The topics include habitats and ecosystems, water and energy conservation and the fascinating world of minibeasts.</p>
Funding	<p>These education programs are funded by Council.</p>
Update	<p>In Terms 3 and 4, Council successfully co-delivered a total of 17 sessions across both programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 sessions (216 children) for the kindergarten program • 7 sessions (over 350 students) for the school program <p>The sessions have provided valuable environmental education to children, helping them understand and appreciate the importance of their local environment, sustainability and climate action.</p>

Heritage

Council Plan initiative

- Actively protect key heritage sites within the shire

Emerald and District Museum – Digitisation of Nobelius Nursery items

Description	<p>The Emerald and District Museum was successful in receiving funding from the National Library of Australia’s Community Heritage Grant program to digitise the pre-WWI and WWI Nobelius Nursery catalogues, sales ledgers, account books and correspondence for access and preservation purposes.</p> <p>The grant application highlighted the collection’s national significance, which was supported by reference to Carl Axel Nobelius’ horticultural innovations, impact on international relations, and legacy left on Australia’s food supply.</p>
Funding	<p>This project was funded by National Library of Australia’s Community Heritage Grant program and was overseen by Emerald Museum’s Community Asset Committee.</p>
Update	<p>The digitisation process is complete and the nationally significant collection of Nobelius documentation has been preserved for future generations. The Emerald Museum can now share these documents on an online collection database, which will increase the museum’s reach and foster public access beyond the museum’s walls.</p> <p>The museum’s committee have long-term plans to add the digitised material to <i>Trove</i>, a national database with over 14 billion digital items, that is a single point of entry to artefacts, curiosities and stories from Australia’s cultural, community and research institutions.</p>

Annual heritage grants program

Description	<p>Council’s annual heritage grant program aims to conserve places and sites of heritage significance that are covered by a heritage overlay, such as town halls, churches, shops, private residences and significant trees and hedges.</p> <p>There are 2 grant categories available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are open to the public: Applicants can apply for up to 50% of the project cost, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Private sites: applicants can apply for 25% of project cost up to a maximum of \$2,500.
Funding	<p>This program is fully funded by Council</p>
Update	<p>Projects that received funding for the 2023-24 round include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The restoration of 30 early pioneer graves located at the Pakenham Cemetery. The project involves replacing the tops of the graves with new gravel materials and general maintenance and upkeep of the site. Restoration of historic horse trough and surrounding landscape at Lang Lang (part of former Great Southern railway yards). The project involves stripping paint off the brick trough and repairing and sealing broken bricks, a stable fence will also be constructed with interpretation. Tree maintenance works on significant English Oak tree located and overhanging the Nar Nar Goon St Johns Church, which is one of the earliest buildings in the township.

Water

Council Plan initiative

- Implement initiatives in the Integrated Water Management Plan

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) capital works

<p>Description</p>	<p>Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) aims to reduce the environmental impact of development on the water cycle and improve the quality of stormwater.</p> <p>Council adopted a WSUD asset management plan in 2020 that aims to guide Council’s long-term strategic management of its water sensitive urban design (WSUD) asset.</p> <p>Two WSUD projects have been completed from the 2023-24 WSUD capital works program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-vegetation project at Clearwater Drive wetland • design for rebuilding Council’s WSUD asset in Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald.
<p>Funding</p>	<p>These projects are jointly funded by Council and Melbourne Water’s Healthy Waterway Incentive Program</p>
<p>Update</p>	<p>Clearwater Drive, Wetlands (Pakenham) The wetland revegetation works aim to increasing the functional vegetation density and biodiversity in the open water area. In addition, vegetation along the batter slope of the wetland has been re-planted and protected using bird netting for successful establishment. Batter slope vegetation acts as a visual warning and physical barrier for improving public safety on site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works have been completed; bird netting is still in place during the vegetation establishment phase. <p>Nobelius Heritage Park WSUD asset This asset was built in 2008 and was the first WSUD asset in Cardinia Shire.</p> <p>The asset needs to be re-built to improve the drainage condition of the site and the overall stormwater treatment performance by increasing the sediment removal, high inflow bypass capacities of the system and facilitating the self-sustainability of the asset via implementing robust engineering solutions.</p> <p>The outcome of this project will improve the drainage condition of the site, create healthy waterway benefit by reducing stormwater pollutant loads, and conserve the natural and cultural heritage values of the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design works have been completed. • A planning permit will need to be applied for through Heritage Victoria as the park is heritage listed. • The works are schedule to take place in 2025-26, subject to the planning permit approval.

