MINUTES

—

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 23 June 2026
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 E Kontelj (Hamlyn Heights Ward) - Deputy Mayor
Cr R Nelson (Barrabool Hills Ward)
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)

CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

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

LOA: Cr S Kontelj

Also Present: A Wastie (Chief Executive Officer), T Edwards (Executive Director, Corporate Services), J Stirton (Executive Director City Infrastructure), J Randles (Acting Executive Director, Growth & Place), A Basford (Executive Director City Life), J Douglas (Manager Council & Corporate Governance) D Pangrazio (Acting Senior Governance Advisor – Council Business), T Booth (Senior Department Administration Officer)

Opening: The Mayor declared the meeting open at 6.01pm.

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 R Nelson moved, Cr A Katos seconded –

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr R Story from 24 June 2026 to 29 June 2026, inclusive.

Carried

1.4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Cr R Nelson declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 2.1 *Budget Referrals - 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget*, as he has received hospitality from the Geelong Football Club exceeding the gift disclosure threshold.

Cr A Katos declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 2.3 *Amendment C433ggee - Pakington Street & Gordon Avenue UDFs - Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption,* as his employer owns several properties in the relevent precinct.

Cr A Aitken declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 2.1 *Budget Referrals - 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget*, as he has received hospitality from the Geelong Football Club exceeding the gift disclosure threshold.

Cr T Sullivan declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 2.1 *Budget Referrals - 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget*, as he has received hospitality from the Geelong Football Club exceeding the gift disclosure threshold.

Cr T Sullivan declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 2.9 Electronic Gaming Machine Application – Fyansford Hotel, as the applicant is a family member.

1.5. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLUTION - Item 1.5.1

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr R Story seconded -

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 May 2026 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:

- Gary Griffin - St Leonards Early Learning Centre
- Jennifer Bantow - Kardinia Park Masterplan / Trees

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:

- Estelle McKenovic - Contractual Agreements
- Katharine Gladman - Footpath – Grovedale College

SUBMITTER 1. GARY GRIFFIN

Subject: ST LEONARDS ELC

Relevant City Department: Growth & Place / Corporate Services

Gray noted that he could have withdrawn his first question as he received a detailed verbal response from a Council Officer, Coordinator Social Infrastructure Planning. He briefly summarised the response he received and thanked and congratulated Kate for her great service. The below question is included for transparency.

Question 1:

In April 2026 I asked a question re the St Leonards development Plan fund which was to target an Early Learning Centre. Given that this centre is to be fully funded by the Victorian Government a query re the use of the money was lodged. The result was we were told to "Watch the space." Given that this was two months ago, has there been any planning for the use of the money.

Question 1 Response

Thank you Gary for your question and thank you for speaking with Kate Shearer, Manager Planning and Growth last week.

As Kate mentioned we are working actively to understand fully what the Victorian School Building Authority will be delivering and if the City still have obligations in accordance with the Precinct Structure Plan. We are happy to keep you informed as we work through this.

Question 2:

In April 2026 I asked a question re interest earned on Section 173's put in place by the CoGG. The response was that interest on Section 173's and Development Community Plans is all passed over to General Revenue. Let me start by saying I have no problem with the concept of either levy as they are able to fund valuable community infrastructure. By the very nature of the funds, collection of money, and ultimate construction of a facility, takes a number of years. The St Leonards fund commenced in 2016/17 and is yet to deliver an outcome. Looking at the St Leonards fund in the 2024/25 year it held $3million dollars in round figures. Detailed Analysis Fund value- $3,000,000 approx Inflation for 2025/26 rounded down to 4%. Therefore the fund was devalued by $120,000 in that year. Interest earned.2024/25 Interest on the fund earned at 5% would be $150,000. This $150,000 went directly into General Revenue and could be spent on any project or cost directed by CoGG. So money paid in by residents of St Leonards in 2024/25 a. Lost value - $120000 b. Had interest taken from it- $150,000 c. Was possibly spent on projects in other parts of the CoGG. I would like to recommend that money collected, maintains the funds at their expected level by returning the interest equivalent to inflation to the fund on a yearly basis. This action does not affect the CoGG budget as no extra funds are taken from the overall budget but rather creates a re-allocation.

Question 2 Response

Thanks for this question Gary.

Officers confirm that interest earned on Section 173 funds held in reserve for future delivery of community infrastructure projects has historically been recorded as consolidated revenue. Officers are undertaking a review of restricted cash reserves in 2026-27 and will consider the issue of the interest being generated from the restricted funds being returned to reserves. Council's obligation to deliver the agreed infrastructure and any shortfall in the funding is met by Council's contribution from general revenue.

SUBMITTER 2. ESTELLE MCKENOVIC

Subject: CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

Relevant City Department: Corporate Services

Question 1:

Given now half of the ‘big four’ have been involved in a significant breach of accuracy, trust and confidentiality relating to professional contracts at a federal level, how is Council proactively responding to and reviewing any current contracts with Deloitte and KMPG? Will there be any pauses or changes to contractual agreements - particularly regarding safeguards for AI ‘hallucinations’ and confidentiality/corruption issues?

Question 1 Response

Thank you for your question Estelle.

Council takes these matters very seriously. All engagements with professional services firms are subject to the City’s procurement and contract management processes, with strong confidentiality, conflict of interest and data protection requirements. Council actively reviews and negotiates contract terms to ensure appropriate protections for Council information are in place. Council also notes that its audit work is independently conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office and Astor Audit & Advisory, rather than the firms referenced.

In relation to AI, Council recognises emerging risks such as inaccurate outputs, data leakage and misuse of information. Council is taking a cautious, risk-based approach, with consideration given to the nature of each engagement. For example, we have started introducing "no-AI use without prior written consent " clauses in some of our commercial contracts. We anticipate further changes to our contract management practice as AI use becomes more prevalent amongst suppliers and would-be suppliers.

SUBMITTER 3. KATHARINE GLADMAN

Subject: FOOTPATH – GROVEDALE COLLEGE

Relevant City Department: City Infrastructure

Question 1:

The section of footpath outside Grovedale College on Burdoo Drive has never been completed. Three generations of school children have trudged over this grassy, muddy section to get to school. It is now dangerous, slippery and unsightly. It would not cost much to put a path there, even loose gravel. Can this be rectified urgently***?***

Question 1 Response

Thank you Katharine for your question and thank you for speaking with our Civil Infrastructure team this morning.

The City acknowledges the concern about the incomplete section of footpath on Burdoo Drive outside Grovedale College, including the impact this can have on students and families during wet weather.

A preliminary officer assessment has identified that completing the missing section would be more complex than a standard footpath project due to the roadside slope. This would affect the design requirements, drainage considerations and construction cost.

Funding has not currently been allocated to deliver this section of path through the proposed budget, noting current financial constraints and competing priorities across the broader footpath network. However, the City will continue to consider this location as part of future prioritisation and funding opportunities, including where projects can be aligned with broader pedestrian access, safety or renewal works.

SUBMITTER 4. JENNIFER BANTOW

Subject: KARDINIA PARK MASTERPLAN / TREES

Relevant City Department: City Life / City Infrastructure

Question 1:

RE KARDINIA PARK There’s a story in the Geelong Advertiser Thurs June 18th, page 8, about Kardinia Park. The story says the CoGG Kardinia Park masterplan will be replaced by the Kardinia Stadium Trust's new plan, and a hotel is proposed in the south-east corner. There’s a Senior Citizens Hall, and some of the original Kardinia Park Arboretum trees including a Bunya Pine in the south-east corner. The story also says there’s a major company taking an interest in the future of the Park. Council has already relinquished being the Responsible Authority to the State Government for the north-east corner where there was a tan gravel running track and many trees. Kardinia Park is becoming known as Kardinia Car Park. QUESTION ONE Could Council please provide a map showing the total area of Kardinia Park and what percentage of that total area is now covered by ashphalt?

Question 1 Response

Thanks for your question Jennifer,

As you have referenced, a new master plan for the Kardinia Park precinct will be developed by Kardinia Park Stadium Trust, in consultation with key stakeholders and the City. The Trust have requested that all queries relating to the precinct be redirected to them for response. We can assist in ensuring your question on asphalt coverage is directed to the appropriate person in Council and we will come back to you with that map.

