

# **Council Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**Monday 17 February 2025**

**Commenced at 7:00 PM**

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

**Members:** Cr Jack Kowarzik Mayor  
Cr Alanna Pomeroy Deputy Mayor  
Cr Liz Roberts (Virtual Attendance)  
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

Meeting opened at 6.59pm.

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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.

Meeting opened at 6.59pm.

## 2 Traditional Owners Acknowledgement

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

## 3 Apologies

Nil

## 4 Adoption and Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Ross

That Council confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

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

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

Against: Nil

Carried

## 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

The Mayor advised that Council had received questions from Tracey Bowe, Paul McMurray, Dev Dhanda and Angela Lacey. For those in attendance the questions were read out.

The first question was a thank you and not a community question. This was from Alison Haddock, and we acknowledge her feedback. This was not read out in the meeting.

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**Tracey Bowe submitted questions to the Council Meeting, responses are provided in the Minutes.**

### Question 1

**As reported back in the August 2024 Minutes of Meeting, regarding the construction of Huxtable Road, a new designer has been engaged and Council were awaiting environmental impacts by late October. Can Council please report as to whether this was achieved and what action is being taken now and when can residents of Pakenham Upper expect this road to be sealed? Are these reports available for residents?**

Over the past 12 months, whoever the contractor Council has been using to grade and lay gravel on Huxtable Road has done a very poor job of maintaining the road to a suitable finish, to the point where within the space of 2 days, it is back to being full of corrugations and an extreme camber which pushes your vehicle into the edges of the roadway especially when travelling in the northerly direction from Pakenham Rd up past the pony club turnoff. He puts such a small amount of gravel on the roadway that it is easily pushed to the side of the road after only a few cars have travelled through and you are back to the corrugated rock base.

### Response

Yes, an Environmental Impact Assessment report has been prepared. Currently with the design team, ahead of an assessment. This report won't be made publicly available until it goes to Council. Expected that the Huxtable Road sealing will commence in November.

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**Paul McMurray submitted questions to the Council Meeting, responses are provided in the Minutes.**

### Question 1

**I have emailed each councillor with a submission providing context for these questions.**

The summary of that submission is as follows...

In 2020 Cardinia council announces the works (for Huxtable and numerous other roads) and declared they'd be all complete 2022. In the three years following we saw little more than notes about designs that took three years to complete, and even then would still need changes anyway because they didn't take into account environmental impacts. We saw scheduling shift from completion in 2022 to starting in 2024, and then pushing start back into 2024-25.

My questions are:

1. Is the current council willing to continue to accept progress updates that provide no real updates or details of progress made? If not, why not?

**Question 2**

Is the current council prepared to hold the relevant departments of Cardinia council accountable for delivering and meeting genuine targets and deadlines? If so how and if not, why not?

**Question 3**

Is any of the current members of council prepared to move and endorse a motion that council projects should be managed with the application proper Project Management principles? In particular that each project should have clearly stated goals/targets and milestones. And that in the interests of transparency these measure points should be publicly reported on in the Major Projects Report with any reasons for slippage justified with detailed documented explanation?

**Response**

Following feedback from Councillors, the existing major projects report is currently under review with a new Capital Works Report which will be provided to Councillors at the March 2025 Council Meeting. This will include detailed reporting mechanisms to ensure improved updates on time frames and finances are reported.

Council projects are conducted under project management principles set within Cardinia's Project Management Framework which aligns key milestones, financial and project status reporting on a monthly basis.

**Question 4**

This set of questions is separate to my other questions lodged in relation to sealing Huxtable Road.

These questions relate to the quality of ongoing maintenance of Huxtable Road.

It seems that repairs of late do not last as long as they used to. Usually within a week of repair the corrugations return.

The severity of corrugations is a significant safety issue for drivers. Cars lose traction even at low speed. Cars often veer to the wrong side of a road trying to find the smoothest path. It is only a matter of time until an accident occurs - Surely Cardinia does not want to be liable for damage, injury or worse case, a road death because it does not adequately maintain its roads.

It appears that when repair works are done that the corrugations are not dug out anymore - it appears that a top up of gravel is deposited and then graded.

My questions in relation to repairs and maintenance of Huxtable Road are:

**What is the process used to repair unsealed roads?**

**Response**

The *Road Management Plan* documents the principles and methodology to deliver on defined levels of service that Council must provide in managing the local road network.

**Question 5**

**What has changed and why?**

**Response**

Huxtable Road continues to be inspected proactively. The unsealed section of Huxtable Road is classified as a Local Minor Collector Road; which requires inspection every 12 months. The

maintenance team is inspecting it at least every two weeks, and over the last year, grading has occurred monthly.

