

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 9 December 2025
6:00 pm

City Hall
57 Little Malop Street, Geelong 3220

LIVE STREAMED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/meetings

COUNCIL:

Cr S Kontelj (Kardinia Ward) - Mayor
Cr R Nelson (Barrabool Hills Ward) - Deputy Mayor
Cr E Sinclair (Charlemont Ward)
Cr M Cadwell (Cheetham Ward)
Cr E Wilkinson (Connewarre Ward)
Cr A Aitken (Corio Ward)
Cr A Katos (Deakin Ward)
Cr E Kontelj (Hamlyn Heights Ward)
Cr T Sullivan (Leopold Ward)
Cr R Story (Murradoc Ward)
Cr C Burson (You Yangs Ward)

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Present: Cr S Kontelj
Cr R Nelson
Cr T Sullivan
Cr A Aitken
Cr E Wilkinson
Cr E Sinclair
Cr A Katos
Cr E Kontelj
Cr M Cadwell
Cr R Story
Cr C Burson

Also Present: A Wastie (Chief Executive Officer), T Edwards (Executive Director, Corporate Services), J Stirton (Acting Executive Director, Placemaking), A Locke (Acting Executive Director, City Infrastructure), A Basford (Executive Director City Life), A Martin (Chief Governance and Risk Officer) J Douglas (Manager Council & Corporate Governance) E Ryan (Senior Governance Advisor – Council Business) D Pangrazio (Governance Advisor – Council Business).

Opening: The Mayor declared the meeting open at 6.04pm.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

1.2. Apologies

Nil

1.3. Leaves of Absence

RESOLUTION – Item 1.3.1

Cr E Sinclair moved, Cr R Story seconded –

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr M Cadwell from 12 January 2026 to 23 January 2026, inclusive.

Carried

1.4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Cr S Kontelj declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 1.3.1, due to the petition submitter being a family member.

Cr E Kontelj declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 1.3.1, due to the petition submitter being a family member.

1.5. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLUTION – Item 1.5.1

Cr A Katos moved, Cr R Story seconded –

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 November 2025 be confirmed.

Carried

1.6. Public Question and Submission Time

Question and Submission Time is an opportunity for questions to be addressed to Council and while the minutes record the general content, they do not purport to be a transcript of what was said by individuals. Likewise, Councillor or Officer verbal responses are in summary form only. Views expressed may not be the views of Council.

The following persons submitted questions prior to the Council Meeting and presented them at the Council Meeting, on the following subjects:

- Will Johnston - Point Lonsdale Structure Plan
- Patricia Berry (Proxy Present) - Land Rezoning
- Louis De Koker - Barwon River And Balyang Sanctuary
- Jeanne Nel - Barwon River And Balyang Sanctuary
- Charles Street (Proxy Present) - Lara Big Incinerator Project
- George Appleby (Proxy Present) - Barwon River Landscape

The following persons submitted questions prior to the Council Meeting but were not in attendance to present them at the Council Meeting, on the following subjects:

- Mitchell Talbot - Parking Around Lara Lake Primary School
- Pierre Debets - Victrack Trz1 Land, Lipson Drive, Lara

SUBMITTER 1. WILL JOHNSTON**Subject: POINT LONSDALE STRUCTURE PLAN****Relevant City Department: Placemaking, Executive Director James Stirton****Question 1:**

The Point Lonsdale Structure Plan has, for many years, identified the Swan Bay land on the corner of Fellows Road and the Bellarine Highway (2341-2349 Bellarine Highway) for rezoning to a Special Use Zone to support tourism-related uses. This direction was jointly adopted and has long been understood as the appropriate way to guide development on the site. With the Coles proposal now before the Minister, there is concern in the community that, without an active rezoning process underway, a supermarket or similar proposal might be approved despite the intent of the Structure Plan and the planning scheme. A Council-initiated rezoning would also be consistent with the objections Council has previously raised to the proposal, as well as Council's earlier calls for the Minister for Planning to rezone the land to a Special Use Zone. In light of Council's long-standing practice of implementing adopted strategies through planning scheme amendments (sometimes opposed by landowners), could Council please consider preparing a report outlining the steps, implications and options for progressing the rezoning identified in the Structure Plan, so that Council's strategic position is clear to both the community and the Minister?

Response:

Thank you for your question Will.

For the record the Council has formally written to the Minister, and is not supportive of the Coles proposal. Officers have also not supported the application based on traffic concerns.

We understand Coles has engaged with the State Government's Development Facilitation Program regarding their proposal. Planning Scheme Amendments are typically a lengthy and costly exercise, requiring a documented strategic basis and the preparation of multiple technical background reports and undertaken only when necessary.

Council does initiate a limited number of Planning Scheme Amendments, typically on a precinct wide basis, and always where strategically justified. It is not the role of Council to initiate a Planning Scheme Amendment for individual, privately-owned sites, in response to active site-specific development proposals.

The current zoning of the site allows for the preferred land use of the site for tourism development as envisaged in the Point Lonsdale Structure Plan.

In line with strategic planning implementation practice, Council may initiate a rezoning of a precinct but does not then undertake further specific site rezonings with that precinct – this is up to developers and landowners to initiate

It is in the Minister for Planning's power to rezone the land and/or consider any planning permit application made.

SUBMITTER 2. PATRICIA BERRY**Subject: LAND REZONING****Relevant City Department: Placemaking Executive Director James Stirton****Question 1:**

Council officers have previously advised that land is generally rezoned when a landowner or developer requests it. However, a review of Council's amendment history shows a long-standing practice of Council initiating rezoning and overlay changes where strategic justification exists, even in cases where some landowners raised objections. Amendments such as C432ggee (South Geelong), C363ggee (Drysdale) and C316 (Lara Heritage Review) and others reflect this broader, well-established approach. Given this, and noting that a rezoning to the Special Use Zone would be entirely consistent with Council's previous objections to the Coles proposal and with Council's earlier calls for the Minister for Planning to rezone the land, could Council please consider preparing a report outlining the available options, steps and implications for initiating a rezoning of the Swan Bay site consistent with the adopted Structure Plan? This would ensure Councillors and the community are fully informed about the pathways available. Is this possible? Please note: Karin Heinz will be my proxy on the night.

Response:

Thank you for your question.

Thank you for raising your concerns regarding the Coles proposal to develop 2341–2349 Bellarine Highway, Point Lonsdale, for a supermarket.

We understand that Coles has engaged with the State Government's Development Facilitation Program in relation to this proposal.

Planning Scheme Amendments are generally a complex and resource-intensive process. They require a clear strategic basis supported by multiple technical background reports, and are therefore only pursued when necessary.

Council does initiate a limited number of Planning Scheme Amendments, typically on a precinct-wide basis and always where there is strong strategic justification. For example, recent amendments such as C432ggee (South Geelong) and C363ggee (Drysdale) involved precinct rezonings, while C316 (Lara Heritage Review) addressed multiple properties to implement broader strategic policy directions.

It is not the role of Council to initiate Planning Scheme Amendments for individual, privately-owned sites in response to active, site-specific development proposals.

The current zoning of the site reflects the preferred land use for tourism development, as outlined in the Point Lonsdale Structure Plan.

Any decision to rezone the land or consider a planning permit application rests with the Minister for Planning.

SUBMITTER 3. MITCHELL TALBOT

Subject: PARKING AROUND LARA LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Relevant City Department: City Infrastructure Acting Executive Director Amanda Locke

Question 1:

I would like to ask if the council is planning on addressing the consistent parking issues in and around the Lara Lake Primary school at drop off and pick up time. There is a real need for education and or parking enforcement due to the large number of parents parking unlawfully and in a manner which can and has cause harm towards children and other individuals who are walking around the area.

Question 1 Response

Thank you Mitchell for your question.

The City has been working closely with Lara Lake Primary School and the Department of Education to identify opportunities to enhance pedestrian safety and improve parking around the school.

In 2023, angled parking on Lake Road was converted to parallel parking to increase pedestrian safety. Additional line marking in nearby streets is being considered to better define legal parking areas.

A shared path network connects the school to Lara Pool and Lakeside Boulevard. We encourage the school to promote the use of these alternative drop-off and pick-up locations to help alleviate congestion surrounding the school.

Lara Lake Primary have raised concerns about vehicles parking on the nature strip along Darcy Street. The City met with the Principal of Lara Lake Primary School and Department of Education this week in relation to this matter and will continue to engage with the school on improvements to the precinct to support active travel to the school.

To support safety around the school, parking officers often patrol the area taking appropriate action when vehicles are found to be in breach of parking restrictions.

SUBMITTER 4. LOUIS DE KOKER

Subject: BARWON RIVER AND BALYANG SANCTUARY

Relevant City Department: Placemaking, Executive Director James Stirton

Question 1:

At the November 2025 Council meeting raised questions about the office park development at 45-47 & 51-53 Riversdale Road, Newtown. I asked why the Council and Councillors approved a design that impacts the Barwon River and Balyang Sanctuary views so extensively when less intrusive alternatives were available. I pointed out that design adaptations such as lowering the front block, breaking up its mass, and tapering the height towards Balyang Sanctuary, while increasing height and river views at the rear, would have significantly reduced the development's visual impact on this important green corridor of Geelong. The Barwon River is a jewel of the city and should be actively protected by Council and its Councillors in the interests of all its residents. The Council responded that the proposal was deemed to satisfy the planning controls. Can the Council explain why they deemed the design of the front block appropriate in view of its domination of the river views and the Balyang Sanctuary views? How did the Council factor in the standard amenity considerations, especially given the highly-sensitive Barwon River context of this development site?

Question 2

At the November 2025 Council meeting I asked what the Council and Councillors are doing to ensure that further planned development along the Barwon River banks will be more sensitive than the Balyang Sanctuary office park development. The Council responded that the West Fyans/Fyans Structure Plan completed in 2009 is currently being reviewed with a community survey undertaken earlier this year and with community consultation on the draft structure plan expected to take place in early 2026. Regarding community consultation earlier this year: How many residents of Newtown and those of neighbourhoods with central Geelong Barwon River views (particularly Highton and Belmont) were i) invited to participate in the community survey, and ii) participated in the survey; and what was asked about the quality of the green Barwon River space that they would wish to see preserved and/or enhanced?

Louis De Koker asked a point of clarification. The Mayor advised that an answer will be provided in the written response.

Question 1 Response:

Thank you Louis for your question.