Question 2:

In the Council Meeting - 24 February 2026 MINUTES 2.1. Community Priority Projects Council: Endorses the City of Greater Geelong 4 Tier Priority Projects (Attachment 1), for advocacy to the Victorian Government, Members of Parliament and endorsed local candidates Attachment 1 of the 4 Tier Priority Projects is an excellent Report that outlines many important proposals. 3 re heritage places - Art Gallery, Railway Station, Marshall Bluestone Cottage Approx 15 proposals are about transport, rail and roads About 20 re sport About 15 re parks The Kardinia Park Netball Complex redevelopment is listed The Kardinia Stadium Trust is NOT the Kardinia Park Trust, it looks after the Stadium not the whole Park. Does Council support the take-over of this public parkland by the Stadium Trust committee. QUESTION TWO Does Council have a detailed list of all the trees in this public park and which trees are recognised as significant, and which date from the the original plantings?

Question 2 Response

Thanks for these questions Jennifer.

The Council has not been contacted by the Kardinia Park Stadium Trust to take over the public parkland. Council would need to consider many factors including community sentiment prior to making such a decision, should it be asked in the future.

The City maintains an inventory of trees located on Council-managed land, including information such as genus, species, condition, significance and other asset attributes. This *inventory is publicly accessible via the Geelong Data Exchange and we will share the link with you in our written response.*

When viewing the information on the exchange, users should note that the dataset is not a live system. While the City undertakes regular updates and makes every effort to archive removed trees, there may be instances where trees listed in the inventory no longer exist, particularly where removals have been undertaken by external parties.

Jennifer asked a point of clarification.

Troy Edwards, Executive Director Corporate Services, advised this would be taken on notice and further clarification will be provided in writing.

1.7. Petitions

1. Amend St Helen's Off Leash Dog Rules

Mark Rivers presented a petition on behalf of residents. The petition calls on Council to replace conflicting dog leash rules for St Helens Park, beach and foreshore (excluding the common waterfront pathway) with the same off leash rules at Rippleside Park.

The petition has approximately 188 signatures.

2. REPORTS

Cr's A Aitken, R Nelson and T Sullivan declared conflicts of interest in relation to item 2.1 and left the meeting at 6.29pm.

2.1. Budget Referrals - 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To consider any conflict of interest that Councillors may have in the 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget.

Background

2. In developing the 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget an extensive range of activities and initiatives have been considered for funding.

3. Councillors who may have a conflict of interest, either general or material are required to disclose the nature of the conflict of interest in accordance with the Governance Rules and remove themselves from discussion and voting on the matter.

Key Matters

4. The proposed 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget contains items in which a Councillor has indicated they have a conflict of interest.

5. The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations) provides for an exemption from conflict-of-interest requirements when preparing or adopting a budget under Part 4 of the Act, when:

    5.1. Council has previously approved the matter in which the Councillor has an interest, including funding, and the Councillor has disclosed the conflict of interest at the time the matter was approved by Council.

6. Any items proposed for inclusion in the Budget in which a Councillor has indicated a conflict of interest are to be dealt with by separate resolution.

7. Once all declarations have been made and the item which is the subject of any declaration is determined by Council, all Councillors are able to vote on Agenda Item 2, being the Proposed 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.1

Cr A Katos moved, Cr E Wilkinson seconded -

That Council funds from the Contributions and Partnerships section of the proposed 2026-2027 Budget:

1. Sponsorship of the Geelong Football Club for 2026-27.

Carried

Financial Sustainability

8. Financial implications are addressed in the proposed 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget.

Community Engagement

9. There is no proposed community engagement with this report.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. There are no social equity or sustainability implications associated with this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. This report satisfies the requirements under section 129(g) of the Act and section 7(1)(r) of the Regulations. Conflict of Interest disclosures are made in accordance with the Governance Rules and Conflict of Interest Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

12. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
    High-performing council and organisation.

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

14. Declaration of conflict of interests in accordance with legislative requirements mitigates the risk of failing to adopt the Budget.

15. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* Council must adopt an annual budget each year.

16. The budget has been developed in accordance with a timetable to ensure sufficient time to achieve the adoption timeframe and to include community consultation, meetings of the executive and preparation of the proposed 2026-27 Budget. The timetable provides a framework to manage risk for Council to meet its statutory obligations to avoid adverse implications if the process is delayed.

Environmental Sustainability

17. There are no environmental sustainability implications associated with this report.

Attachments

Nil

Cr's A Aitken, R Nelson and T Sullivan returned to the meeting at 6.30pm.

2.2. 2026-27 Budget, 2026-36 Long-Term Financial Plan and Council Plan 2025-29 - Year 2 Update

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To adopt the 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget

2. To adopt the 2026-27 to 2035-36 Long Term Financial Plan

3. To adopt the Declaration of 2026-27 Rates

4. Note the Year 2 Annual Update of the Council Plan 2025–29.

Background

5. In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*, Council is required to prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year, together with the subsequent three financial years, by 30 June each year. The Budget must contain the statements, reports and other information prescribed by the Act.

6. Where Council proposes to declare differential rates for any land, the Budget must also include the matters specified under section 161(2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989.

7. In addition, section 91 of the Act requires Council to develop and maintain a Long-Term Financial Plan covering a minimum period of ten financial years. The Long-Term Financial Plan (the Plan) forms a key part of Council's integrated strategic planning framework, linking the Council Plan, Asset Management Plan and other strategic documents, and translating these objectives and strategies into long-term financial outcomes.

8. The 2026-27 to 2035-36 Long-Term Financial Plan is an annual update to the Plan previously adopted by Council in October 2025 and to ensure our assumptions reflect our most recent budget, our strategic plans and current economic conditions to ensure the ongoing long term financial sustainability of the City.

Key Matters

9. The Proposed Budget includes:

   9.1. The budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement, Income Statement Converted to Cash, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Statement of Human Resources;

   9.2. The strategic objectives undertaken during the financial year and service performance outcome indicators in relation to each strategic objective as per the 2025-26 to 2028-29 Council Plan;

9.3. Financial Performance Indicators and Targeted Performance Indicators (Service);

9.4. 2026-27 Capital Program; and

9.5. 2026-27 Fees and Charges Schedule.

10. The 2025-2026 to 2034-2035 Long-Term Financial Plan was adopted by Council at a meeting on 28 October 2025.

11. As part of the development of the 2026-27 Budget, the Long Term Financial Plan has been reviewed and updated to reflect current financial assumptions, strategic priorities and revised forecast projections.

12. Under section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council must adopt a four-year Council Plan following a General Election; the 2025–29 Council Plan was adopted on 22 July 2025.

13. Minor updates have been made to ensure the Year 2 Council Plan Update remains current and reflects progress to date. These include alignment with the adopted budget, inclusion of initiative progress/status reporting aligned with Council's performance reporting, updates to supporting information and the addition of an "What Has Changed in this Update" in the appendix which summarises these changes. The updated Council Plan is provided as an attachment to this report.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.2

Cr A Katos moved, Cr A Aitken seconded -

That Council:

1. **Adopt the 2026-27 Budget (Attachment 1)**

2. **Adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-27 to 2035-36 (Attachment 2)**

3. **Declare the amount of rates and charges intended to be raised for the period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 as follows:**

   3.1. An amount of $350,870,024 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raised by General Rates and the Waste Management Charge, calculated as follows:

   3.1.1. General Rates $277,089,291

   3.1.2. Waste Management Charge $78,780,733

4. **Declare the rates and charges for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 as detailed in:**

   4.1. 2026-27 Declaration of Rates and Charges (Attachment 3);

   4.2. Section 4.1 of the 2026-27 Budget (Attachment 1); and

5. **Note general rates must be paid in full by 15 February 2027 or by four instalments made on or before the following dates:**

5.1. Instalment 1 – 30 September 2026

5.2. Instalment 2 – 30 November 2026

5.3. Instalment 3 – 28 February 2027

5.4. Instalment 4 – 31 May 2027

6. Subject to Council's Hardship Policy; require any person to pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges which:

6.1. That person is liable to pay; and

6.2. Have not been paid by the dates specified above in accordance with section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

7. Note that existing interest-only borrowing facilities of $30 million with Treasury Corporation Victoria maturing in 2026-27, requires refinancing.