**Question 6**

**What are the measures applied to trigger if a road needs repair? (e.g Is there a depth of corrugation that triggers repair? Is a minimum percentage of the overall road damaged required?).**

**Response**

The intervention levels are specified in the Road Management Plan. A link to this document will be provided in the minutes.

**Question 7**

**How often is Huxtable Road inspected?**

**Response**

The unsealed section of Huxtable Road must be inspected every 12 months; currently the team inspects it at least every two weeks.

**Question 8**

**What records are maintained in relation to those inspection, what details are recorded each time?**

**Response**

Inspections that occur in line with the time frames specified in the Road Management Plan are recorded as completed, even if defects are not present. When defects are recorded, these are noted and works are scheduled to be completed within the time frame specified by the Plan.

**Question 9**

**What can be done to improve the standard of unsealed road maintenance to improve longevity and safety**

**Response**

In line with a Resolution from Council from August 2024, the Civil Maintenance team is undertaking a review of the maintenance strategy for the unsealed road network. The process includes an analysis of current maintenance practices across the Shire's different topographical regions to help inform future maintenance strategies.

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**Dev Dhanda submitted questions to the Council Meeting, responses are provided in the Minutes, the questions were not read out as they were not in attendance.**

**Question 1**

**There are no buses or bus stops to train station near my home. When can I expect public transport available in my area?**

**Response**

Bus routes and bus stop locations are decided and delivered by DTP. Council is not aware of any routes planned by PTV in this area. Council does advocate for a particular route when council is receiving resident requests for a bus stop.



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Angela Lacey submitted questions to the Council Meeting, responses are provided in the Minutes, the questions were not read out as they were not in attendance.

**Question 1**

Koo Wee Rup is the town that the towns surrounding come for a big shop and other bits and pieces to be done. A lot of people passing through who are on there way to Phillip Island even pop into town before getting to Phillip Island. Now I am a bit confused as to why we still only have Woolies and don't have an Aldi or Coles?

KWR would also benefit massively from building a large aquatic centre where the current outdoor pool is so it can be used all year round, as well as a gym there and lessons. Even an occasional childcare centre so parents can have time out to themselves for there mental health and workout and/or swim !

So many people drive from past Lang Lang to Pakenham for Swimming lessons, I am surprised that this has not been done yet ! A lot of surrounding suburbs would actually sign up to it. I have got 17 years experience in Hairdressing but non in the "shire" industry but I would love to help with a potential project this like as I have that many ideas (due to my ADHD) and would thrive. I no longer do hair due to my Health so Helping a community is something i would love to do!

**Response**

Thank you for your question.

The decision to establish a new supermarket in Koo Wee Rup is a commercial decision for the supermarket chains to consider.

There are no current plans for a major upgrade of Koo Wee Rup pool to an indoor facility.

## 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:	<b>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</b> 5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.

#### Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Owen.

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
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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Cr Nickell foreshadowed an alternate motion should this motion be lost.

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

Carried

## 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:	<b>2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places</b> 2.1.5 Upgrade Council's road network to improve safety and connectivity while considering traffic demand and freight transport needs.

### Resolution

Moved Cr Thomsen, seconded Cr Potter.

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.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

### 7.3 Policy Reports

### 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:	<b>2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places</b> 2.1.5 Upgrade Council's road network to improve safety and connectivity while considering traffic demand and freight transport needs.

#### Resolution

Moved Cr Paton, seconded Cr Ross.

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).

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

Against: Nil

Carried

## 7.5 Activity Reports

### 7.5.1 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS REPORT - JULY TO DECEMBER 2024

Responsible GM:	Wayne Mack
Author:	Peter Harris
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:	<b>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</b> 5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making. 5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

#### Resolution

Moved Cr Owen, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

That Council note the report detailing implementation of Council resolutions for the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

## 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><b>3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive</b></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>

### Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Potter.

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

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

Against: Nil

Carried

### 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:	<b>5.1 We practise responsible leadership</b> 5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

#### Resolution

Moved Cr Ross, seconded Cr Pomeroy.