We acknowledge the site is currently under construction. In terms of the overall design, the proposal included an expert Urban Design assessment which noted that the site development contains the larger (4 storey) building centrally in a north-south orientation and this was envisaged not to have a significant visual impact from the Barwon River south of the site.

The southern interface, which is 3 storeys and included the use of significant glazing, was considered by the urban design assessment to have the design effect that would be read as recessive and visually subservient to landscaping in longer range views from the Barwon River corridor. The expert urban design images submitted with the application were

assessed and were not considered as having an overbearing visual impact on the landscape along the Barwon River.

In terms of the general amenity considerations, noting the site is located in an Industrial Zone as well as the Significant Landscape Overlay, the overall proposed development was assessed as having an acceptable regard for amenity.

Question 2 Response:

Thank you Louis for your second question.

The consultation undertaken earlier this year was targeted to landowners and occupiers within the West Fyans/Fyans Street Precinct Structure Plan area. This approach was chosen because the primary objective was to understand landowner and occupier experiences of the precinct, and their long-term plans for their property. A total of 20 survey responses were received, and 6 one-on-one meetings were conducted with landowners and occupiers in the precinct.

Broad community consultation will occur on a Draft Structure Plan for the precinct in mid-2026, ensuring wide community input into the Structure Plan.

Louis De Koker asked a point of clarification. The Mayor advised that an answer will be provided in the written response.

SUBMITTER 5. JEANNE NEL**Subject: BARWON RIVER AND BALYANG SANCTUARY****Relevant City Department: Placemaking, Executive Director James Stirton****Question 1:**

Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) and relevant planning schemes, there are specific steps a local council or permit applicant must follow to advertise a permit application. These steps ensure that affected parties are notified and have an opportunity to participate in the planning process. Recent VCAT decisions emphasise that the Act aims to ensure fair and transparent decision-making, including appropriate notice to affected parties. For residents who use public land but do not own adjoining properties, the responsible authority has discretion under section 52(1)(d) to provide notice if it deems those residents sufficiently affected. At last month's Council meeting, Council explained that it received only two objections when it gave public notice of the application to develop an office park next to Balyang Sanctuary, and that neither objection raised design issues. **QUESTION 1:** In addition to placing a sign on the land, what other steps did Council take to ensure that users of Balyang Sanctuary and the Barwon River banks, as well as residents of Newtown, Highton and Belmont whose river views would be impacted, were aware of the application and of the size and visual impact of the proposed development?

Question 2:

With reference to the application addressed in Question 1, that is, to develop an office park next to Balyang Sanctuary, what steps did Council take to ensure that Councillors, particularly those representing wards that include or are in proximity to Balyang Sanctuary and the Barwon River banks, were aware of the application and of the size and visual impact of the proposed development?

Jeanne Nel asked a point of clarification. James Stirton, Executive Director Placemaking, took the clarifying question on notice.

Question 1 Response:

Thank you Jeanne for your question.

With respect of public notice of planning applications, Council follows its responsibilities under the requirements under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act.

In addition to letters to adjoining landowners and a sign on the site, all planning applications on public notice are available for view on Council's website for the advertising period and recently finished public notice applications continue to remain on the website for at least one week after formal completion of the advertising period.

Additionally, all planning applications are made publicly available on Council's online planning register.

Question 2 Response:

Thank you Jeanne for your second question.

As noted, a register of all planning applications is available on council's website. A copy of the planning register is regularly provided to Councillors, noting this application was submitted over 3 years ago (in July 2022).

Jeanne Nel asked a point of clarification. James Stirton, Executive Director Placemaking, provided a response.

SUBMITTER 6. CHARLES STREET

Subject: LARA BIG INCINERATOR PROJECT

Relevant City Department: Placemaking, Executive Director James Stirton

Question 1:

Thank you Council, My questions relate to the Lara Big Incinerator project, which has still not gone away. The facility is expected to generate 35 megawatts of electrical power. Our calculations suggest that burning the entire 2.5 million tonnes of garbage per annum which is the "cap", would yield 240 megawatts: only one percent of the State Electricity Commission's expected output by the year 2035. Will the proponents, Prospect Hill International, be required to obtain Council approval for the construction of the electrical infrastructure required to add its tiny 35 megawatt contribution to the state power grid, please ?

Question 2:

Thank you Council. Although the Lara Big Incinerator project did not receive a cap licence from Recycling Victoria, it still has a Development Licence from the EPA, and, after five years of deliberation, it's planning permit application is still unresolved. At our not-for-profit independent community group, No Waste Incinerators in Lara and Greater Geelong Incorporated, we have no confidence that the project is scotched until there is formal revocation of the both the EPA licence (DL000300041) and formal refusal of the planning permit application (PA2001035). In defence of the health and well-being of our Greater Geelong communities what further actions can Council take to achieve those formal refusals from government, please ?

Question 1 Response:

Thank you for your question.

For reference a substation associated with a Waste to Energy facility is considered defined under the Planning Scheme as a Utility Installation.

Under Clause 72.01-1 of all Planning Schemes, the Minister for Planning is the Responsible Authority (not Council) for the development of land for a utility installation used to transmit or distribute electricity.

Question 2 Response:

Thank you for your second question.

The City has written to the Minister for Planning, The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny numerous times with concerns regarding this proposal and have had many conversations with Member for Lara, Ella George MP.

In our most recent correspondence, we requested the Minister provide assurance that no planning permit or future licence will be granted for this facility. We stated that our community deserves certainty and protection from developments that pose unacceptable

risks to health, amenity, and the environment. We are yet to receive a response to this letter that was sent in August.

We will continue to raise this matter with both the Member for Lara, Ella George MP, whose support has been instrumental in amplifying community voices to date and the Minister for Planning, The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny.

SUBMITTER 7. PIERRE DEBETS**Subject: VICTRACK TRZ1 LAND, LIPSON DRIVE, LARA****Relevant City Department: City Infrastructure, Acting Executive Director Amanda Locke****Question 1:**

My question follows previous questions 22nd July, 25th August and 22nd September in relation to the problematic Lara drain in the VicTrack TRZ1 Land. Council officers visited site 25th September. It has been subsequently confirmed council has not entered the TRZ1 land: 1. At any stage to undertake any maintenance for at least 40 years 2. Or actually gauge how badly the drain is impacted, contrary to the previous answers provided by council. Officers were unable to determine the status from outside the boundary fence, all points visible are clearly bad. Subsequent attempts by council to organise access to the TRZ1 land over the last 3 months have proven futile. This reflects continuation of the situation over many years. In 2023 the drain was blocked by V-Line earthworks, council was incapable of resolving over 12-month period 2023/24. This problem was only resolved by residents securing action from the Minister Transport. Clearly the Council remains unable to meet basic obligations for this drain. This drain is extremely flat with insufficient hydraulic fall over an extended distance and remains unsuitable even if it was possible to be cleaned and restored. The solution is clearly to proceed with the Lipson Drive Stage 1 project that was specifically designed to bypass this problem section of drain and with a suitable fall. Could the council now please confirm that Lipson Drive Stage 1 project will be returned to the budget for completion in 2026/27.

Question 1 Response

Thank you Pierre for your question.

Whilst Stage 1 of the Kyema-Lipson project is not funded within the 2025–26 budget cycle, officers will continue advocacy efforts to seek grant opportunities to progress large-scale drainage upgrades. In the meantime, we will maintain proactive elevated maintenance regimes in your area and ensure that you and your neighbours are kept informed should circumstances change.

As the City formalises how capital works upgrades will be managed for the 2026–27 financial year, further investment in drainage upgrades will be brought forward for consideration. This process will ensure that time and resources are directed toward projects delivering the most significant benefits in flood mitigation relative to the investment made.

We will take into account previous submissions, including Kyema and Lipson Drive. Importantly, the City of Greater Geelong will adopt a new budget development process for 2026–27, designed to allow earlier and more meaningful community input.

We value your input and encourage you to participate in this new process, which is designed to strengthen collaboration between Council and the community in shaping future investment priorities.

SUBMITTER 8. GEORGE APPLEBY

Subject: BARWON RIVER LANDSCAPE

Relevant City Department: Placemaking, Executive Director James Stirton

Question 1:

Question asked by Chrissy Freestone as proxy for George Appleby. Q1: I care deeply about our beautiful Barwon River and the privilege of visiting it frequently with my partner, a local resident. I was appalled to see the new office park development rising above the river landscape in Highton, Belmont and Newtown. I noticed the discussion at the last Council meeting about the development at 45-47 & 51-53 Riversdale Road, Newtown and is zoned Industrial 1 Zone. The Council response noted that the property is subject to four overlays, a Heritage Overlay HO1617, Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 2, Special Building Overlay, and Design and Development Overlay Schedule 20. Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 2 specifically aims at minimising “the visual impact of any buildings, structures and works on views to the area from the River bank and the higher lands on the south bank of the River” and encourages “siting, design and landscaping of buildings and works that is responsive to the landscape values of the area.” It is clear from the Barwon River banks that the development as approved is visually intrusive and dominates the landscape as viewed from the River bank. Can the Council please explain how it considered and responded to each of the relevant conditions of Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 2 when they granted the development permit?

Question 2:

Question asked by Chrissy Freestone as proxy for George Appleby. Q2: The Special Building Overlay, and Design and Development Overlay Schedule 20 also sets out relevant considerations, including that “(l)andscaping should be provided along boundaries which adjoin a sensitive land use or environmental feature (such as creek or reserve) or where the site is visually prominent” and “(t)he quality and quantity of landscaping should reflect the scale of the building and car park area in order to address screening and softening of visual bulk. Can the Council please explain how it considered and responded to each of the relevant conditions of the Special Building Overlay, and Design and Development Overlay Schedule 20 when they granted the development permit?

Question 1 Response

Thank you for your question.

As you have rightfully noted the subject site has planning overlays as well as the Industrial zone to consider as part of the balance of the overall planning assessment.

Clause 71.02-3 of all Planning Schemes in Victoria require planning authorities to endeavour to integrate the range of planning policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

As the Significant Landscape Overlay relates to the application it is noted that Council's Urban Design and Environment Department did not object to the proposal, subject to conditions of permit.

Council on balance considered that the proposed development met the objectives of the Significant Landscape Overlay by reducing the height of the buildings along the boundary that abuts the Barwon River reserve.