8. Approves the establishment of a new borrowing facility of up to $30 million for the purpose of refinancing the existing loan, on terms and conditions that are considered favourable to Council.

9. Notes that this borrowing does not increase Council's net debt position, as it represents a continuation/refinancing of an existing liability.

10. Confirms that the borrowing is consistent with Council's Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan as attached to this report.

11. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to:

11.1. Finalise negotiations with the preferred financial institution

11.2. Execute all required loan documentation

11.3. Take all necessary administrative actions to give effect to this resolution.

12. Authorise the Chief Financial Officer to levy and recover the General Rates and Annual Service Charges in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* in accordance with all relevant Council policies.

13. Resolves, pursuant to s87(4) of the *Road Safety Act 1986,* to fix a penalty of 0.5 penalty units for parking infringements issued in respect of the following offences:

13.1. RR 205(1) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.2. RR 207(2) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.3. RR 201 *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.4. RR 202 *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.5. RR 209(2) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.6. RR 210(1) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.7. RR 211(2) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.8. RR 211(3) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.9. RR 168(1) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*; and

13.10. Section 90E of the *Road Safety Act 1986*.

14. Note, for the purpose of this Resolution, penalty unit has the same meaning as the *Sentencing Act 1991.*

15. Notes the Year 2 Annual Update of the Council Plan 2025–29 (Attachment 3).

Carried

Financial Sustainability

14. The 2026-27 Budget complies with rate cap legislation, limiting rate increases to 2.75% in line with the Ministerial cap. Changes in rates, fees and charges have been structured to meet the financial requirements as proposed for the 2026-27 financial year.

15. Expenditure includes the continuation of council services to the community.

16. The budget includes a comprehensive surplus of $203.7 million and underlying operating deficit of $14.2 million and a cash surplus for the year of $2.4 million.

17. The capital program includes total expenditure of $171.6 million in 2026-27.

18. The budget plans for repayment of a $20 million interest only loan on maturity and the refinancing of an interest-only borrowing facility of $30 million on maturity. Council's total borrowings will reduce to $129 million by 30 June 2027. This borrowing does not increase Council's net debt position, as it represents a continuation/refinancing of an existing liability.

Community Engagement

19. Council undertook a multi-channel community engagement process to inform the development of the 2026–27 Budget, designed to capture both broad community sentiment and more informed deliberation on key financial levers.

20. Engagement occurred between February and March 2026 and included:

    20.1. An online survey hosted on the City's Have Your Say platform (93 responses received)

    20.2. Community submissions (30 submissions received for consideration in the budget process)

    20.3. Eleven Councillor listening posts across the municipality (176 community conversations)

    20.4. A deliberative community panel of 38 randomly selected participants, representing a cross-section of the municipality.

21. The engagement focused on gathering community views on the key financial levers available to Council, including service levels, asset management, capital investment, efficiency measures and revenue options, in the context of increasing financial pressures.

22. The engagement provided Council with a clear understanding of community priorities and trade-offs, confirming a preference for financial sustainability through efficiency, careful asset and service management, and prioritisation of essential infrastructure, while limiting additional cost pressures on the community.

23. Council has considered the outcomes of the community engagement process in developing the proposed 2026–27 Budget, including feedback gathered through surveys, listening posts, community submissions and the independent community panel. This feedback has informed key aspects of the budget, particularly the focus on financial sustainability, prioritisation of essential infrastructure, and the need to balance service levels with affordability.

24. Council has also carefully considered specific submissions and petitions received through the engagement process, including those relating to rating arrangements such as differential rates for retirement villages. After review and in the context of broader financial, legislative and equity considerations, no changes to these rating arrangements have been proposed as part of the 2026–27 Budget or updating our Revenue and Rating Plan adopted by Council in June 2025.

25. In accordance with the requirements under the Act, once the budget is adopted, a public notice will be placed in the newspaper on Wednesday 24 June 2024.

Social Equity and Sustainability

26. The 2026-27 Budget identifies the sources and allocation of resources to implement the social initiatives which impact the community.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

27. A Gender+ Impact Assessment was not undertaken for this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

28. The budget is prepared to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020, Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. The process also recognises the need to align the budget to the direction and allocation of resources identified in the Council Plan.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

29. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
    Governance and Integrity

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

31. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 Council must adopt an annual budget each year.

32. The budget has been developed in accordance with a timetable to ensure sufficient time to achieve the adoption timeframe and to include community consultation, meetings of the executive and preparation of the proposed 2026-27 Budget. The timetable provides a framework to manage risk for Council to meet its statutory obligations to avoid adverse implications if the process is delayed.

Environmental Sustainability

33. The budget identifies the sources and allocation of the resources to implement the many environmental initiatives that impact on the community as outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29.

Attachments

1. Council Budget - 2026-2027 [**2.2.1** - 124 pages]
2. Long Term Financial Plan 2026-36 [**2.2.2** - 51 pages]
3. 2026 27 Declaration of Rates and Charges 23 June 2026 [**2.2.3** - 15 pages]
4. Council Plan 2025-29 - Year 2 Update [**2.2.4** - 21 pages]

Cr A Katos declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 2.3 and left the meeting at 7.01pm. .

2.3. Amendment C433ggee - Pakington Street & Gordon Avenue UDFs - Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption

Source:	**Growth & Place**
Interim Executive Director:	**Jacqueline Randles**

Purpose

1. To consider the Amendment C433ggee Planning Panel Report and adopt the Amendment.

Background

2. Amendment C433 seeks to implement the Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework, 2024 adopted on 14 December 2021 and the Pakington North Urban Design Framework (UDF), 2024 adopted on 28 May 2024.

3. The UDFs are driven and supported by the City's Settlement Strategy 2020 and supports Council's goal of providing for significant future housing needs through urban infill. The Amendment supports the State Government's Plan for Victoria which identifies Geelong's housing target to 2051 as 128,600 additional homes, of which 77,500 must be delivered in established areas.

4. The location of Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue in the context of Central Geelong Activity Centre, Geelong-Melbourne rail line, and existing community infrastructure has led the Gordon Avenue and Pakington North precincts to be identified as Key Development Areas – refer Attachment 1 (Map of Geelong West UDF Precincts).

5. The City's Retail Strategy 2020–36 identifies Pakington Street (Geelong West) retail spine as a specialised centre.

6. To inform the UDFs, Council undertook extensive and multi-stage community engagement, including a deliberate community panel process.

7. The exhibited amendment rezones land from Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z) to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) and to the Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) subject to two new Schedules to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO) and the Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) to facilitate a broader range of retail and office uses and to support greater housing growth.

8. Schedule 56 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO56) and Schedule 57 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO57) (DDO's) provide direction and certainty to the local community on future development and building heights.

9. Other local policy changes to the Planning Scheme support the amendment.

10. The public exhibition of the amendment occurred from 31 July to 1 September 2025. A total of 51 submissions were received. Of those submissions received, 13 were accepting, 34 objected to the amendment and 4 provided comments only.

11. Key issues raised in the submissions included zone and overlay application; Design and Development Overlay provisions for the Gordon Avenue Precinct (DDO56) and the Pakington North Precinct (DDO57); site specific issues (including the rail siding yard and the Pakington Strand site); drafting/operability matters; traffic and car parking, open space, local policy and drainage.

12. On 25 November 2025, after considering submissions, Council resolved to refer all the submissions to an Independent Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

13. A Panel Hearing was held from the 17 to 20 February 2026 at Council offices; 5 submitters appeared at the hearing, including local residential and commercial site landowners, plus Council.

Key Matters

14. The Panel Report received by Council was dated 13 April 2026. Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 the Planning Authority (i.e. Council) must consider the Panel's report before deciding whether or not to adopt the Amendment.