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

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

Against: Nil

Carried



## 8 Reports by Councillors

Cr Owen addressed Council by reporting on:

- Beaconsfield carols by the creek, great event and thanks to the volunteers.
- Thanks to all volunteers for the various events around Christmas time
- Australia Day Awards, Citizenship ceremony and Australia Day ceremony at Cockatoo with Cr Nickell.
- Official opening of Jim Parkes Reserve in Beaconsfield, he is proud of renewal program of old playgrounds. It was great to have the family of Jim Parkes attending. A highlight included the interpretation signage which depicted his story and his contribution to Beaconsfield.
- 42nd Anniversary of Ash Wednesday, a number of services were held to respect the anniversary.
- Resident meetings regarding Huxtable and Bessie Road.

Cr Thomsen addressed Council by reporting on:

- Christmas Carol event.
- Australia Day Awards and Citizenship ceremony.
- Congratulations to nominees of the Australia Day awards, it is great to be recognised as a nominees. Congratulations to deserving winners.
- Thanked volunteers for staying connected in communities and getting involved as this benefits our community.
- Opening of Officer District Park in December, there was great representation from councillors, locals and state MPs. The park is much loved, thank you to the officers for fixing teething problems. Thank you to community for reporting things so it is a safe and happy space.

Cr Paton addressed Council by reporting on:

- Westernport Bay and Biosphere Foundation. She provided some background information on the Foundation, highlighting that it is important to understand how delicate and fragile the wetlands are and that they are protected. She took a boat ride with relevant officers from Cardinia and other councils also joined by Foundation and conservationists. Cardinia funds 20k annually for research, education, conservation.
- Community Asset Committee in Lang Lang Recreation Reserve meeting and gave a shout out to the local members and the remarkable service they do.

Cr Pomeroy addressed Council by reporting on:

- Biggest challenge - summer storms and sent a shout out to emergency services, first responders and neighbours supporting each other.
- Petition in respect of upgrades to Nar Nar Goon to Long Warry national highway.
- Official opening of new businesses - Driscolls Laboratory and Foundation Nursery in Pakenham. This business is a multi-million-dollar investment, includes research and development, she noted that she enjoyed attending went with Cr Paton.
- Community grants season - make sure you get grant writing and take up the opportunity.

Cr Ross addressed Council by reporting on:

- Encouraged community members to seek help from officers with grant writing applications for community grants.
- Australia Day Awards and thanked staff for making it a special evening and to all those that attend. It is great that both the nominees and winners are celebrated.
- Park Run event each week and highlighted a great volunteer in Jack Mitchell who has volunteered at 380 events.
- Citizenship Ceremony - great event and thanked the staff for making the ceremony special.

Cr Potter addressed Council by reporting on:

- Upper Beaconsfield Festival (UBF), it was an awesome day and thanked all volunteers on UBF committee, local business sponsors and Council as a sponsor. Noted that Brad Battin was there and that there was 300 entries in the event.
- Officer & District Advisory Group meeting where Tammy Radford was voted president, the Group is seeking new members.
- Rainbow Picnic Pride Day event at the Old Cheese Factory at Berwick.
- First meeting for the Cardinia CAN Advisory Group working to prevent domestic violence.
- Gender Equality commissioner visit from Dr Niki Vincent, this was amazing and inspiring.

Cr Roberts addressed Council by reporting on:

- Thank you to staff for supplying agendas in print for me while being injured and note I'm attending as much as I can online and thank staff for making that possible.
- Gender Equality commissioner visit from Dr Niki Vincent - great to reflect on how much change has occurred during my time in the sector.

Cr Nickell addressed Council by reporting on:

- Privileged to be involved in several things over the last few months.
- Australia Day Awards, it was great to see a lot of people from the northern part of Shire were nominated or awarded on the night.
- Australia Day Ceremony in Cockatoo. local awards - awarded at Australia Day Award and also awarded locally.
- Announcement of the Completion of Energy Resilience Project for halls in Cockatoo, Emerald and Gembrook. He thanked the Mayor and CEO, staff who came to the event and worked hard with State Government on that project. It is a significant issue in the hills and these Hubs will run independently for extended power outages and critically important to the community.
- Subcommittee of Gembrook community group have made a road sealing submission, this is a big issue for the area.

## 9 Presentation of Petitions

Nil

## 10 Notices Of Motion

Nil

## 11 Urgent Business

Nil

## 12 Councillor Questions

Cr Brett Owen asked Peter Benazic, General Manager Infrastructure and Environment the following:

### Major Projects Report

The previous council raised concern regarding the content of the Major Projects Report and asked senior management to improve the Major Projects Agenda Item in the General Council meetings.

The Major Projects Report should provide residents with a detailed, most up to date summary of major projects.

The Major Project report last appeared in the council agenda in August 2024.

Can you please provide an update on how the Major Projects report will be improved and when is the Major Works Report expected to return to the council agenda?