This façade presented as a 3 storey scale built form that was considered visually recessive when viewed from the south side of the Barwon River and the trees within the reserve helped to assist in screening the built form.

Question 2 Response

Thank you for your second question.

The Special Building Overlay relates to flooding and Council's Civil Infrastructure team did not object to the proposal subject to conditions.

The Design and Development Overlay amongst its purpose is to improve the visual appearance and image of industrial areas and to facilitate economic development. We believe the development addresses these objectives.

Also given the site contained very limited vegetation, a landscape plan was required to be submitted as part of the permit and to assist with more vegetation onsite.

The landscape plan included appropriate landscaping to the site and this includes 19 new trees and a total of 1596 new plant species from shrubs to ground covers, grasses, hedges and planter boxes.

1.7. Petitions

Cr S Kontelj and Cr E Kontelj declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 1.7.1 and left the meeting at 6.36pm.

Cr R Nelson assumed the role of Chair of the meeting.

1.7.1 Wandana Estate Playground

Cr R Nelson presented petition on behalf of Paris Kontelj and residents. The petition calls on Council to update the Wandana Heights Estate playground so that it better caters to young children and families in the community.

The petition contains approximately 57 signatures.

2. REPORTS

Cr S Kontelj and Cr E Kontelj returned to the meeting at 6.37pm.

The Mayor, Cr S Kontelj, assumed the role of Chair of the meeting.

Ayush Singh, Junior Mayor, briefly addressed the meeting on behalf of the Youth Council.

2.1. Youth Council Final Report 2025

Source: City Life
Executive Director: Anthony Basford

Purpose

1. To note the final report from the 2025 Youth Council Advisory Committee.

Background

2. At the end of 2024, 11 local young people were elected by their peers to the City of Greater Geelong Youth Council Advisory Committee (Youth Council). Throughout 2025, they have served as representatives of the region's young people, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes.
3. The members, aged between 12 and 17 at their time of nomination, come from a diverse range of local towns and suburbs across the municipality. They attend various schools throughout City and bring a broad spectrum of perspectives and lived experiences to the Youth Council.
4. The Youth Council provides advice and regular updates to Council, developed through monthly meetings, collaboration with Councillors via the Councillor Connect Mentoring Program, and active engagement with the boarder community.

Key Matters

5. The Youth Council is presenting its final report for 2025, outlining its activities, engagement and outcomes since the previous reporting period.
6. In a change from previous years, where advice was provided across multiple reports, it was determined that the 2025 Youth Council would deliver its advice solely in the final report. This approach has allowed members to reflect on their term, conduct thorough research, and formulate advice informed by their collective engagement and insight.
7. The attached Youth Council report includes eight pieces of advice across four key areas for Council's consideration.

Recommendation

Cr A Aitken moved, Cr M Cadwell seconded -

That Council:

1. Notes the final report provided by the Youth Council Advisory Committee 2025 at Attachment 1.
2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer consider the advice provided by the Youth Council Advisory Committee 2025 in its final report at Attachment 1; and
3. Acknowledges the contribution of the 2025 Youth Council Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION – Item 2.1

AMENDMENT

Cr E Sinclair moved, Cr E Wilkinson seconded -

That Council:

1. Notes the final report provided by the Youth Council Advisory Committee 2025 at Attachment 1.
2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer consider the advice provided by the Youth Council Advisory Committee 2025 in its final report at Attachment 1 and **provides an update to Councillors by June 2026; and**
3. Acknowledges the contribution of the 2025 Youth Council Advisory Committee.

Carried

Financial Sustainability

8. Funding for the Youth Council program and its activities is allocated in Council's annual budget. Financial implications are one factor the City must take into consideration when assessing whether any action can or will be taken in response to the advice provided by Youth Council.

Community Engagement

9. Youth Council members engage with young people and the broader community to gather essential information, feedback and input, through their monthly meetings and scheduled activities, as outlined in the Youth Council Reports presented throughout the year.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. The Youth Council offers young people a platform to contribute to and participate in civic life, promoting inclusivity and equity.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. The Youth Council's activities are conducted in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

12. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Healthy and Caring Community
13. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

14. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

15. Youth Council advises on youth-related issues but does not make decisions on behalf of the City or Council. Its functions are governed by the adopted Terms of Reference.

Environmental Sustainability

16. There are no environment implications.

Attachments

1. 2025 Final Youth Council Report [2.1.1 - 8 pages]

2.2. Bellarine Arts Centre Community Asset Committee 2024-25 Annual Report

Source: Placemaking
Executive Director: James Stirton

Purpose

1. To provide Council with an Annual Report from the Bellarine Arts Centre (Potato Shed) Community Asset Committee and showcase the venue's programs, activities and highlights during the 2024/25 period.

Background

2. The Bellarine Arts Centre (Potato Shed) is a multi-purpose arts venue featuring a 200-seat black box theatre, outdoor amphitheatre, and flexible spaces including studios, rehearsal rooms, classrooms, and amenities.
3. Council operates the Centre under a Development and Joint Use Agreement with Bellarine Secondary College and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Limited Corporation, signed in March 2000 with an initial term to 2030.
4. A Community Asset Committee, established under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, manages the Bellarine Arts Centre on behalf of Council.

Key Matters

5. The Bellarine Arts Centre remains highly active, delivering 70 performances, 125 rehearsals and workshops, 145 dance classes, 11 community functions, 875 high school classes, and 450 outside school hours care sessions during 2024/25.
6. Updated calculation methods now provide a more accurate measure of visitation, with 50,250 visitors recorded based on ticket sales, student attendance, and community participation; figures exclude previous incidental attendance estimates, showing visitation is consistent or improved.
7. The Centre faces scheduling pressures due to high utilisation. Fundraising and advocacy will commence in 2025/26 to secure \$36 million for the Redevelopment Business Case and Master Plan, which includes a second larger theatre, improved backstage and technical facilities, and additional teaching and learning spaces.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.4

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr E Sinclair seconded –

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Bellarine Arts Centre (Potato Shed) Community Asset Committee Annual Report (Attachment 1)**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

8. Council manages the Bellarine Arts Centre (Potato Shed) in partnership with Bellarine Secondary College and the St Ignatius College Geelong under a joint-use agreement.
9. Annual contributions from Council and partner schools support the ongoing operation and maintenance of the venue.

Community Engagement

10. Two new community representatives were appointed to the committee in January 2025, representing the interests of local artists and residents.

Social Equity and Sustainability

11. The population of the Bellarine Peninsula has grown rapidly since the initial development of the Bellarine Arts Centre, and the facility has not grown with the changing population. Increased opportunities to participate in the arts will support key populations in the area; particularly young people (ages 0-15) and Seniors (65+)

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

12. This report forms part of the Governance requirements of a Community Asset Committee pursuant to section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA) to prepare for Council an annual report and financial statements of the operations of the Committee in the preceding financial year.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

13. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Economic Development
Governance and Integrity
Heritage and Culture
14. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
Creative and diverse culture.

Conflict of Interest

15. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

16. Bellarine Arts Centre meets all obligations under OH&S legislation to provide appropriate equipment and training and to ensure that work is carried out safely in order to meet Worksafe requirements.

Environmental Sustainability

17. There are no Environmental sustainability impacts associated with the report of the Community Asset Committee.

Attachments

1. BAC Committee Annual Report 202425 [2.2.1 - 5 pages]

2.3. Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine Annual Report

Source: Placemaking
Executive Director: James Stirton

Purpose

1. To provide the formal Annual Report and highlight the achievements of the Council-supported entity, Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine.
2. To note the Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine 2024/25 Annual Report (Attachment 1).

Background

3. Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine is an Incorporated Association, recognised as a Visitor Economy Partnership by the Victorian Government.
4. The Association delivers programs to develop and grow tourism across the region via a model that incorporates the three municipalities (City of Greater Geelong, Borough of Queenscliff and Golden Plains Shire), plus support from State Government and direct industry investment.
5. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the City of Greater Geelong provides staffing and administration for the organisation, and the revenue it generates through other contributions underpins the delivery of programs.

Key Matters

6. Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine, supported by the City of Greater Geelong, has prepared an Annual Report for the 2024/25 financial year (Attachment 1).
7. Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine represented almost 900 businesses, including 417 financial members, during 2024/25. This is steady from 2023/24 and in line with expectations during what has been a challenging period for operators in the sector.
8. In 2024/25, Greater Geelong and The Bellarine saw 6.4 million visitors stay 5.7 million nights and spend \$1.74 billion. International visitation is up 49% in numbers, 57.4% in nights and the international spend figure has increased by 142.2%. The Domestic spend figure is down 5.2% from 2023/24 as some markets have softened in line with the challenging economic climate.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.3

Cr T Sullivan moved, Cr A Katos seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine 2024/2025 Annual Report (Attachment 1).**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. The audited financial reports of Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine show that the organisation recorded an operating surplus of \$178,247. The strong surplus is the result of the timing of grants and increased industry participation in marketing programs.
10. Revenue for 2024/25 was \$1,420,699. This amount is exclusive of staffing and the administration support provided by the City, which is not reported in the Incorporated Association finances.
11. Revenue also includes membership fees collected from the tourism sector through their investment in Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine and their participation in programs, and State Government partnership income and grants.

Community Engagement

12. The Geelong Visitor Information Service team of 63 volunteers devoted 7,800 hours to serving upwards of 63,000 visitors. They were stationed at The Carousel and City Hall all year, as well as Avalon Airshow 2025 and at the arrival of three cruise ships at Wangim Walk in December, January and May.
13. More than 894 people from local tourism businesses attended workshops and events delivered by Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine throughout the year.

Social Equity and Sustainability

14. The Sustainable Destination Master Plan as a feature of the Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine work delivered during the year. It underpinned 64 letters of support for local initiatives that align with the long-term vision for the sector and the region.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

15. Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine AGM was held in accordance with the Rules of the Association on 16 October 2025. The financial statements presented in the Annual Report were delivered to members who voted to accept them.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

16. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Economic Development
Healthy and Caring Community
17. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
A destination that attracts local and international visitors.
A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
Creative and diverse culture.
People feel safe wherever they are.

Conflict of Interest

18. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

19. These annual reports are administrative in nature, there are no risks associated.

Environmental Sustainability

20. These annual reports are administrative in nature, there are no environmental sustainability implications from the reports.

Attachments

1. Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine Annual Report 2024-2025 [2.3.1 - 38 pages]

2.4. 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants guidelines

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Purpose

1. To seek Council's approval of the 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants guidelines and advise Council of the key dates for this grant.