15. The Panel acknowledged that Council undertook a comprehensive community consultation process to inform the UDFs proposed in the amendment.

16. The Panel found the amendment to be strategically justified and recommends the amendment be adopted, subject to the changes recommended in the Panel Report, - refer Attachment 2 (Panel report - executive summary). The full Panel Report is available online at the Amendment C433 webpage.

17. Council proposed several changes to the amendment post exhibition and at the hearing in response to submissions and expert evidence. The changes proposed include drafting and operability changes, changes to the DDOs, and changes to local planning policies.

18. The Panel supported most of Council's proposals and included recommendations for further changes in response to submission and evidence. It is proposed to accept the Panel's recommendations, with further minor drafting editions for clarity – refer to Attachment 3 for a summary of the key issues, recommendations and responses.

19. It is recommended that the amendment be adopted in the form shown in Attachment 4 and submitted to the Minister for Planning requesting approval.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.3

Cr A Aitken moved, Cr T Sullivan seconded -

That Council:

1. **Adopts Amendment C433ggee – Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Frameworks – in the form shown in Attachment 4 (Amendment Documents) of this report; and**

2. **Submits the adopted Amendment and prescribed information to the Minister for Planning requesting approval.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

20. There are no adverse financial implications associated with the Amendment.

Community Engagement

21. Amendment C433ggee was exhibited in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

22. All submitters had an opportunity to be heard before an independent Panel. The Panel considered all submissions referred to it, not just the submissions presented at the hearing.

23. The City has advised submitters of the release of the independent Panel Report. Submitters will be notified of the final decision of Council and the Minister for Planning.

Social Equity and Sustainability

24. The amendment will provide social benefits by facilitating urban infill development near public transport and community services increasing housing supply for Greater Geelong.

25. Local policy encourages social and affordable social housing contributions in activity centres and is consistent with the City's Social Housing Plan 2020-2042 and accords with State Government policy.

26. The amendment will facilitate improvements to the public realm, including Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue, creating a vibrant and sustainable precinct for locals and visitors to the area.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

27. The Panel Report does not identify any provision within the amendment documentation that explicitly differentiate or adversely affect individuals based on gender or intersecting characteristics.

28. The amendment is considered to have a mild positive gender impact, as it does not introduce differential impact across genders and supports broader objectives relating to accessibility, safety, housing diversity and public realm quality.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

29. Council's 2020 Settlement Strategy outlines the need to provide infill housing opportunities to support population growth. The Settlement Strategy recommended the preparation of the UDF which included an Increased Housing Diversity Area review and nomination of possible Key Development Areas.

30. The amendment is consistent with State and local planning policy on activity centres, urban design, housing supply and affordability and transport networks.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

31. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:

    Core and Critical Infrastructure - Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region.

Increasing the proportion of housing with existing urban areas.

Economic Development - Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community.

Sufficient land supply to enable sustainable growth, business expansion and attraction.

32. 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

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

34. The Amendment facilitates increased housing densities in well serviced areas, and appropriate locations.

35. Council has no appetite for risks that result in material non-compliance of legislation or regulatory requirements. The Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue UDF complies with all relevant state and council policies including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and Settlement Strategy.

Environmental Sustainability

36. The amendment is expected to have a positive impact on the environment by ensuring that new development is responsive to the local context and providing built form controls that will guide new and infill development.

37. The amendment appropriately manages negative environmental effects through the application of an Environmental Audit Overlay on potentially contaminated land.

Attachments

1. Map of Geelong West UDF Precincts [**2.3.1** - 1 page]
2. Panel Report Executive Summary [**2.3.2** - 7 pages]
3. Key Issues Addressed by the Planning Panel and Response [**2.3.3** - 7 pages]
4. Amendment C 433 ggee - Documents [**2.3.4** - 131 pages]

Cr A Katos returned to the meeting at 7.06pm.

2.4. Newcombe Street, Drysdale (Waterway Court to No. 60 Newcombe Street), - Declaration of Charge - Special Rate and Charge Scheme - SRC 377

Source: **City Infrastructure**
Executive Director: **James Stirton**

Purpose

1. This report seeks a resolution by Council to declare a Special Charge Scheme (SRC) to co-fund the sealing of Newcombe Street Drysdale between Waterway Court and number 60 Newcombe Street.

Background

2. The proposed road construction and sealing works have been developed in response to complaints and a petition received from residents requesting to seal the road. Sealing this section of road will improve amenity, road safety and limits the impacts from dust and mud to the adjacent properties.

3. Council resolved its intention to declare a Special Charge Scheme at its meeting of 24 February 2026. A public notice and letters to all benefitting property owners was sent containing all relevant scheme information.

Key Matters

4. The total scheme cost is estimated at $203,429.00. Property owners will be required to contribute $152,571.75 (75%) and a contribution from the City of $50,857.25 (25%) in recognition of the community benefit. The estimated cost apportionment is shown in **Attachment 3 – Schedule C.**

5. For this scheme, the total benefit is based on the expected use of the road to access each property identified as receiving a special benefit. There are 11 properties abutting the proposed road upgrade, owned by 8 property owners. 4 of the 11 properties are owned by a social housing agency.

6. One formal submission was received in relation to the proposed charge. The submitters objection was acknowledged and responded to. They did not wish to speak to Council of their submission at a Submission Review Panel hearing, however, respectfully asked for their objection to be considered. Please see **Attachment 6 – Submission.** Please note that for confidentiality reasons, all identification has been removed.

7. Should Council declare the scheme, there is an opportunity for submissions to be sent to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for further consideration and determination.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.4

Cr R Story moved, Cr A Katos seconded -

That Council:

1. **Resolves to declare the Special Charge Scheme as follows:**

   1.1. **The special charge is declared for a period of five years commencing on the date on which its levied.**

   1.2. **The special charge be declared for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred by the City in relation to road construction and sealing at Newcombe Street, Drysdale between Waterway Court and 60 Newcombe Street.**

   1.2.1. **Council considers the works will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the special charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this Resolution); and**

   1.2.2. **The scheme arises out of Council's function of planning for and providing infrastructure for property owners.**

   1.3. **The total cost of the scheme be recorded as $203,429.00, refer Attachment 1 – Schedule A.**

   1.4. **It be recorded that, for the purposes of Section 163 (2A) of the Act, (refer to Attachment 2, Schedule B) the special charge proceeds will not exceed the amount calculated in accordance with the prescribed formula (R x C = S), where:**

   1.4.1. **`Benefit Ratio' (R) is calculated at 1 represents the special benefits to all persons liable to pay the special charge.**

   1.4.2. **`Total Cost' (C) of performing the function described in part 1.2 of this resolution based on estimated cost be recorded as $203,429.00; and**

   1.4.3. **`Maximum levy' (S) be recorded as $152,571.75.**

   1.5. **The following be specified as the area for which the special charge is so declared:**

   1.5.1. **The area within municipal district of Council highlighted in the plan in Attachment 4.**

   1.6. **The following be specified as the land in relation to which the special charge so declared:**

   1.6.1. **Land within the area shown on the plan at Attachment 4.**

   1.7. **The following be specified as the criteria which form the basis of the special charge so declared:**

1.7.1. Ownership of any land described in Section 1.6 of this Resolution.

1.8. The following be specified as the way the special charge so declared will be assessed and levied:

1.8.1. The property receives an access benefit.

1.8.2. The maximum levy includes an access benefit; and

1.8.3. The special charge will be levied by sending a notice to the person who is liable to pay, pursuant to section 163(4) of the Act.

1.9. Having regard to the preceding parts of this Resolution but subject to Section 166 (1) of the Act, it will be recorded that:

1.9.1. The owner of the land described in column 1 and column 2 is liable for the estimated amount set out in column 3 of Attachment 3 – Schedule C.

1.9.2. The owner may, subject to any further resolution of Council pay the special charge in the following manner:

1.9.2.1. The charge will become due and payable within one month of the issue of the notice requesting payment pursuant to Section 167 (3) of the Act.