Waste and resource recovery

Council Plan initiatives

- Implement the action plan for the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

Toy library giveaway

Description	<p>Council partnered with Pakenham and District Toy Library and Puffing Billy Toy Library to give away FREE 3-month memberships to toy libraries to the community in July. Participating residents went into a draw to win a membership. Two families were able to trial the toy libraries for free with this giveaway opportunity.</p> <p>Toy libraries allow parents to borrow educational toys, games, and puzzles for their children aged 0-12 years, as an alternative to purchasing new. It helps promote a low waste way of life.</p>
Funding	<p>The project was provided in partnership with toy libraries and the membership was funded by the toy libraries.</p>
Update	<p>This giveaway was supported by Council and delivered in partnership with Pakenham and District Toy Library and Puffing Billy Toy Library and was open for 2 months between early June and the end of July.</p> <p>Participating parents/guardians went into a draw to win free membership. 54 residents entered the draw, with 49 interested in Pakenham Toy Library, and 5 interested in Puffing Billy Toy Library.</p> <p>The giveaway was great way for families to provide their children with a variety of toys at a much smaller cost and reducing the number of toy pus going to landfill.</p> <p>Council will continue to partner and support local community groups such as toy libraries to promote local resource recovery programs and opportunities in the shire.</p>

Green waste drop-off events

Description	<p>Six green waste drop-off events were organised and delivered in 2024, running in the second week of every second month. This year was the first year the format changed from 4 days to 6 days per event, offering a longer drop-off period for residents.</p>
Funding	<p>This service is funded by Council's waste service budgets.</p>
Update	<p>The two most recent green waste drop-off events were held in August and October.</p> <p>The August event ran from Monday 5 to Saturday 10 August at Future Recycling (Transfer Station), Pakenham and was the fourth event of 2024. A total of 390 vehicles dropped off 96 tonnes of green waste over the 6 days, with Monday and Saturday being the busiest days.</p> <p>The October drop-off was held at Cleanaway Lysterfield (Transfer Station) and ran from Monday 7 to Sunday 13 October. The event was extended to include Sunday to help ease traffic and wait times, following resident and staff feedback. A total of 202 vehicles dropped off 42 tonnes of green waste over the seven days, with Sunday being the busiest day (52 vehicles).</p> <p>Following severe weather in September, an additional drop-off was setup at Cleanaway Lysterfield for 10-22 September where 149 vehicles dropped off 32 tonnes.</p>

Recycling material audit results

<p>Description</p>	<p>Council conducts annual audits of kerbside bin recycling material to determine contamination rates and guide future education efforts. This year the material audit was completed in June 2024.</p> <p>The results from the audit show that contamination rate by weight (25.43%) has reduced by 3.47% since last year's audit (28.95%) - our lowest contamination result in three years.</p> <p>Despite ongoing challenges with e-waste, soft plastics and textiles, this is a very positive result overall and demonstrates the effectiveness of our education efforts over the past 12 months.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>The project is funded by Council's waste service budgets.</p>
<p>Update</p>	<p>Due to operational constraints, the 2024 audits were completed later in the year than usual however there was a significant drop in contamination when compared to audit results from 2023 and 2022.</p> <p>Despite the delayed audit, the positive result is following increased education efforts and targeted communications campaigns by the waste team.</p> <p>While mixed waste is still the top contaminant across all samples, there was a 4% decrease from the 2023 audit. Bagged waste and soft plastics represent the second and third most common contaminants in household recycling bins.</p> <p>Textiles and e-waste were found in most of the samples taken from the audited vehicles which has driven much of the education focus over the past 6 months.</p> <p>Out of the 36 trucks audited over 10 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94% contained textiles • 94% contained bagged waste • 100% contained soft plastic • 100% contained mixed-/household waste • 81% contained e-waste <p>While overall contamination from some areas is still quite high, there has been a significant reduction from the highest contaminated truck samples in 2023 (46.2%) down to 36.1%. Higher contamination rates also shifted slightly from being solely based in the growth corridor of Pakenham and Officer to areas like Cockatoo and Nar Nar Goon. This may indicate that focusing additional education efforts in the Ranges, Toomuc and Westernport Wards could be beneficial and this information will be considered in future campaigns.</p> <p>e-waste contamination</p> <p>While the number of e-waste items found across all samples didn't increase much (from 26 to 29) the % of vehicles containing e-waste nearly doubled (45% to 81%), demonstrating a continued lack of awareness or care around e-waste and battery disposal, despite campaigns by both Council and the Victorian Government. The growing impacts of batteries within bins is broad national concern.</p>