Background

2. The City offers a range of competitive grants to support projects, events, activities and capital works to benefit the community.
3. All grants operate under the City's Standard Guidelines which include application and assessment processes, eligibility criteria and requirements for successful applicants.
4. At its meeting on 22 July 2025, Council approved the guidelines for the City's 2025-26 Community Grants program, except for the First Nations Cultural Heritage Grants.
5. The First Nations Cultural Heritage Grants were initiated in 2019-20 to support Aboriginal Cultural Heritage projects in collaboration with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. Four grant rounds were delivered between 2021-22 and 2023-24, after which the program was paused for review.
6. Following a review process, including consultation with key stakeholders, a revised grant program has been developed. As a result, officers recommend the adoption of new guidelines for the Community Strengthening First Nations Grants to replace the First Nations Cultural Heritage Grants.

Key Matters

7. The purpose of the Community Strengthening First Nations Grants is to support self-determined projects and initiatives aimed at increasing health and social equity for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, First Nations people, organisations and groups living in greater Geelong.
8. The grant supports applications that deliver on the goals described in the City's Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-21, Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–2029, Council Plan 2025–2029, Social Equity Framework and the socio-economic targets of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
9. This Council-endorsed grant is open to applicants based in Greater Geelong, as well as Wadawurrung Traditional Owners residing outside Geelong, but wanting to undertake initiatives in the City. Non-First Nations applicants must demonstrate a partnership with a First Nations organisation, business, or individual. All funded projects must be delivered within Geelong.

10. Applicants are not eligible to apply if they cannot demonstrate at least 50% First Nations ownership or partnership, or if they are an individual without an ABN, or an educational institution.
11. The 2025-26 budget is \$100,000, with two funding categories: Category 1 (up to \$5,000) supports smaller, lower-risk projects and; Category 2 (\$5,001–\$25,000) is for larger-scale initiatives requiring comprehensive planning, stakeholder support, and may involve multiple partners.
12. The 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants will open between December 2025 and early 2026 and funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement in June 2026.
13. The guidelines for the 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants are attached to this report (**Attachment 1**).

RESOLUTION - Item 2.4

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr E Sinclair seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Approves the 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants guidelines in Attachment 1 to this report;**
- 2. Notes the 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants will open between December 2025 and early 2026; and**
- 3. Notes that funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement in June 2026.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

14. The \$100,000 allocated for the First Nations Cultural Heritage Grant forms part of the City's Community Grants budget, which was adopted at the Council meeting on 24 June 2025. These funds will now be directed to the new Community Strengthening First Nations Grants program, supporting its revised guidelines and funding categories.

Community Engagement

15. Consultation for the development of the new grant guidelines included input from:
 - 15.1. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
 - 15.2. Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative
 - 15.3. Wanyaari Aboriginal Consultancy Services
16. Ngaweean Maroo, Closing the Gap audit for City of Greater Geelong
 - 16.1. Best Start Partnership
 - 16.2. Deakin University – Faculty of Health
 - 16.3. Department of Justice
17. Geelong Arts Centre
 - 17.1. Give Where You Live
 - 17.2. Neighbourhood Houses Barwon
 - 17.3. The City's Executive Leadership Team and officers with relevant expertise.
18. During the consultation process, the following key topics were addressed:
 - 18.1. Clarification of the grant's name and purpose.
 - 18.2. Managing conflicts of interest in both applications and assessment.
 - 18.3. Ensuring cultural safety and effective dispute resolution within the community.
 - 18.4. Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the assessment panel, including examples and clear criteria such as connection to Geelong, cultural understanding, and prior panel experience.
 - 18.5. Providing background information on the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) and Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.
 - 18.6. Eligibility requirements, including the need for a minimum 50% First Nations leadership and demonstration of partnership or participation.
 - 18.7. Funding priorities, focusing on First Nations-led projects that deliver health and wellbeing outcomes for First Nations people and the broader community through engagement and collaboration.

Social Equity and Sustainability

19. The grant supports applications that deliver on the goals described in the City's Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–2029, Council Plan 2025-2029 and the socio-economic targets of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The objective of this Agreement is to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians. (Source [3. Objective and Outcomes | Closing the Gap](#)).

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

20. All Community Grants respond to Council's Community Investment and Support Fund Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

21. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Healthy and Caring Community
Heritage and Culture
22. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
Creative and diverse culture.

Conflict of Interest

23. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

24. There are no high or extreme risks associated with implementing the recommendations contained in this report.

Environmental Sustainability

25. Environmental sustainability considerations are not directly applicable to this grant program; however, all funded projects are expected to avoid any negative environmental impacts.

Attachments

1. 2025- 26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants Guidelines [2.4.1 - 18 pages]

Cr R Nelson left the meeting at 7.17pm.

Cr R Nelson returned to the meeting at 7.18pm.

2.5. Geelong Waterfront Master Plan

Source: Placemaking
Executive Director: James Stirton

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the final Geelong Waterfront Master Plan (Master Plan). Adoption of the Master Plan will provide a coordinated framework to guide development, management and investment across the waterfront precinct in coming decades.

Background

2. The updated Master Plan replaces the 2011 Geelong Waterfront Master Plan and builds on its achievements, addressing outstanding issues such as:
 - 2.1. Connectivity gaps across the waterfront and into Central Geelong.
 - 2.2. Ageing infrastructure and underutilised assets.
 - 2.3. Environmental resilience, coastal adaption, and climate risks.
3. Increased visitor and community demand for recreation and activation.
4. The Master Plan was prepared with input from internal teams, technical audits (tree and accessibility) and a quantity surveyor cost estimate to inform a phased implementation strategy.
5. Community and stakeholder engagement has been conducted in two stages:
6. Stage 1 (April – May 2023): Established priorities, values, and vision through surveys, social media, workshops, pop-ups and interviews.
7. Stage 2 (August – October 2025): The draft Master Plan was tested through surveys, pop-ups, stakeholder meetings, social media, and face-to-face engagement. Feedback confirmed strong overall support for the draft plan (average score 88/100) and was used to refine the actions and implementation strategy.

Key Matters

8. The Master Plan establishes a renewed strategic and spatial framework to guide the future development and management of Geelong's waterfront.
9. It responds to community aspirations and emerging challenges by embedding principles of environmental resilience, cultural recognition, connectivity and sustainable activation.

10. Adoption of the Master Plan will enable coordinated implementation over time. Delivery will draw on a mix of available funding mechanisms, partnerships, and external grant opportunities.
11. A detailed Implementation Plan is being prepared to guide delivery, including funding and partnership opportunities. This Plan will be reviewed biannually to track progress, ensure alignment with Council priorities, and respond to emerging opportunities.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.5

Cr T Sullivan moved, Cr A Aitken seconded -

That Council:

1. **Adopts the *Geelong Waterfront Master Plan (Attachment 1)*, which provides a coordinated framework for the future planning, investment, and activation of the waterfront;**
2. **Notes the *Geelong Waterfront Master Plan Engagement Report (Attachment 2)* as a summary of community and stakeholder feedback that informed the development of the Master Plan; and**
3. **Notes that implementation of the Master Plan will be staged, with projects delivered through a mix of available funding mechanisms, partnerships, and external grant opportunities.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

12. Adoption of the Master Plan does not commit Council to any capital expenditure.
13. Future implementation will be staged and progressed in alignment with available opportunities, including partnerships and external grants.
14. Potential delivery and maintenance costs will be determined and refined during detail design of individual projects.

Community Engagement

15. The Master Plan was informed by two stages of engagement:
 - 15.1. **Stage 1 (Apr–May 2023):** Identified community values and priorities through surveys, social media, workshops, and interviews.
 - 15.2. **Stage 2 (Aug–Oct 2025):** Tested the draft plan and gathered feedback on proposed actions through online surveys, pop-ups, stakeholder meetings, and social media.
16. Community feedback showed strong overall support for the draft Master Plan, with average survey scores ranging from 80 and 96 out of 100 across key themes including vision, environment, access, family spaces, and commercial opportunities.
17. Respondents highlighted Convention and Creativity, Western Beach and Limeburners Point as priorities for activation, environmental protection, and recreational improvements.
18. Face-to-face engagement provided detailed insights from long-term residents and visitors, reinforcing enduring community values and identifying opportunities for enhancement.
19. State agencies and key stakeholders commended the Master Plan's vision and integration of cultural, ecological, and urban values. They emphasised balancing bold design ambition with practical, culturally sensitive, and climate responsive implementation, particularly improved active transport connections, heritage protection, and coastal adaptation.
20. Feedback from all engagement stages directly informed the final Master Plan, ensuring alignment with community values, guiding principles, and the strategic priorities that now frame the Implementation Strategy.

Social Equity and Sustainability

21. The Master Plan promotes:
 - 21.1. Inclusive and equitable access to the waterfront.
 - 21.2. Improved public amenity and recreation opportunities.
 - 21.3. Support for a sustainable local economy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

22. The Master Plan aligns with key policy commitments:
 - 22.1. Cleaver and Creative Future (2017)
 - 22.2. Council Plan (2025-2029)
 - 22.3. Urban Forest Strategy (2015-2025)
 - 22.4. Environment Strategy (2020- 2030)
 - 22.5. Central Geelong Framework Plan (2023)
 - 22.6. Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan (2016)
 - 22.7. Eastern Beach Conservation Management Plan (draft)

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

23. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
 - Core and Critical Infrastructure
 - Economic Development
 - Environment and Circular Economy
 - Healthy and Caring Community
 - Heritage and Culture
24. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
 - A destination that attracts local and international visitors.
 - A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.
 - An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
 - Creative and diverse culture.
 - Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.
 - People feel safe wherever they are.
 - Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

25. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

26. The Master Plan provides a clear strategic framework to mitigate risks associated with:
 - 26.1. Infrastructure deterioration
 - 26.2. Event and visitor management
 - 26.3. Climate and coastal impacts
 - 26.4. Transparent community consultation and have helped ensure reputation and operational risks are addressed.

Environmental Sustainability

27. The Master Plan embeds climate adaption, nature-based solutions, and water sensitive urban design.
28. Promotes urban cooling, biodiversity enhancement, and coastal habitat restoration, while preserving open space and coastal views.