1.9.2.2. Interest will not be charged for six months after the issue of the notice provided the person liable makes timely payment in accordance with any repayment arrangements that may be agreed on by the City; and

1.9.2.3. In accordance with Section 172 of the Act, the interest rate payable on the special charge which has not been paid by the specific date is set at the City's overdraft rate, reviewed every three months (provided that it shall not exceed the rate fixed by the Governor in Council by Order for the purposes of Section 172 (2A) in which case the rate of interest shall be the maximum rate fixed by the Governor in Council by Order for the purposes of this section).

1.10. Authorise Council's Chief Executive Officer or delegated authority to levy the special charge in accordance with Section 163(4) of the Act.

2. Commits an allocation equal to the total project cost (estimated $203,429.00) to fund construction under this scheme, ensuring delivery of this scheme within the declared timeframe.

Carried

Financial Sustainability

8. The total scheme cost is estimated at $203,429.00.

9. A budget allocation equal to the total project cost (estimated $203,429.00) to fund construction under this scheme will be necessary to ensure delivery of this scheme within the declared timeframe.

10. Newcombe Street is a category 2 road. Under our Special Rates and Charges Policy and procedures, this road would traditionally receive a special benefit of 75% and a community benefit of 25%.

11. Property owners will fund $152,571.75 (75%) if this project is declared. The City will be required to fund the remaining project costs of $50,857.25 if this scheme is declared.

12. Special charges are a key source of revenue for Council's civil infrastructure construction programs which enable the timely delivery of community requested infrastructure that provides a higher level of service than currently available and deliverable with existing capital budgets.

13. It is recognised that significant hardship can be experienced by members of our community. The City will consider an application for financial hardship relief confidentially and objectively based on the information provided by the person in the application and will advise of its decision in writing after receiving the application and all supporting information.

Community Engagement

14. A petition was received in April 2025 with 5 of the 8 property owners showing support for the section of road (Waterway Court to 60 Newcombe Street) to be upgraded under a Special Charge Scheme.

15. In developing this Special Charge Scheme, City officers considered a range of apportionment methods. This included consideration of the different types and levels of benefit that may be received to properties, such as access, usage and amenity benefits.

16. Acknowledging that reasonable views may differ on what constitutes a fair and equitable apportionment method, when City officers engaged with the identified benefitting property owners from 6 November to 4 December 2025, we provided information on the Special Rate and Charge Scheme process and presented 5 cost apportionment options for feedback.

17. There are 11 properties which abut the proposed road upgrade, owned by 8 property owners (4 of the 11 properties are owned by a social housing agency). Responses were received from 4 of the 8 property owners (4 of 11 properties). Of the 4 that responded, 3 are in support of upgrading this road under an SRC scheme (75% respondents) and 1 is not.

18. The majority, 2 out of 3 properties, preferred the equal share apportionment method outlined in Option E.

19. An equal share approach is based on the assessment that all properties receive an equal special benefit from the improved access provided by the road upgrade to access their properties. As this apportionment method is considered reasonable and

equitable, officers have adopted this approach in accordance with the community's preferred position.

20. Subsequent to Council's intention to declare a Special Charge Scheme resolution at its meeting on 24 February 2026:

    20.1. A Public Notice was placed in The Times newspaper on Friday 6 March 2026. A copy of the Public Notice was sent to all benefitting property owners on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

21. One submission was received during the 28-day submission period following the advertisement of the Public Notice which closed Friday 10 April 2026. **Attachment 6 – Submission.**

22. Further correspondence will be sent to all benefitting property owners following Council's decision on the declaration.

23. Should Council resolve to declare the charges, all property owners have a right to appeal to VCAT. This information is included in the Levy Notice which is sent to all property owners. Should VCAT confirm the scheme, Council is cleared to proceed to construction.

24. The Special Charge Scheme process is described in **Attachment 5 – Special Charge Scheme Process.**

Social Equity and Sustainability

25. The provision of properly sealed and drained roadways is aligned to the Council Plan and provides improved amenity, connectivity and safety for motorists and pedestrians.

26. Council is not required to levy a Special Rate and Charge on any or every property that will receive a special benefit. A property with a special benefit may be excluded from the scheme for any of the following reasons:

    26.1. Council is unable to levy a special charge on the property.

    26.2. The owner of the property has already contributed to the costs of the works through a development levy.

    26.3. Council considers that there are advantages for the municipality in excluding the property from the scheme.

    26.4. Council considers that the special benefits for the property are marginal and would not warrant including the property in the scheme; or

    26.5. Any other reason that Council considers appropriate.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

27. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was not undertaken for this report as it does not meet the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020. The report does not involve new or reviewed policies, programs or services, and it does not have a direct or significant impact on the public.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

28. The scheme has been prepared in accordance with the Special Rate and Charge provisions of the Local Government Act 1989, consultation requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Special Rates and Charges Policy and procedures.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

29. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
    Core and Critical Infrastructure

30. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
    A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
    An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
    People feel safe wherever they are.

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

32. Council has a cautious appetite for risks that compromise statutory and governance obligations throughout the full lifecycle of a Special Rate and Charge Scheme, from the Intention to Declare stage through to Declaration and Finalisation, ensuring strict adherence to notice, benefit ratio and transparency requirements under the Local Government Act 1989 and the broader governance principles of the Local Government Act 2020.

33. As a result, it is recommended that Council progresses this scheme given it delivers a clear special benefit to the affected properties while managing funding constraints, reflecting the purpose and operation of Special Rates and Charges as described in the City's Special Rates and Charges framework. Across all three reporting stages, Council accepts a manageable level of stakeholder variation and property owner feedback, provided overall support remains sufficient and hardship considerations are addressed responsibly in accordance with Ministerial hardship guidelines.

Environmental Sustainability

34. The road infrastructure proposal provides sealed access, improved drainage and amenity as dust and mud are mitigated.

35. It is anticipated that no significant vegetation removal will be required to complete this project.

36. The City will encourage the use of recycled materials for the project construction.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 Schedule A Cost Estimate Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaration of Char [**2.4.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 Schedule B Benefit Cost Ratio Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaratio (2) [**2.4.2** - 1 page]

3. Attachment 3 Schedule C Proposed special charge Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declarati [**2.4.3** - 1 page]
4. Attachment 4 Plan Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaration of Charge D26 179828 [**2.4.4** - 1 page]
5. Attachment 5 Special Charge Scheme Process Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaratio (4) [**2.4.5** - 1 page]
6. Attachment 6 Submission Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaration of charge D26 179775 [**2.4.6** - 3 pages]

2.5. T2600018 – Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To revoke the award of tender T2600018 – Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals, awarded by Council at its 27 January 2026 meeting, and to award the tender to the alternative tenderer, as detailed in Clause 3 of the Revised Recommendation Report at **Attachment 1**.

Background

2. The City of Greater Geelong (City) requires the ongoing supply and delivery of chemicals to support water treatment and chemical balancing across pools at its seven leisure centres.

CONFIDENTIALITY

3. Confidential information is contained in **Attachments 1 and 2** 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

4. The City was unable to reach agreement on acceptable contract terms with the preferred tenderer, as the tenderer's final position would have resulted in an unacceptable allocation of risk to the City.

5. The Procurement and Contracts team administered an open tender process on behalf of the Swim, Sport and Leisure department.

6. Details of the Procurement process, including the evaluation methodology and the original preferred tenderer, are outlined in the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report at **Attachment 2.**

7. As a result, an alternate recommendation is made.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.5

Cr C Burson moved, Cr R Nelson seconded -

That Council:

1. **Revokes the award of Contract T2600018 – Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals, which was awarded at the 27 January 2026 Council meeting;**

2. **Awards the contract for T2600018 - Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals to the alternate tenderer as detailed in Clause 3 of the Revised Recommendation Report (Attachment 1) and otherwise in accordance with the negotiated terms and conditions of the contract;**

3. **Approves the contract term of one year, with the option to extend the contract for up to two additional terms of one year;**

4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract T2600018 and any other documents required by or to give effective to the terms of the Contract on behalf of Council;**

5. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to release the name of the preferred tenderer following the execution of the Contract by the relevant parties;**

6. **Resolves that the information contained in Attachments 1 and 2 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

8. 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

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

Collaboration Opportunities

10. 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

11. The contract supports equitable access to safe and well-maintained aquatic facilities across the Geelong Region by ensuring the reliable supply of essential pool treatment chemicals.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

12. A Gender Impact Assessment was not required for this report.

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 2021-2025 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 and Risk Appetite Statement

17. The City has a balanced appetite for improving social cohesion, strengthening equity, and fostering a positive environment through inclusive, engaging and effective initiatives, and an adverse appetite for risks that may compromise health, safety and wellbeing.