Mobile library e-waste collection

<p>Description</p>	<p>In 2019, the Victorian Government banned e-waste from going to landfill. In response to this, Council established e-waste collection boxes at six locations throughout Cardinia Shire for residents to dispose of small electronic waste and batteries free of charge.</p> <p>These Council-run permanent drop-off points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerald Library • Pakenham Library • Beaconsfield Home Timber and Hardware • Bunyip Rural Supplies • Koo Wee Rup Hospital reception • Cardinia Shire Customer Service Centre, Officer <p>Due to an increase in garbage truck fires in 2024, Council ran a 4-month education and awareness campaign to help address the increasing safety and environmental risks posed by the incorrect disposal of e-waste and batteries.</p> <p>During this campaign the primary message focused on keeping e-waste and batteries out of kerbside bins and informed residents about the various disposal options and drop-off points.</p> <p>Despite the growing number of e-waste and battery disposal sites at major retailers, there continues to be gaps in e-waste disposal options throughout smaller townships and boundary areas of Cardinia Shire, leading to a higher likelihood of incorrect disposal. Council is trialling a partnership with the mobile library, bringing e-waste and battery recycling services to many of the smaller townships and locations identified in the audit.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>The initiative is funded by Council’s waste service budgets and supported by Myli library services.</p>
<p>Update</p>	<p>In July 2024 Council collated a list of all free e-waste disposal or drop-off points which identified gaps particularly in many of the Shire’s smaller townships.</p> <p>To ensure as many residents as possible have access to free e-waste disposal options, Council proposed a partnership with the mobile library which frequents many of the smaller townships and locations identified in the audit.</p> <p>The mobile library is a roaming library service that welcomes more than 55,000 visitors every year across 11 townships, including Bunyip, Garfield, Tynong, Upper Beaconsfield, Gembrook, Beaconsfield, Nar Nar Goon, Maryknoll, Cockatoo, Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup.</p> <p>Due to the unique nature of the library, a comprehensive risk assessment was completed to ensure the safety of staff and residents and mitigate any risks of transporting e-waste. Council provided the mobile library with fireproof collection containers for batteries and a small wheelie bin, which is emptied daily at the Operations Depot and later collected by Council’s e-waste contractor for recycling.</p> <p>The agreement will run for a trial period of six months, to determine the viability of the service.</p>

National Recycling Week

Description	<p>National Recycling Week is an annual campaign by Planet Ark, that encourages councils, workplaces, schools and individuals to improve their recycling knowledge, build better recycling habits and build trust in recycling.</p> <p>To mark national recycling week, Council ran several events aligned with the 2024 theme 'Join the Cycle'. Events included an internal corporate clothing drive, establishing an internal container deposit scheme (CDS) exchange and a textile drop-off event for end-of-life textiles.</p>
Funding	<p>This initiative is funded by Council's waste service budgets and supported by local charitable organisations.</p>
Update	<p>Free textile drop-off This drop-off was held for a second year, again focusing on collecting 'end-of-life' clothing and textiles that would otherwise go to landfill.</p> <p>174 residents attended the drive-thru event at IYU Reserve, Pakenham and more than 3,916kg of textiles were dropped off consisting of 2,597kg clothing & footwear, 1,271kg of linen and 48kg of pillows for reuse and recycling. Council partnered with SCR Group to run the event and feedback on the day was overwhelmingly positive.</p> <p>All textiles collected on the day are sorted by SCR Group, to ensure any wearable clothing is donated to their charity partners. Damaged or 'end-of-life' textiles are then reused as rags, or in manufacturing.</p> <p>Council staff surveyed attendees and when asked what they would do with the textiles if this event was not available, nearly half (47%) said they would have put them in the rubbish bin, highlighting the value of these types of events in diverting waste from landfill.</p> <p>Internal corporate clothing drive Council partnered with ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) to run an internal corporate clothing drive, encouraging staff to donate items of corporate clothing that they no longer need. The clothing and accessories gifted will ensure individuals can look their best when returning to work or attending a job interview and help rebuild confidence for those who have experienced hardship. Over 10 days, staff donated 297 items.</p> <p>The ADRA Community Bus in Pakenham is run by volunteers from the local Adventist church and the community. Every Thursday evening, the Community Bus provides support through food parcels, groceries, case management, court/fines (WDP), and clothing to families and individuals in crisis.</p>