Attachments

1. GWF Engagement Report [2.5.1 - 14 pages]
2. Waterfront Masterplan Final [2.5.2 - 55 pages]

2.6. Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Source: City Life
Executive Director: Anthony Basford

Purpose

1. To seek adoption of the final Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan (Master Plan) following completion of a four-week community engagement period.

Background

2. The Master Plan has been developed to guide the delivery of Stage 2 of the active recreation reserve located at 81-113 Sovereign Drive, Mount Duneed. Stage 1 of the reserve was delivered in 2017 by the developer Villawood Properties.
3. In August 2025 Council released the draft Master Plan for a four-week community engagement period. Updates to the plan were made following the closure of this period. The Community Engagement Report is attached for reference (Attachment 2).
4. The Master Plan development has been supported by key stakeholders including representatives from key sporting associations, local sporting clubs and the Mount Duneed Men's Shed.

Key Matters

5. This Master Plan and master plans more broadly play a pivotal role in ensuring Council has the evidence to advocate for external funding to deliver on community aspirations and its obligations under adopted structure plans.
6. The Council is required to deliver this active open space reserve under its obligations in the Armstrong Creek West Precinct Structure Plan and Armstrong Creek West Development Contributions Plan.
7. Community engagement on the draft Master Plan recorded 1,027 views via the City's online Have Your Say platform. The engagement resulted in 57 total contributions and included a face-to-face drop-in session.
8. Feedback from the community engagement indicated strong overall support for the draft Master Plan with 96 percent of respondents either fully supportive or mostly supportive.
9. Minor amendments have been made to address feedback received in the community engagement that now inform the Master Plan.
 - 9.1. Amendments to the Master Plan include provision of a designated dog off leash area, highlighting traffic and car parking improvements, and adjustment to netball courts.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.6

Cr A Katos moved, Cr E Kontelj seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan as at Attachment 1;**
- 2. Notes that additional grant funding will be required to fully implement the Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan following detailed design and costing;**
- 3. Notes the Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan Engagement Report as at Attachment 2; and**
- 4. Acknowledges the community for their contributions to the Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan throughout the community engagement period.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

10. The total estimated construction costs to deliver the Master Plan recommendations are \$12.8m and exceed current budget allocations.
11. Costs provided for recommendations within the Master Plan are high level, and do not include any allowances for non-construction costs, contingencies or escalation and may change throughout detailed design and delivery.
12. If funding for delivery of all Master Plan recommendations is insufficient, implementation will be staged based on priorities identified within the Plan, and external grant opportunities will be sought.
13. Appropriate external funding will be sought to support the delivery of remaining master plan recommendations in line with the City's prioritisation process.

Community Engagement

14. The draft Master Plan was released for community consultation for a period of four weeks between 27 August and 29 September 2025. The engagement included communications via the Have Your Say platform, media release, social media, letter box drops to surrounding residents, signage located at the reserve, direct email engagement to key stakeholders and a community on-site drop-in session.
15. The Master Plan's development has been supported by direct engagement with key stakeholders including representatives from key sporting associations, local sports clubs and the Mount Duneed Men's Shed.
16. Engagement activities resulted in 1,027 views on the Have Your Say page, 57 total contributions and 8 attendees to the onsite drop-in session.
17. 96 percent of survey respondents fully support or mostly support the draft Master Plan and 98 percent of respondents believe that the draft Master Plan meets the needs of the community.
18. Feedback on the draft Master Plan informed the Master Plan with minor changes incorporated into the plan to address identified key engagement themes. Key changes include:
 - 18.1. Recommendation (2) car park has been updated to more clearly identify car park expansion and road widening.
 - 18.2. Recommendation (4) netball courts have been slightly amended moving warm up area to east and indicating court lighting.
 - 18.3. Recommendation (9) has been amended to indicate investigation of future dedicated fenced dog off leash area in response to community feedback.
 - 18.4. Future road frontage has been noted on the eastern side of the reserve with potential for additional on-street carparking.

Social Equity and Sustainability

19. The Master Plan responds to increased participation demands, female participation, and increased demand for passive open space.
20. The vision for the Master Plan is to foster a strong sense of place and connection to the reserve, support environmentally sustainable design, and offer accessible opportunities for all ages and abilities to engage in sport, recreation and social interaction.
21. The Master Plan ensures all new facilities are universally designed for use by people of all ages, gender, abilities, and cultural backgrounds. Infrastructure projects identified within the plan will also require Gender Impact Assessments (GIA+) to be completed prior to commencement.
22. The proposed developments contained within the Master Plan align with adopted sporting association guidelines and standards to ensure investments are in accordance with provision requirements and service levels are realistic considering resource constraints.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

23. The City is required to deliver this active open space reserve under its obligations in the Armstrong Creek West Precinct Structure Plan and Armstrong Creek West Development Contributions Plan to ensure that the community within the area is provided with access to infrastructure and services to support a quality, affordable and connected lifestyle.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

24. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
 - Core and Critical Infrastructure
 - Healthy and Caring Community
25. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
 - An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

26. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

27. The development of the Master Plan identifies sport and recreation infrastructure deliverables to ensure the City meets its provision requirements in line with population demand. Any delay in delivering the plan would prevent the Mount Duneed community from having fair and timely access to essential open spaces and sporting facilities.
28. The Master Plan provides a clear strategic framework to mitigate risks associated with:
 - 28.1. Infrastructure provision
 - 28.2. Climate impacts

29. Transparent community consultation has ensured reputational and operational risks are addressed.

Environmental Sustainability

30. The Master Plan aligns with a key direction of the City's Sustainability Policy to enhance, protect and restore our biodiversity and natural environments, including plants and animals that inhabit them.
31. All facility developments will consider environmentally sustainable design principles in line with Council's Sustainable Building Policy.

Attachments

1. Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan – Final Report – December 2025
2. Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan – Final Engagement Report – December 2025

2.7. Special Rates and Charges Council Policy

Source: City Infrastructure
Executive Director: Amanda Locke

Purpose

1. For Council to adopt the updated Special Rate and Charge Scheme Corporate Policy at **Attachment 1 – Special Rates and Charges Policy**.

Background

2. The existing Special Rates and Charges Policy, adopted by Council in 2021, is scheduled for review in late 2025.
3. The updated version, Special Rates and Charges Policy (referred to as 'the Policy') sets the strategic direction for future Special Rate and Charge schemes (SRC) across the municipality. It provides a governance framework and operational guidance for implementing infrastructure or service delivery projects funded with the use of contributions from benefitting property owners, in accordance with Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and consultation requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
4. The policy is supported by a detailed procedure document that outlines how the City manages applications for SRC schemes and the step-by-step process for initiating and delivering a scheme.

Key Matters

5. SRC schemes enable the City to respond to community requests to provide a higher level of service by facilitating the timely delivery of infrastructure upgrades or services that are specifically requested or supported by local property owners. Without SRC's, these improvements may be significantly delayed or not delivered at all due to funding constraints.
6. These schemes have historically been applied to projects such as road construction, drainage improvements, footpath installations, or services like marketing, promotion, and economic development initiatives that benefit business within the Central Activity Area. Other infrastructure (i.e.: lighting) or services associated with providing an increase in service level to select properties may be considered as part of future schemes.
7. The draft Policy and supporting procedure outline the decision-making process for establishing SRC schemes, including how costs are apportioned among benefitting properties. This ensures that contributions are fair, transparent, and aligned with the level of special benefit received by property owners within the scheme area.
8. The draft Policy introduces key changes to the administration of Special Rates and Charges (SRC) schemes, including a requirement for property owners to demonstrate a minimum of 60% support from responding property owners for infrastructure upgrades. It also removes the previous threshold that limited schemes to projects involving five or more properties, eliminating barriers and enabling all requests for

infrastructure upgrades to be considered. These changes aim to strengthen community-led decision-making while ensuring consistency and transparency in the delivery of locally supported improvements.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.7

Cr A Katos moved, Cr A Aitken seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Formally revokes the existing Special Rates and Charges Policy version 2 and replace it with the updated policy framework.**
- 2. Adopts the Special Rates and Charges Policy (Attachment 1).**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. Under the current Special Rate and Charge (SRC) program, the City is planning to deliver approximately \$21.3 million in new roads and footpaths, guided by the cost apportionment models outlined in the draft SRC Procedure. Based on this works program, the City anticipates recovering an estimated \$9.3 million (38.1%) of the total construction costs from the benefitting property owners over the four-year period from 2025/26 to 2028/29.
10. Without the implementation of SRC schemes, the delivery of upgraded or new infrastructure and services would face significant delays or require a substantial increase in expenditure within the City's annual capital budget.
11. The capital budget (2025-2029) includes an allocation of funds which will facilitate the planning stages of upcoming Special Rate and Charge schemes. Any additional budget necessary for detail design and construction services will be sought through the Council Chamber during the Declaration of Charge phase of the SRC scheme.
12. Our cost apportionment criteria for SRC's is covered within the supporting procedure and has been reviewed by two community focus groups as part of ensuring the accompanying procedure remains contemporary. The cost apportionment of SRCs will be applied in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and the SRC procedure.

Community Engagement

13. The review process of the policy considered the outcomes of previous scheme declarations and interactions with the community regarding SRC's.
14. Officers engaged an external consultant to assist in collaborating with two community focus groups to explore potential improvements in our use of SRCs and to ensure that our cost apportionment methods are fair and reasonable. A report outlining the findings from these engagements can be found in **Attachment 2 – SRC Procedures Review Report**. The removal of barriers presented in the current SRC policy and greater % of favourable support toward a SRC all align with feedback from the consultation. Other changes and feedback are restricted to the supporting procedure.
15. Feedback was sought from the broader community through the City's online "Have your Say" platform, a media release, and social media posts over a four-week period to gather input on the draft Special Rates and Charges Policy 2025-2029. A report outlining the findings from this engagement can be found in **Attachment 3 – Draft SRC Policy – Engagement Summary Report**. Following this consultation, the following amendments were made:
 - 15.1. Consideration of health impacts, in line with the Local Government Act 1989, within our prioritisation framework.
 - 15.2. A stronger threshold for community support: 60% evidence of support from responding property owners at each stage of engagement (an increase from the previous 51%).
 - 15.3. Discussions with our Finance team to consider a ten-year repayment plan for property owners struggling financially.