18. This recommendation supports positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the community by enabling the safe operation of aquatic facilities through the supply and delivery of pool chemicals, and aligns with the City's risk appetite as the evaluation process confirmed the recommended tenderer's capability to safely and reliably deliver

the goods, including appropriate occupational health and safety systems, chemical safety controls and operational capacity.

Environmental Sustainability

19. 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 - Attachment 1 - T2600018 - Revised Recommendation Report - Council [**2.5.1** - 20 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 2 - T2600018 - Supply Delivery of Pool Chemicals Council Report [**2.5.2** - 8 pages]

2.6. Draft Complaint Handling Policy

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Complaint Handling Policy (Draft Policy) **(Attachment 1)** to Council for endorsement to proceed to community engagement for a period of four weeks.

Background

2. The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act), Section 107, requires all Victorian Councils to develop and maintain a complaints policy that includes a prescribed definition of a complaint.

3. In addition to requiring a complaints policy, the Act requires councils to establish clear processes for managing complaints, including provisions for internal review that is independent of the original decision-maker, service provider or action taken. The *Act* also provides councils with discretion to decline complaints that are otherwise subject to an alternative statutory review process.

4. To support the local government sector to effectively receive, respond to and learn from complaints, the Victorian Ombudsman published *Councils and Complaints – Good Practice Guide* in July 2021. The guide included a model complaints policy designed to assist councils in developing policies tailored to their own operational and community context.

5. The guide was subsequently updated in April 2025. The Draft Policy presented to Council has been reviewed and updated in consideration of the revised guidance and contemporary best practice.

6. Council has maintained both a complaints policy and supporting complaint handling processes for a number of years. A comprehensive review of the existing framework was recently undertaken to ensure continued alignment with the requirements of the *Act*, the Victorian Ombudsman's good practice guidance, and the model complaints policy. The Draft Policy is attached for Council's consideration and endorsement for community engagement **(Attachment 1)**.

Key Matters

7. Council's current complaint process provides for an internal review process through the Integrity and Review Team. The Integrity and Review team are an independent unit located within the Legal, Compliance and Integrity department. Their role is to review escalated customer complaints to determine if policy and procedures were followed, in the process providing recommendations for follow up if required. The team is also the dedicated liaison point with the Victoria Ombudsman and supports investigations by the Ombudsman's office.

8. In developing the *Councils and Complaints – Good Practice Guide* and accompanying model complaints policy, the Victorian Ombudsman undertook extensive consultation with a broad range of organisations representing Victorian communities and local

government interests. This included engagement with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, Ratepayers Victoria, Municipal Association of Victoria, Disability Justice Australia and other representative bodies to ensure the guidance reflects principles of accessibility, fairness, transparency and administrative good practice.

9. Given the significant sector-wide consultation already undertaken through the Ombudsman's review process, together with the prescriptive legislative requirements contained within the *Act*, the City considers the Draft Policy largely reflects established statutory and best-practice obligations rather than matters of discretionary policy position.

10. Accordingly, the City does not recommend broad community consultation on the substantive content of the Draft Policy. However, it is proposed the Draft Policy be made publicly available for a four-week community engagement period to support transparency and provide the community with an opportunity to provide feedback prior to final adoption.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.6

Cr M Cadwell moved, Cr E Sinclair seconded -

That Council:

1. **Endorses the Draft Complaint Handling Policy (Attachment 1) for the purposes of public exhibition and community engagement for a period of four weeks.**

2. **Notes the Draft Complaint Handling Policy (Attachment 1) has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the guidance issued by the Victorian Ombudsman.**

3. **Notes that following the completion of the community engagement period, a further report be presented to Council summarising any feedback received and seeking adoption of the final Complaint Handling Policy.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

11. The Draft Policy is not expected to have any material financial impact on Council. Any administrative or operational changes required to support implementation of the policy, including updated complaint categorisation and reporting practices, will be managed within existing operational budgets and resources.

Community Engagement

12. The Draft Policy is proposed to be released for public exhibition and community engagement for a period of four weeks.

13. While the Draft Policy is largely based on the model policy developed by the Victorian Ombudsman following extensive sector and community consultation, the engagement period will provide the community with an opportunity to review the Draft Policy and provide feedback prior to final consideration and adoption by Council.

Social Equity and Sustainability

14. The Draft Policy enables customers who may be unable to document their complaint in writing to contact Council to have their complaint lodged by an officer, either on the phone or in-person.

15. Further, Council offers people with a hearing or speech impairment to use the National Relay Service to connect with an officer. Council also offers translation services to people from a non-English speaking background.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

16. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was undertaken for this report. The assessment identified that, while the policy applies broadly to all community members, there are potential gendered and intersectional impacts relating to access, safety, accessibility, and participation in the complaints process. The findings and recommendations of the GIA have been considered in the development of the policy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

17. Section 107 of the *Act* requires all councils to develop, adopt and maintain a complaints policy and associated complaint handling procedures that incorporate the prescribed definition of a complaint and support accessible internal review processes.

18. Section 107 commenced on 31 July 2021, requiring councils to have compliant policies and procedures in place by 31 December 2021. Council fulfilled its obligation at the time.

19. The Draft Complaint Handling Policy has been reviewed to ensure ongoing alignment with the legislative requirements of the *Act* and contemporary guidance issued by the Victorian Ombudsman.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

20. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
    Governance and Integrity

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

22. The Draft Policy supports mitigation of governance, compliance and customer service risks by strengthening Council's complaint handling framework and ensuring alignment with the requirements of the *Act* and recent guidance issued by the Victorian Ombudsman.

23. The officer recommendation aligns with Council's cautious appetite for Regulatory, Legal and Governance risks, as it supports transparency, accountability and legislative compliance through clear and consistent complaint handling processes.

24. It also aligns with Council's balanced appetite for Community and Operations & Service Delivery risks by improving accessibility, consistency, oversight and continuous improvement in customer complaint management.

25. Failure to review and update the policy may increase the risk of non-alignment with current legislative requirements and complaint handling standards.

Environmental Sustainability

26. The Draft Policy is administrative in nature and is not expected to have any direct environmental sustainability impacts.

Attachments

1. Draft Complaint Handling Policy - March 2026 [**2.6.1** - 12 pages]
2. Community Engagement Memo [**2.6.2** - 3 pages]

2.7. 2026-27 Community Grants Guidelines

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To seek Council's approval of the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines and advise Council of the key dates for the 2026-27 grants.

Background

2. Council offers a range of competitive grants to support projects, events, activities and capital works to benefit the community.

3. All grants operate under the Community Investment and Support Council policy and the City's standard guidelines which include application and assessment processes, eligibility criteria and requirements for successful applicants.

Key Matters

4. Any changes to a grant's objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria are informed by feedback from the community, Councillors, Council officers and budget amendments. A summary of the proposed changes for the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**).

5. The 2026-27 Community Grants budget of $2,647,000 is included in the City's 2026-27 annual budget to be endorsed by Council at its meeting on 23 June 2026.

6. There are 16 grants offered in 2026-27. Most grants are scheduled to open on Saturday 27 June 2026, after the budget is adopted, except for Positive Ageing Grants, which opened in April 2026 and Children's Week Grants, which opened in May 2026.

7. Funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement in November 2026, December 2026 and January 2027. A complete list of the City's grants and key dates is attached to this report (**Attachment 2**).

8. The guidelines for the 10 Council-endorsed grants, which detail each grant's objectives, priority areas, eligibility and criteria, are attached to this report (Attachments **3 to 12**).