Will the council website be regularly updated to reflect the content that is contained in the Major Projects report?

*The existing major projects report is currently under review with a new Capital Works Report which will be provided to Councillors at the March 2025 Council Meeting with intervening updates being provided to councillors in the coming weeks.*

### Huxtable and Bessie Creek Roads

Bessie Creek Road and Huxtable has been earmarked to be sealed as part of council's sealing strategic roads program. Can the General Manager please provide a detailed update of the current budget allocations and what is the expected construction timelines for these two roads?

*Bessie Creek Road has funding in 2024-25 and 2025-26.*

- *2024-25 Stage 1 (2.2Km) Mt Eirene Road to Halifax Road*
  - o *Tender documents are being prepared to seek tender submissions with an anticipated construction timeframe to commence in April 2025 (sealing season)*
- *2025-26 Stage 2 (3.1km) Halifax Road to intersection with Gembrook Road*
  - o *Land slip works to be scheduled to be undertaken in Oct/Nov (weather dependent)*
  - o *Sealing works proposed Feb-April 2026*

*Huxtable Road has funding in 2025-26*

- *Sealing works proposed to start in November 2025 and an anticipated completion in May 2026 (weather dependant)*

### Starling Road, Officer

The northern section of Starling Road, Officer is currently being constructed by abutting developer contractors. Councillors have been contacted by many residents who are concerned about the width of the road carriageway.

What is the width of the proposed new carriageway?

Is this road width compliant for the road status that is detailed in the Officer Structure Plan?

Will the section of Starling Road allow for two large vehicles/trucks to pass each other in both directions?

**Response**

*Councils Development Team are looking into the issue raised by residents related to the northern section of Starling Road, Officer. These investigations are ongoing and include with reference to the requirements outlined in the Precinct Structure plan, design and plan reviews and onsite assessment.*

*Initial assessment is that the northern section of Starling Road, Officer is 6m wide, including the trafficable tray of the kerb, in line with the requirements within the PSP. The road has been designed for vehicular traffic in the tray of the kerb, and was designed as a Access Street - Level 2 road. This is what is being constructed, as per the PSP requirements.*

*There is ongoing investigation into if there are any options to response to community concerns at this location. These investigations are ongoing.*

## 13 Mayoral Minute

The Mayor, Cr Kowarzik addressed Council by commenting on the following topics.

### ***Council Plan Formation***

He acknowledged and thanked the members of the community panel and that he and other Councillors had attended up to three sessions. He indicated that it was fantastic to see the questions raised by individuals of our community. This will provide this Council with a platform of what priorities are for this Shire, which is paramount to Council's Community Vision.

### ***Federal Election Advocacy Priorities***

Cr Kowarzik commented that at tonight's meeting (agenda item 7.2.1), Council endorsed its key advocacy priorities for the upcoming Federal Election. He is proud that these priorities encompass the whole Shire.

As Mayor he said he focuses time on being a representative for the whole Shire, that there is no one need ahead of another. As a demographic institution Council need to make sure we are representing everyone equally and encompasses the whole Shire.

Council will be ramping up invitations to the community, meeting with candidates from political parties, and running social media advocacy promotions and so when the call goes out please consider helping Council out by contributing. Council will be trying really hard to make sure the community gets the funding it deserves. Cardinia Shire has shouldered a lot of growth and so its only right that we see the infrastructure to support our community.

### ***International Women's Day***

Last week, Cardinia Shire Council was honoured to host Dr Niki Vincent, gender equality commissioner. There were a lot of important messages and touched on insightful statistics from 2023 and gender equality progress audits. International Women's Day will be held at Cardinia Cultural Centre on Thursday 8 March, please come along.

### ***Reconciliation Action Plan***

Reconciliation Action Plan is seeking community input on third *Plan* that outlines how we will build on reconciliation across the Shire. We have a growing indigenous population and want to ensure we are engaging them correctly and walking towards reconciliation with them.

Promoted a new weekly video that will focus on the highlights of what happens in this Chamber with the aim of being transparent of what happens in the Council Chamber.

## 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, Councillor conduct panel information and information specified under s.77 of the previous *Local Government Act 1989*.

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

### Resolution

Moved Cr Pomeroy, seconded Cr Ross.

That Council adjourn the meeting for ten minutes and 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.

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

Against: Nil

Carried

At 8.38pm meeting closed to the public and adjourned for ten minutes.

## 15 Meeting Closure

Meeting closed at 8.58pm.

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Minutes confirmed  
Chairperson