Social Equity and Sustainability

16. The City is committed to providing an open and transparent process that is fair, reasonable, and equitable. We actively encourage input from all benefitting properties to ensure inclusivity and accountability.
17. The updated policy and supporting procedure provide a consistent methodology to apply cost apportionments for future SRC schemes.
18. The City offers hardship provisions for benefitting property owners for future SRC schemes.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

19. This policy is pursuant to Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and consultation requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

20. This report aligns with Our Council Plan 2025-2029 strategic priority: Core and Critical Infrastructure.
21. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration: Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

Conflict of Interest

22. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

23. Without SRCs as an equitable funding mechanism, the City’s reputation may be impacted given the reduced ability to fund community infrastructure requests for new or upgraded roads, drains or footpaths, as well as services above or outside the current service offering. These upgrades will deliver an improved or higher level of service to the benefitting property owners.
24. SRCs provide a funding model for growth, upgraded or new infrastructure where no Developer Contribution Plan is in place or external funding is available for capital works or to support the City’s economic development.
25. The City is not obligated to approve all infrastructure upgrades proposed under a Special Rate and Charge Scheme. Requests may be declined if the upgrade is not considered to provide a demonstrable benefit to the community, does not align with strategic priorities, or is deemed unreasonable in scope or cost.

Environmental Sustainability

26. Proposed schemes consider any environmental issues such as vegetation, local flora and fauna habitats, natural water ways and relevant legislative and regulatory requirements in the planning stage of SRC schemes.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Special Rates and Charges Policy 2025 (D 25-561996) [**2.7.1** - 9 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - SRC Procedures Review Report (D 25-534735) [**2.7.2** - 19 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Special Rates and Charges Policy - Engagement Summary Report (D 25-550491) [**2.7.3** - 19 pages]

2.8. Energy from Waste: Navigating Future Waste Operations and Circular Economy Opportunities

Source: City Infrastructure
Executive Director: Amanda Locke

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the City's approach to Energy from Waste (EfW) solutions and the legislative direction set by the Victorian State Government, which prohibits the establishment of new landfills and encourages the use of EfW facilities as part of a broader circular economy strategy. The report has been created in response to a Notice of Motion from the January 2025 council meeting.

Background

2. The Victorian State Government, through Recycling Victoria, has established a clear policy that no new landfills will be permitted. The intention is for residual waste to be transferred to EfW facilities, as part of the transition to a circular economy.
3. The vision of the City's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030 is to contribute to a circular economy by leading and supporting the community to actively avoid waste and increase resource recovery.
4. The vision is supported by three goals (see attachment 1):
 - 4.1. Avoid Creating Waste
 - 4.2. Recover More Resources
 - 4.3. Protect the Environment

Key Matters

5. The City currently disposes of kerbside waste at the Drysdale and Wyndham Landfills.
6. Following the closure of the Drysdale Landfill, the City will need to transport all residual waste to the Wyndham Landfill, or another location outside of the Greater Geelong municipality.
7. The waste management hierarchy is a set of priorities for waste management that ranks actions from most to least environmentally favourable (see attachment 2).
8. EfW facilities with energy recovery are in the 'recover' tier, which is one step above landfill on the waste hierarchy, demonstrating they are a more sustainable method of waste management.
9. The City is investing in upgrades to our Organic Processing Facility to allow the roll out of a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) green bin kerbside service.

10. The FOGO service will divert additional waste from the red bin, increasing the amount of waste the City can recycle, and divert from landfill or EfW.
11. The green and yellow kerbside bins, along with our Resource Recovery Centre's, sit in the 'recycle' tier of the waste hierarchy.
12. The City has waste education programs that encourage the top two tiers of the waste hierarchy – 'reduce' and 're-use'.
13. The City currently operates an EfW facility at our Drysdale Landfill through capturing landfill gas, which is used to generate energy each to power approximately 1500 homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
14. As the governing body of the waste and resource recovery sector in Victoria, Recycling Victoria has determined EfW as a future solution. By converting residual waste into energy, Victoria can reduce its reliance on landfill, while also producing energy, and supporting a circular economy. The benefits of EfW include:
 - 14.1. Reduction in material being sent to landfill, and the production of leachate and landfill gas.
 - 14.2. Additional source of electricity, heat and fuel.
 - 14.3. Potential recovery opportunities for metals and valuable materials in municipal solid waste and/or construction and industrial waste.
 - 14.4. Successful history of generated pollution capture from processing technology.
15. The disadvantages of EfW include:
 - 15.1. Generation of pollutants, carbon dioxide and difficult to recover or hazardous ash waste.
 - 15.2. Recoverable materials may be destroyed during the process.
 - 15.3. Operational success depends on consistency of feedstock which could disincentivise waste reduction.
 - 15.4. Expensive and complicated equipment and infrastructure requirements.
 - 15.5. Community opposition to the facilities.
16. Recycling Victoria has recently approved seven cap licenses for the construction of EfW facilities within Victoria, with a total cap of 2.35 million tonnes per annum.
17. These facilities will use a range of technologies, including incineration, gasification, pyrolysis, and bio-digestion.
18. All facilities are expected to only process materials that cannot be reasonably subject to further recycling.
19. While the licences for Victoria have been allocated, most facilities are still in the feasibility stage and will be required to work through additional legislative approvals. The date for when the facilities will be operational is unknown.

20. Licenced facilities are expected to require waste supply agreements with local governments in order to secure the funding required for construction.
21. It is unknown what the gate fee per tonne for waste disposal at EfW facilities will be.
22. The gate fee per tonne at landfill is expected to continue to increase due to the increase in the EPA levy imposed by the state government.
23. The EPA landfill levy increased by 29% in the current financial year to \$169.79 per tonne.
24. Landfill operators, including the City, are required to pay the EPA levy to the state government quarterly.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.8

Cr E Wilkinson moved, Cr E Sinclair seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Does not currently support an incineration Energy from Waste facility within the City of Greater Geelong.**
- 2. Notes the policy position of the Victorian State Government and Recycling Victoria that no new landfills will be permitted and that the intention for residual waste is to be processed at Energy from Waste facilities.**
- 3. Notes that Recycling Victoria have recently approved seven cap licenses to construct Energy from Waste facilities within Victoria.**
- 4. Notes that the cap licenses of these Energy from Waste facilities adopt technology consisting of incineration, gasification, pyrolysis, or bio-digestion.**
- 5. Continues to explore the best mix of residual waste options available to Council currently and following the closure of landfills.**
- 6. Engages with the market to explore innovative Energy from Waste technologies further than the technologies that are currently offered.**
- 7. Supports and advocates to the Victorian State Government to legislate the reduction of soft plastics and non-recyclable container use to reduce residual waste packaging at the source.**
- 8. Notes the significant work and investment the City presently engages in industry-leading organic waste processing.**
- 9. Requests a further report not later than December 2026 that further explores Energy from Waste facilities as an option for the City's residual waste post-landfill.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

25. The City will continue to focus on achieving maximum value for money in waste management to minimise the financial impact on of waste disposal on residents.
26. The City will continue to advocate for cost effective recycling to maximise resource recovery and diversion from landfill and/or EfW facilities.
27. There are no additional staffing or operational costs anticipated as part of this report.

Community Engagement

28. Community engagement is not required for this report, as its purpose is solely to note the relevant legislation and formally state Council's opposition to the development of incineration EfW facilities within Greater Geelong. No changes to policy or implementation are proposed, and as such, there is no direct impact on residents or stakeholders necessitating consultation.

Social Equity and Sustainability

29. By prioritising the minimisation of waste disposal costs, the City helps to reduce the financial burden, ensuring that all residents have equitable access to essential waste management services. This approach directly addresses social inequity by making sure that cost barriers do not disproportionately impact those in our community who are most vulnerable.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

30. The EfW scheme in Victoria implements the Victorian Waste to Energy Framework.
31. The Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 provides for the Head, Recycling Victoria to issue energy from waste licences and regulate thermal energy from waste facilities.
32. The Waste to Energy Framework is regulated by the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) (Waste to Energy Scheme) Regulations 2023.
33. The City's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030, and the waste management services provided by the City, are also governed by the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

34. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority: Environment and Circular Economy.
35. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration: Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

Conflict of Interest

36. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

37. There are no high or extreme risks associated with noting the recommendations contained in this report. The report is limited to recording relevant legislation and expressing Council's formal position, without proposing any policy changes or operational actions that would introduce significant risks to the community, finances, staff, reputation, or Council systems.

Environmental Sustainability

38. The legislation supporting the transition to energy from waste facilities is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting waste from landfill and generating renewable energy. This approach not only helps to decrease methane emissions from decomposing waste but also supports broader sustainability objectives by promoting circular economy principles and reducing reliance on non-renewable resources.

Attachments

1. Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020 – 2030 – Vision and Goals and Waste Management Hierachy [**2.8.1** - 2 pages]

2.9. Kerbside Glass Collection Service and Statewide Waste Reform

Source: City Infrastructure
Executive Director: Amanda Locke

Purpose

1. To provide an update and proposed actions on the City's transition to the statewide waste and recycling services as mandated in the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*, and to seek endorsement of the proposed service model to implement the standard four-stream waste and recycling system for households in the City of Greater Geelong, including the introduction of a glass-only collection service.

Background

2. The Victorian Government launched the Recycling Victoria: A new economy policy in 2020 which set the strategic direction for transforming Victoria's waste, recycling and resource recovery system. The key actions within the policy included:
 - 2.1. standardising waste and recycling services for all households across the state,
 - 2.2. launching a container deposit scheme,
 - 2.3. supporting new waste and recycling infrastructure, and
 - 2.4. banning the use of single-use plastics.
3. The policy aims to introduce systemic change to address the volatility in the recycling markets and minimise disruptions to waste services, hence moving Victoria towards a circular economy where resources are kept in use in their lifecycle and minimise waste disposal.
4. The Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (Act) was passed in December 2021 to give effect to the policy reforms. The Act embeds a structural change to Victoria's waste section with new waste service standard, regulatory powers, reporting obligations and a new regulator called Recycling Victoria.

Key Matters

5. City officers have prepared a report in Attachment 1 to provide an update on the City's transition to the statewide waste system, and outline the proposed actions the City must take to meet the requirements of the Act, including the introduction of a glass-only collection service for all households in the City of Greater Geelong.
6. Section 60 of the Act requires the City to introduce a glass bin collection service by the date required in the applicable regulations which are currently in draft form. However, it is expected that once passed, a glass collection service will be required to be implemented by 1 July 2027.