9. A future report will address the Geelong Heritage Grants and any associated guidelines.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.7

Cr E Wilkinson moved, Cr R Nelson seconded -

That Council:

1. **Approves the changes to the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines listed in Attachment 1 to this report and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes to the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines;**

2. **Notes the 2026-27 Community Grants List and Key Dates in Attachment 2 to this report;**

3. **Approves the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines in Attachments 3 to 12 to this report;**

4. **Notes the Community Grants will open on Saturday 27 June 2026; and**

5. **Notes that funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement in November 2026, December 2026 and January 2027.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

10. There are no financial implications for the City associated with changing and approving the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines.

11. The 2026-27 Community Grants budget is included in the City's 2026-27 annual budget to be considered by Council at its meeting on 23 June 2026.

12. If Council does not adopt the annual budget at that meeting, the opening of the grant round will be delayed until such time as Council adopts a budget.

Community Engagement

13. Changes to the grant guidelines have considered feedback from Councillors, applicants, community panel assessors and Council officers.

14. City officers collect feedback during the year from the community by phone, email and through surveys.

15. The SmartyGrants online grants application system provides applicants with the opportunity to provide feedback about the level of difficulty of the application process, how the City can improve and general feedback.

Social Equity and Sustainability

16. The grant guidelines prioritise community impact, access and participation.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

17. The Community Grants Framework includes four key documents: the Community Investment Support Fund Council Policy, Community Assessment Panel Terms of Reference, grant guidelines, and an operations manual. Together, these documents guide how the Community Grants program is managed. The Community Investment Support Fund Council Policy is currently being reviewed. As part of that review, one Gender Impact Assessment Plus (GIA+) will be completed across the full framework, rather than separately for each of the documents listed above. This will help ensure gender and broader inclusion impacts are considered across the whole grants process. For this reason, a separate GIA+ has not been completed for the 2026-27 Community Grants Guidelines.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

18. The Community Grants guidelines respond to Council's Community Investment and Support Fund Policy.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

19. 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

20. 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.
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
Creative and diverse culture.
Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

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

23. Council has a balanced appetite for community risk and a cautious appetite for financial risk. The provision of grant funding to the community supports fair access to services or opportunities across diverse community groups, and resources are allocated in a way that meaningfully addresses community need. Grant guidelines uphold strong integrity for the allocation of grant funding and reporting processes; and minimise the risk of funds misuse or unmanaged exposure to fraud or corruption risks.

Environmental Sustainability

24. The Community Grants include funding opportunities for environmental initiatives.

25. Some grants include environmental impacts as an assessment criterion.

Attachments

1. 2026-27 Guidelines Changes [**2.7.1** - 3 pages]
2. 2026-27 Summary and Key Dates [**2.7.2** - 6 pages]
3. 2026-27 Arts Projects Guidelines [**2.7.3** - 16 pages]
4. 2026-27 Clean Economy Guidelines [**2.7.4** - 15 pages]
5. 2026-27 Climate Change Partnership Guidelines [**2.7.5** - 16 pages]
6. 2026-27 Community Equipment Guidelines [**2.7.6** - 15 pages]
7. 2026-27 Community Events Guidelines [**2.7.7** - 15 pages]
8. 2026-27 Community Infrastructure Guidelines [**2.7.8** - 19 pages]
9. 2026-27 Community Strengthening Guidelines [**2.7.9** - 18 pages]
10. 2026-27 Creative Commissions Guidelines [**2.7.10** - 16 pages]
11. 2026-27 Environmental Sustainability Guidelines [**2.7.11** - 16 pages]
12. 2026-27 First Nations Guidelines [**2.7.12** - 15 pages]

2.8. Proposal to declare part of Mindil Street, Armstrong Creek to be a public highway

Source: **City Life**
Executive Director: **Anthony Basford**

Purpose

1. To seek approval to initiate the statutory procedures under sections 207A and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to declare a constructed section of road forming part of Mindil Street, Armstrong Creek (approximately 2,628m2) a public highway under section 204(1) of the Act, as shown by the blue hatching in **Attachment 1 – Land area.**

Background

2. Development Victoria is delivering the State Government funded project of constructing the RSIP Tarratarra Stadium on the City's land at 7 Stadium Street, Armstrong Creek (Project).

3. The Project includes the construction of part of Mindil Street to provide access to the Stadium.

4. The construction and vesting of Mindil Street are conditions of a planning permit for an adjoining development. Due to a misalignment in the sequencing of the developer's works and the completion of the Stadium Project, the section of Mindil Street fronting the Stadium will not be completed in time for the Stadium Project's delivery.

5. Public road access is critical to the issue of a Certificate of Occupancy for the Stadium Project. The Certificate of Occupancy is currently programmed to be issued on 21 July 2026, and the broader Practical Completion milestone reached on 1 September 2026.

6. Once Certificate of Occupancy is issued the Stadium asset will be handed over to the City. This will enable the Stadium to be opened for public use.

7. The remaining section of Mindil Street will be constructed and vested in the City by the adjoining developer upon development of that land, in accordance with the approved Planning Permit.

Key Matters

8. The section of Mindil Street which has been constructed as part of the Project has been constructed as an urban standard road.

9. Council has the authority to declare the section of Mindil Street constructed as part of the Project as a public highway under section 204(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Under clause 1(5) of Schedule 5 of the *Road Management Act 2004,* public highways within the municipality vest in Council.

10. Prior to resolving to declare Mindil Street a public highway, a submission hearing process in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* is required.

11. The submissions hearing process will provide the opportunity for the public to make written submissions and if they wish, to present their submission to a Submissions Review Panel.

12. The Council will receive a further report with the outcomes of the submissions hearing process, which it will consider when determining whether to declare the constructed part of Mindil Street as a public highway.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.8

Cr E Sinclair moved, Cr A Katos seconded -

That Council:

1. **Endorses the undertaking of a community engagement process, including the issue of a public notice and the invitation of submissions in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989,* regarding Council's intention to declare the constructed part of Mindil Street, Armstong Creek (approximately 2,628m2) a public highway.**

2. **Appoints a Submissions Review Panel to hear from any person who wishes to appear, either in person or by representation, in support of their submission; and**

3. **Notes that a further report will be presented to Council to consider the outcome of the submissions hearing process.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

13. Development Victoria has constructed the relevant section of Mindil Street as part of the Stadium Project. To enable it to be opened for public use, a public highway declaration is required, as the adjoining developer’s delivery of the full road does not align with the Stadium Project’s completion.

14. The declaration of the Road as a public highway will enable the Stadium Project to achieve a Certificate of Occupancy, avoiding delays to facility activation. Without this declaration, there is a risk of not meeting the contractual completion date, potential lost revenue, continued staffing and supplier costs, and claims associated with the delayed commencement of operations.

Community Engagement

15. Community engagement will be undertaken on the Have Your Say page and a notice published in the local newspapers.

16. In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, any person may make a written submission on the proposal to declare part of Mindil Street a public highway. A submitter may also request to appear in person, or be represented, in support of their submission at a hearing.

17. Council will be provided with the outcome of community engagement and minutes of a Submissions Review Panel Hearing.

Social Equity and Sustainability

18. The partial vesting of the constructed section of Mindil Street as a public highway will support equitable access to the Tarratarra Stadium precinct by enabling safe, formalised public access for all users. This includes pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, ensuring the infrastructure is available for community use as intended without reliance on informal or uncertain access arrangements. Formal vesting also supports clarity of responsibility for maintenance and safety, contributing to a consistent and inclusive public realm.

19. The declaration of the constructed portion of Mindil Street as a public highway represents an efficient use of existing infrastructure by enabling its timely operation and integration into the broader transport network. It reduces the risk of underutilised assets and avoids extended vacancy of a completed public facility. Bringing the road under Council control supports ongoing maintenance, lifecycle management and coordinated planning outcomes consistent with long-term infrastructure sustainability objectives for the Armstrong Creek growth area.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

20. An assessment was not completed on the proposed public highway declaration as it does not relate to the criteria of when an assessment is required, being an existing or developing service, program or policy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

21. Section 204(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* gives the Council the power to declare a road to be a public highway.