Buy nothing new month - Adult clothing swap and mending event

Description	Council hosted a free adult clothing swap event on Sunday 13 October at Hills Hub in Emerald. On the day participants could refresh their wardrobe in a thrifty and low waste way.
Funding	The event is resourced by Council's waste service budgets.
Update	<p>To celebrate October as 'buy nothing new month', Council ran the annual clothing swap event.</p> <p>Attendees were encouraged to bring up to 6 good quality pieces of clothing and accessories on the day. About 120 items were brought to the event to be swapped amongst the community. After the swap, the remaining good quality items were sent to local op shops.</p> <p>Sarah Seahorse facilitated a mending workshop, where participants could learn how to repair and repurpose clothes to give them a new life.</p> <p>With a range of experts there on the day including local boomerang bags groups and Council's waste and environment team, participants could come and chat with Council and other community groups about their sustainable initiatives.</p> <p>This is the second swap event for the year, with a children's toy and clothing swap successfully run in April.</p> <p>It was wonderful to connect with the community to educate them on the impacts of clothing and textiles in landfill and empower them to make more sustainable choices.</p>

What is coming up?

- 2025 waste guide to be mailed out in January
- Summer waste events
- Food and garden waste service focus
- Dumped rubbish educational campaign
- Clean up Australia Day
- Toy and clothing swap
- E-waste art exhibition
- Hard waste education campaign
- Solar savers information sessions
- Peri urban weed partnership education program
- Heritage Festival

For more upcoming events, please subscribe to Council's environmental newsletter – Down to earth
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/downtoearth

7.5.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Emma Wilkinson
Staff Disclosure:	All officers involved in the preparation of this report have considered and determined that they do not have a conflict of interest in the matter.
Council Plan Reference:	5.1 We practise responsible leadership 5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

Recommendation

That Council notes the community engagement activities being undertaken in January and February 2025.

Executive Summary

This report provides a monthly update on Council's community engagement opportunities commencing or continuing for the months of January and February 2025.

Background

Community engagement is a process whereby Council uses a variety of methods to proactively seek out information and feedback from the community, including their values, concerns, ideas and aspirations. Where possible and when required by legislation, Council will include the community in the development and delivery of identified initiatives and projects. This practice establishes an ongoing partnership, ensuring that community members continue to shape Council's decision making and implementation process. Council's *Community Engagement Policy* (the Policy) sets out Council's accountability for community engagement practices. The Policy meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's commitment to undertaking best practice, high quality community engagement activities to receive input. Feedback and ideas from the community on Council projects, services, plans, policies, strategies and other Council decisions. Council uses the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (see below) as the model for its community engagement activities depending on the nature of the project, legislative requirements affecting the project and level of influence the community can have on the project, the risk and level of complexity of the project and available resources.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
EXAMPLE TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Deliberate polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory committees • Consensus building • Participatory • Decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated • Decisions

Discussion

N/A

Policy Implications

Community engagement is undertaken in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Financial and Resource Implications

The activities undertaken fall within Council's existing budget and resourcing.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no climate emergency considerations as part of this report.

Consultation/Communication

This month, the following Engagement Plans are being implemented:

Project	Project description	Details of Engagement	Responsible Business Unit
Proposed Lease 775 Five Mile Road, Pakenham – Riding for the Disabled (RDAV).	To invite feedback on a request for a proposed new 20-year lease.	Engagement Period: 20 Jan- 9 February through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters to neighbouring residents, landowners, businesses and local school • Council's public notice webpage and media release 	Property Services.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Cardinia webpage. 	
Draft Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for 2025 – 2027.	Consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, Traditional Owners, the wider community and Council’s Reconciliation Working Group.	<p>Engagement Period: 11 Feb-25 March through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online feedback via Creating Cardinia website, social media and media release • Community activities to discuss themes that can support actions in the RAP and provide feedback • QR postcards and posters linked to the Creating Cardinia page in libraries, council facilities, community centres, sports and cultural facilities. 	Children and Family Services.
Deliberative Community Engagement on the Council’s future priorities and Community Vision 2040.	An independently appointed community panel will revisit the Community Vision and provide guidance to Council on its future priorities. The panel’s input will help Council to shape its next Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Plan and Liveability Plan.	4 deliberative community engagement panel sessions in February 2025. (Online and in person).	Business Transformation and Customer.

Conclusion

The table below outlines projects for engagement that can be promoted to the community this month to support its awareness and involvement and will assist Council in the delivery of the Council Plan Action.

Attachments

Nil

8 Reports By Councillors

9 Presentation Of Petitions

10 Notices Of Motion

11 Urgent Business

12 Councillor Questions

13 Mayoral Minute

14. Confidential Business

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

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

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

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

Recommendation

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

Per s.3(1)(f) Confidential Agenda item 3.1. CEO Performance Plan 2024/25, designated as personal information,

- a. being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
- b. the grounds for designation have been made to protect the privacy of the CEO's personal information.

15 Meeting Closure