7. To meet the residential glass recycling service requirements, it is proposed households will receive a 120-litre glass recycling bin collected every four weeks by a waste collection contractor.
8. Since 2024, the City has been part of the Glass Advocacy Group being led by Maroondah City Council advocating for a delay in the implementation date and increased flexibility of the glass service rather than a mandatory glass-only kerbside collection service.

Recommendation

Cr E Kontelj moved, Cr R Nelson seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Notes the City's on-going participation in the Glass Advocacy Group calling on the Victorian Government to allow greater flexibility of the glass service.**
- 2. Notes current legislation requires the City to introduce a mandatory kerbside glass service.**
- 3. Notes the City's proposed kerbside waste and recycling service model, implementation, education and operation plans as outlined in Attachment 1;**
- 4. Approves the introduction of the mandated residential glass collection service using a 120-litre bin on a 4-weekly collection frequency from 1 July 2027; and**
- 5. Endorses the City to commence the required procurement activities to implement the glass collection service, including:**
 - 5.1. Purchase of new mobile bins for glass collection;**
 - 5.2. Lease of a local warehouse for storage of new bins;**
 - 5.3. Assembly and distribution of new bins to households; and**
 - 5.4. Kerbside collection service for glass bins (as part of the kerbside collection tender for all waste streams).**

Lost.

RESOLUTION – Item 2.9

ALTERNATE

Cr E Wilkinson moved, Cr E Sinclair seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Continues to advocate with over 30 Victorian Councils calling on the Victorian Government to provide greater flexibility in the design and delivery of the glass collection service, including the expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme;**
- 2. Defers committing to the mandatory implementation of a kerbside glass collection service, citing concerns about cost, inefficiency, duplication of existing programs and the need to tailor solutions to local community needs, noting that the City requires an 18-month lead time to procure and rollout a new bin collection service; and**
- 3. Notes the upcoming procurement of the City’s kerbside waste collection service with glass collection as a provisional service. Any implementation will be via a contract variation to be subject to a future Council decision.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. To meet the requirements of the Act, the City must introduce a kerbside glass collection service to eligible residential households which incurs both implementation and ongoing operational costs as outlined in Attachment 1.
10. The capital and rollout costs for a new glass bin service is estimated to be about \$8.6 million. The ongoing operating cost for kerbside glass collection is about \$5.4 million a year.
11. Alternate glass recycling models may offer better value for money to residents.

Community Engagement

12. To ensure the community understands and is aware of the new glass service, an education campaign will be initiated before and during the bin rollout and immediately following the commencement of the glass collection service.

Social Equity and Sustainability

13. The introduction of a residential glass collection service that is standardised across Victoria will provide all households access to a dedicated glass recycling service regardless of income or location.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

14. The *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* (the Act) was passed in December 2021 to give effect to the waste reforms. The Act embeds a structural change to Victoria's waste section with new waste service standard, regulatory powers, reporting obligations and a new regulator called Recycling Victoria.
15. Under Part 5 Waste and Recycling Services of the Act:
 - 15.1. Councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) must deliver four municipal waste and recycling services (general waste, mixed recycling, glass recycling and food organics garden organics) on and from dates to be prescribed in regulations (Section 60),
 - 15.2. the head of Recycling Victoria may prepare a service standard and must submit it to the Minister for Environment for approval. Service providers, including councils, must comply with any applicable service standards that are in place (once finalised and take legal effect) (Section 62), and
 - 15.3. it is an offence to refuse or fail to incorporate relevant service standards (Section 71).
16. The Victorian Government released the proposed regulations, service standard and regulatory impact statement in June 2024 and was expected to be approved in early 2025. However, these documents remain in draft and there is no clear timeline for finalisation.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

17. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Environment and Circular Economy

18. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

19. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

20. The recommendations in this report address risks of non-compliance with changes legislated by the Victorian Government. A failure to progress with the recommendations may result in financial sanctions to the City.

Environmental Sustainability

21. The introduction of a fourth kerbside bin will increase the environmental impact of kerbside waste service due to the increased emissions from the trucks servicing the additional bin.

Attachments

1. Officers Report Kerbside Glass Collection Service and Statewide Waste Refo [2.9.1 - 12 pages]

2.10. Proposed Road Discontinuance and Sale of Land at part Kirk Place, Geelong

Source: Office of the Chief Executive
Chief Executive Officer: Ali Wastie

Purpose

1. To seek Council approval to initiate the statutory process for the proposed road discontinuance of part of Kirk Place at the rear of 160-176 Malop Street, Geelong, and the sale of the land within the road reserve.

Background

2. The owners of 160-176 Malop Street, 2 Powell Place and 18 Bellerine Street, Geelong have requested to purchase approximately 172m² of road reserve at the rear of and adjacent to their properties in Kirk Place. See attachment 1.

Key Matters

3. The part of Kirk Place proposed to be discontinued and sold does not provide for access to any other property other than the current abutting owners seeking to purchase the land.
4. The proposed discontinuance and sale of land will be consolidated with the adjoining land in preparation for future development by the owners into a retail and residential complex in accordance with a planning permit issued by the Minister for the Department of Transport.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.10

Cr T Sullivan moved, Cr C Burson seconded -

That Council:

1. **Endorses community engagement and invite submissions in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Council's Community Engagement Policy, of its intention to discontinue part of Kirk Place at the rear of 160-176 Malop Street, Geelong and sell the land measuring approximately 172m²;**
2. **Appoints a Submissions Review Panel to hear any submissions if any person wishes to appear in person or be represented by a person specified in support of a submission; and**
3. **Notes that a further report will be presented to Council to consider the outcome of the community engagement.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

5. The City will be reimbursed for all legal and marketing costs incurred for the road discontinuance and the sale of the land by the purchaser.
6. If sold, the land will be sold at a value determined by a registered valuer.

Community Engagement

7. Community engagement will be undertaken on the Have Your Say page and a notice published in the local newspapers.
8. Community engagement will include notice to abutting property owners.
9. Any person will have an opportunity to make a written submission on the proposed road discontinuance and sale of the land. A submitter is entitled to request in the submission that the person wishes to appear or be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting to be heard in support of their submission.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. There are no adverse social equity issues created as a result of this proposed road discontinuance and sale of land.
11. The proposed road discontinuance and sale of part of Kirk Place will strengthen the owner's development project and benefit the wider Geelong community by offering more retail space and residential accommodation.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

12. Council has the authority to discontinue a road under Clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* by notice published in the Government Gazette.
13. A person may make a submission in accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* on the proposed exercise of power to discontinue a road.
14. Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* applies to the sale of land.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

15. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Economic Development
16. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

17. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

18. Internal consultation with Civil Infrastructure Planning (Drainage and Stormwater) and Civil Infrastructure (Transport) have been completed and both departments support a road discontinuance and sale of the land.
19. The planning permit issued by the Minister for the Department of Transport went through an extensive internal and external referral process acknowledging all stakeholders' and their recommendations.
20. There are no other risks associated with the implementation of the recommendation.

Environmental Sustainability

21. There are no environmental sustainability implications to the recommendations.

Attachments

1. Kirk Place Gazettal Plan [**2.10.1** - 1 page]

2.11. Proposed Road Discontinuance and Sale of Land of part of Powell Place, Geelong

Source: Office of the Chief Executive
Chief Executive Officer: Ali Wastie

Purpose

1. To advise Council of the outcome from the community engagement relating to the proposed road discontinuance and sale of a portion of Powell Place at the rear of 160-176 Malop Street, Geelong.

Background

2. The owners of 160-176 Malop Street and 2 Powell Place, Geelong request to purchase approximately 132m² of road reserve at the rear of and adjacent to their properties in Powell Place. See attachment 1. Note the original request noted a land area of 141m².
3. Council approved the commencement of the statutory process in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its Community Engagement Policy at the Council meeting on 27 February 2024.
4. The reason for the delay in presenting this report was because the owners of 160-176 Malop Street and 2 Powell Place, Geelong have subsequently purchased 18 Bellerine Street and have also requested the road discontinuance and sale of a part of Kirk Place, Geelong.
5. The proposed road discontinuance and sale of part of Kirk Place will be presented in a separate report.

Key Matters

6. Community engagement on the proposed discontinuance and sale of part of Powell Place was undertaken from 8 March 2024 to 1 April 2024, and no submissions were received.
7. The Minister for the Department of Transport issued a planning permit to the owners for their future Malop Street development incorporating retail and residential spaces.
8. If the road is discontinued and sold, the land will be consolidated with the owner's adjoining properties to accommodate the future development.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.11

Cr C Burson moved, Cr T Sullivan seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Notes the outcome of the community engagement process in accordance with Section 233 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the City's Community Engagement Policy;**
- 2. Approves the road discontinuance and sale of approximately 132m² of part Powell Place, Geelong;**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to publish a notice in the Victorian Government Gazette detailing the road discontinuance; and**
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to sign documents to complete the sale of land.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. The City has obtained a current market valuation of the land and the land will be sold at that valuation.
10. The City will be reimbursed for all legal and marketing costs incurred for the road discontinuance and the sale of the land by the purchaser.

Community Engagement

11. Public notice and community engagement were undertaken by publishing a notice in the Geelong Independent on 15 March 2024 and on the Geelong Australia website via Have Your Say from 8 March 2024 to 1 April 2024.
12. Submissions were invited and no submissions were received.

Social Equity and Sustainability

13. There are no social equity and sustainability implications created by the recommendation to sell the land.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

14. Council has complied with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* by undertaking community engagement and inviting submissions.
15. Council has the authority to discontinue a road under Clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and by notice published in the Victorian Government Gazette.
16. Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* applies to the sale of land.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

17. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Economic Development
18. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

19. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

20. Internal consultation with Civil Infrastructure Planning (Drainage and Stormwater) and Civil Infrastructure (Transport) have been completed and both departments support a road discontinuance and sale of the land.
21. External authorities, Barwon Water and Powercor have been consulted and have no objection and support the road discontinuance and sale.

22. Easements will be registered to protect existing drainage, stormwater and sewerage assets

Environmental Sustainability

23. There are no environmental implications to this proposal.

Attachments

1. Powell Place Gazettal Plan [2.11.1 - 1 page]

2.12. Draft Place Naming Policy

Source: City Life
Executive Director: Anthony Basford

Purpose

1. To seek endorsement to proceed to community and stakeholder engagement on the draft Place Naming Policy.

Background

2. The City of Greater Geelong has prepared a draft Place Naming Policy (the draft Policy) to guide the naming and renaming of public places.
3. The City, as the responsible authority, names places to recognise and reflect the culture, heritage and landscape of our region and add value to our identity as a region.
4. Place names must be easily and uniquely recognisable to ensure identification by emergency services, for the delivery of goods and services, and to ensure community recognition.
5. The draft Policy outlines a naming process to ensure place naming is consistent, inclusive and culturally informed, the draft provides a clear decision-making framework that aligns with legislation and recognises the symbolic power of place names in promoting fairness, transparency and respect.
6. The draft Policy has been shaped by the following legislation and best practice frameworks:
 - 6.1. Geographic Place Names Act 1998
 - 6.2. Naming Rules for Places in Victoria (2022)
 - 6.3. Gender Equality Strategy (2023 to 2027)
 - 6.4. The City's Community Engagement Policy

Key Matters

7. The draft Policy ensures that all place naming and renaming decisions are made in a consistent, transparent, and inclusive manner.
8. In line with community values, legal requirements and the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, the draft Policy prioritises the recognition of Aboriginal heritage, gender equity, local heritage and active community involvement throughout the naming process.
9. Initial internal and key stakeholder engagement was undertaken prior to development, and on the draft Policy. This included employee consultation and engagement with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Cultura. Councillor feedback from this process has also been considered in the draft Policy.

10. The draft Policy ensures that the diversity of our community is reflected through place names. Celebrating and reflecting this diversity by prioritising the naming of places that address the current underrepresentation of First Nations Peoples, names of women, and culturally diverse populations, creating a more balanced and inclusive City.
11. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was undertaken, and the GIA outlined a series of recommendations which have been address in the draft Policy.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorses the draft Place Naming Policy as at Attachment 1 for public consultation, for a period of eight (8) weeks over January 2026 and February 2026; and**
2. **Notes the final Place Naming Policy will be presented to Council for consideration in the second quarter of 2026.**

Lapsed

RESOLUTION – Item 2.12

Procedural Motion

Cr E Kontelj moved, Cr R Nelson seconded -

That Council defer item 2.12.

Carried

Financial Sustainability

12. To ensure the City delivers on policy commitments and community expectations for meaningful place naming, officers will be required to identify naming opportunities and costs through the annual budget process.

Community Engagement

13. Councillor, employee and key stakeholder engagement took place over a seven-month period between March 2025 and October 2025.

Social Equity and Sustainability

14. The draft Policy recognises the importance of equity, access and inclusion as a key priority to best practice place naming. Reference was made to the City's Social Equity Framework and A Gender+ Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the development process.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

15. The development of Council's Place Naming Policy adheres to the legislated requirements set out in the Geographic Place Names Act 1998, Naming Rules for Places in Victoria (2022) and Council's Gender Equality Strategy (2023 to 2027)
16. The advice and guidance of the City's Legal Department was sought and incorporated into the draft Policy.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

17. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority: Healthy and Caring Community
18. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:

An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

19. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

20. Place naming links with, and impacts the City's reputation and trust with, the people who live, work and invest in Greater Geelong.

Environmental Sustainability

21. There are no environmental implications.

Attachments

1. Draft Place Naming Policy October 2025 [2.12.1 - 16 pages]

2.13. T2500139 - Electrical Services

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to award contracts for Electrical Services to the preferred tenderers as detailed in Clause 3 of the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report at **Attachment 1**.

Background

2. The City is seeking to establish a panel of suitably qualified and experienced suppliers to provide general electrical services across city-owned assets, including buildings, lighting, electrical pillars, and switchboards.
3. This service focuses on the maintenance of electrical installations, with options for minor installation and replacement works.

Confidentiality

4. Confidential information is contained in **Attachment 1** as circulated in the confidential section of the report attachments. The information in the Attachment is confidential information for the purposes of 66(2)(a) and the definition of “confidential information” in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it is council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council’s position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)).

Key Matters

5. The Procurement and Strategic Sourcing team administered an open tender process on behalf of the Facilities Maintenance team.
6. Details of the Procurement process, including the evaluation methodology and the preferred tenderers, are outlined in the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report at **Attachment 1**.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.13

Cr A Katos moved, Cr A Aitken seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Awards the contracts for T2500139 - Electrical Services to the preferred tenderers detailed in Clause 3 of the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report, based on the tendered schedule of rates and otherwise in accordance with the negotiated terms and conditions of the contract;**
- 2. Approves the contract term of three years, with the option to extend the contract for up to two additional terms of one year;**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute contract T2500139 - Electrical Services and any other documents required by or to give effective to the terms of the contract on behalf of Council;**
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to release the names of the awarded tenderers following the execution of the Contract by the relevant parties; and**
- 5. Resolves that the information contained in Attachment 1 of the report from management is to remain confidential pursuant to section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it contains Council business information being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations. This section is applicable because of the ongoing contract negotiations with the preferred tenderers.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

7. The estimated cost of delivering these services over the full contract term, including extension options, will be managed within current and future approved budgets.

Community Engagement

8. There was no community engagement on this tender as it is part of Council's regular operations to fulfil its legislative and management obligations to residents, ratepayers, and visitors to the area.

Collaboration Opportunities

9. No tender collaboration opportunities were identified at this time however opportunities may present themselves in the future to be considered for new contracts.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. The preferred tenderers operate their businesses within the Geelong Region providing significant local employment and economic benefits to the Geelong community.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. This tender was advertised and managed in accordance with the requirements of sections 108 and 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and in accordance with the City's Procurement Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

12. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2025-2029 strategic priority: Core and Critical Infrastructure
13. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.

Conflict of Interest

14. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

15. The tender evaluation process involved the assessment of work, health and safety policies, procedures, and risk assessment documents. Any other risks associated with the acceptance of this tender will be managed through the contract conditions.

Environmental Sustainability

16. Any environmental implications associated with this contract will arise from the execution of the services. It is considered these are the responsibility of the contractor and will be managed through the contract documentation.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - T 2500139 - Electrical Services - Tender Evaluation Report - Council [**2.13.1** - 77 pages]

2.14. T2500146 - McDonald Reserve Pavilion Construction

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to award the contract for the McDonald Reserve Pavilion Construction project to the preferred tenderer as detailed in Clause 3 of the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report at **Attachment 1**.

Background

2. The City is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor for the refurbishment, and extension of the McDonald Reserve Pavilion.
3. The project involves a full internal redevelopment and extension of the existing building, including associated site services.

Confidentiality

4. Confidential information is contained in **Attachment 1** as circulated in the confidential section of the report attachments. The information in the Attachment is confidential information for the purposes of 66(2)(a) and the definition of “*confidential information*” in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it is council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)).

Community Benefit

5. The new pavilion and refurbishment of existing home changeroom amenities will allow both South Barwon Football Netball Club and Highton Cricket Club to cater for the continued growth in their respective sports, particularly in female and junior participation.
6. A modern inclusively designed pavilion with improved aesthetics and connectivity of the pavilion to the broader reserve will provide an even greater community experience for club members, participants and residents who frequent the reserve.

Key Matters

7. The Procurement and Strategic Sourcing team administered an open tender process on behalf of the Capital Delivery Team.
8. Details of the procurement process, including the evaluation methodology and the preferred tenderer, are outlined in the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report at **Attachment 1**.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.14

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr E Kontelj seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Awards the contract for T2500146 - McDonald Reserve Pavilion Construction project to the preferred tenderer, for the contract sum detailed in Clause 3 of the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report and otherwise in accordance with the negotiated terms and conditions of the contract;**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute contract T2500146 and any other documents required by or to give effect to the terms of the contract on behalf of Council;**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to release the name of the awarded tenderer following the execution of the contract by the relevant parties; and**
- 4. Resolves that the information contained in Attachment 1 of the report from management is to remain confidential pursuant to section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it contains Council business information being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations. This section is applicable because of the ongoing contract negotiations with the preferred tenderer.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. The preferred tenderer's submission is within the approved project budget.

Community Engagement

10. Consultation was undertaken with the South Barwon Football and Netball Club and the Highton Cricket Club. Both clubs were actively engaged throughout the concept and detailed design phases of the project to ensure their needs were appropriately considered. In addition, a Gender Impact Assessment was completed to inform and support the redevelopment process.

Collaboration Opportunities

11. No tender collaboration opportunities were identified at this time however opportunities may present themselves in the future to be considered for new contracts.

Social Equity and Sustainability

12. It is expected that the redevelopment of the McDonald Reserve Pavilion will generate positive employment outcomes while delivering the infrastructure and services that address the growing needs of the Geelong community.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

13. This tender was advertised and managed in accordance with the requirements of sections 108 and 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and in accordance with the City's Procurement Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

14. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2025-2029 strategic priority:
Healthy and Caring Community
15. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

16. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

17. The tender evaluation process involved the assessment of work, health and safety policies, procedures, and risk assessment documents. Any other risks associated with the acceptance of this tender will be managed through the contract conditions.

Environmental Sustainability

18. Any environmental implications associated with this contract will arise from the execution of the works. It is considered these are the responsibility of the contractor and will be managed through the contract documentation.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - T 2500146 - Mc Donald Reserve Pavilion Construction
- Tender Evaluation Report - Council [2.14.1 - 23 pages]

3. RECORD OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Summary

1. The Governance Rules of the City of Greater Geelong require the tabling of records of informal meetings of Councillors at the next convenient Council meeting and that their record be included in the minutes of that Council meeting.
2. A summary of the informal meetings of Councillors is attached.

RESOLUTION - Item 3.1

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr A Katos seconded -

That Council receive the summary of the informal meetings of Councillors for the period to 9 December 2025.

Carried

4. CONFIDENTIAL

Council will close the meeting to the public in accordance with the provision of section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the following list of items.

4.1. 2025-26 Community Equipment Grants - Funding Recommendations (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLUTION - Item 4.1

Cr E Kontelj moved, Cr A Katos seconded -

That Council consider this report at the conclusion of the meeting as it is designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this report is confidential because it contains Council business information being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations. This section is applicable because the agenda item contains a level of detail which if released would diminish the organisation's capacity to compete in a commercial environment.

Carried

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.14pm.

RESOLUTION -

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr E Kontelj seconded -

That the meeting be opened to the public.

Carried

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 8.16pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.17pm on Tuesday 9 December 2025.

Signed: _____

Cr Stretch Kontelj (Mayor)

Date: _____