22. Section 207(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides the right for any person to make a submission in accordance with section 223 on the proposed exercise of the power under section 204.

23. The Council is required to authorise the issue of public notice in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989.*

24. Declaration of the constructed road as a public highway vests the road in Council under section 1(5) of Schedule 5 of the *Road Management Act 2004* and provides Council with a pathway to manage, maintain and regulate the road in accordance with its powers, duties and functions under relevant legislation.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

25. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
    Core and Critical Infrastructure

26. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
    A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
    An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

28. This report is presented to Council as a key instrument to minimise the risk of the RSIP Tarratarra Stadium project delay, as any further delay to the vesting process would directly impact the issue of:

    28.1. The Certificate of Occupancy (21 July 2026);

    28.2. Practical Completion notice for 1 September 2026;

    28.3. Asset handover to the City; and

    28.4. The planned facility activation date of 12 October 2026.

29. The proposal to declare part of Mindil Street a public highway aligns with Council’s Risk Appetite by applying a compliant and transparent statutory process, while maintaining low financial, operational and community risk, and strong governance controls.

Environmental Sustainability

30. The proposed declaration of the relevant section on Mindil Street as a public highway is not expected to result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. Enabling the road to be opened for public use will support the efficient and safe movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists associated with the Stadium Project, which may contribute to improved traffic management and reduced congestion in the surrounding area.

31. Any future works associated with the completion of the remaining section of Mindil Street by the adjoining developer will be required to comply with applicable planning permit conditions and relevant environmental standards.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Mindil Street Armstrong Creek [**2.8.1** - 1 page]

Cr T Sullivan declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 2.9 and left the meeting at 7.28pm.

2.9. Electronic Gaming Machine Application – Fyansford Hotel

Source: **City Life**
Executive Director: **Anthony Basford**

Purpose

1. This report seeks Council's:

   1.1. Support not to undertake a Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) in response to an application by PJ Cook Investments Pty Ltd for an additional 28 electronic gaming machines (EGMs) at the Fyansford Hotel; and

   1.2. Approval of the recommendation that Council does not oppose the application to the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) in order to support Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club to divest from EGMs.

Background

2. On 9 April 2026, PJ Cook Investments Pty Ltd notified the City of Greater Geelong of their application to the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission to amend their Venue Operator's Licence to permit an additional 28 electronic gaming machines at the Fyansford Hotel.

3. Fyansford Hotel currently have 40 EGMs. With this application, they are proposing to increase to 68 EGMs at the venue.

4. The application states that the additional requested EGMs will be transferred from the Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club (BPSRC). The City has been supporting the club to divest from EGMs since the delivery of the Hamlyn Park Master Plan in 2021. The current EGM license owned by the BPSRC has rendered the club exempt from seeking funding to deliver key elements of the master plan. The transfer of their current EGM license to the Fyansford Hotel will enable future funding opportunities commensurate with other community sporting clubs within the region.

5. Under the Victorian Government's regional EGM caps system, a maximum of 1,421 gaming machines are permitted to operate within the combined areas of Greater Geelong and the Borough of Queenscliff. There are currently 1,373 EGMs in Geelong and Queenscliff across 26 venues.

6. In 2024/25, $141,644,824 was the total amount lost by gaming patrons on EGMs in the City of Greater Geelong region. This EGM loss was the 5th highest among Victorian Local Government Areas.

7. Under Victorian Government policy, EGMs operate in a capped entitlement system. Current entitlements issued from August 2022 run for 20 years (to August 2042) and can be transferred between approved venue operators, subject to regulatory approval. The venue receiving the EGM transfer is liable for the costs associated with entitlement

(lease) costs. These entitlement costs commonly amount to some tens of thousands of dollars per machine over the life of the entitlement. If a venue forfeits their gaming entitlements, whether through compulsory reduction by the State or failure to use/pay for them, they are generally required to pay the outstanding amounts for the remainder of the term. Venues are unable to voluntarily return entitlements without paying the significant amounts associated with the lease fees for the remainder of the entitlement terms.

Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy

8. The Council's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy outlines the City's approach in responding to all forms of gambling, with a focus on the wellbeing of the community.

9. Statement 2.4 of the Policy states that Council will:

    9.1. Assess applications for new and additional EGMs against a Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) guided by the City of Greater Geelong's Gaming Policy Framework and taking into consideration community attitudes, feedback and/or concerns. An associated report and recommendations for response to the VGCCC will be referred to Council at a Council meeting.

10. The following policy statements guide action and decision making regarding supporting sporting clubs to reduce their reliance or divest from EGMs:

    10.1. Support local community-based organisations that generate some of their income from gambling activities, to reduce their reliance on gambling income streams.

    10.2. Actively support any community or sporting club, group, or organisation to divest themselves of EGMs or end financial dependence on gambling sponsorship or revenue. This would be achieved through an agreed transition business plan.

Bell Park Sport & Recreation Club

11. The City has been working with the BPSRC to reduce their reliance on EGMs and to reduce gambling related harm in the community.

12. BPSRC has made a clear and sustained commitment to divest from EGMs since 2021. The club is wanting to divest for the following reasons:

    12.1. Having EGMs as part of their business is no longer aligned with the values of the sporting club.

    12.2. The association with EGMs has been a barrier when recruiting new members and the current membership has expressed their desire to revert to a Community Sporting Club model.

    12.3. The club has experienced barriers when applying for grant funding through Council or other government departments.

13. The removal of EGMs means that the club reverts to a Fair Play licence, allowing the City to apply a reduced rental compared to the current commercial rate.

14. BPSRC indicated that they were looking at options to transfer or sell their EGM entitlements to another venue rather than develop a transition business plan to divest from EGMs.

15. Due to financial implications and long-term EGM entitlements (leases), there are limited viable options available to community organisations seeking to divest from EGMs. This is the only viable option for BPSRC to divest from EGMs.

Key Matters

16. Applications for new or additional EGMs including the transfer of machines must be made to the VGCCC and requires a Council decision.

17. Upon formal notification from the VGCCC the City of Greater Geelong will have 37 days to advise whether it intends to make a submission in response to the application. If Council elects to make a submission, it must be lodged within 60 days of the formal VGCCC notification.

18. The City received formal notification of the application from the VGCCC on 3 June 2026. As per the statutory timeframes in the Gambling Regulation Act 2003, the City has until Friday 10 July 2026 (37 days from the receipt of the formal notification) to advise the VGCCC if it intends to make a submission to the application. Any delay to Council consideration beyond June 2026 would compromise the ability to respond with the prescribed timeframes and may result in missing the VGCCC response requirements. Council is required to determine whether a SEIA is undertaken in this instance.

19. Under the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003*, the VGCCC cannot approve an application unless it is satisfied that the net economic and social impact of the proposal will not be detrimental to the wellbeing of the community. This is known as the ‘no-net detriment’ test.

20. In applying this test, the VGCCC considers whether the proposal delivers an overall community benefit, having regard to its statutory objectives, including the minimisation of gambling-related harm.

21. This application represents a significant and positive outcome in line with both the VGCCC’s no-net detriment test and the City’s Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy. It supports the City’s long-standing strategic objective of assisting community sporting clubs to divest from EGMs and reduce exposure to gambling harm in community settings and family-oriented settings.

22. The application involves the transfer of EGMs from BSPRC, a community sporting club environment, to an established gaming venue that already operates EGMs.

23. The proposed transfer will result in the removal of EGMs from a Council owned facility, ensuring that a Council asset is no longer associated with gambling activity or gambling related revenue.

24. The EGMs are being transferred within the municipality, resulting in no net increase in the total number of EGMs operating within Greater Geelong and therefore no increase in overall availability at a municipal level.

25. The proposal does not introduce gaming machines into a new location or community, and it is not expected to increase overall risk, as it:

25.1. Decreases gambling exposure in a community sporting club setting;

25.2. Reallocates machines within an established gaming venue; and

25.3. Does not increase the total number of EGMs across the municipality.

26. In this context, undertaking a SEIA is unlikely to alter the City's or the VGCCC's position on the application, given that the proposal supports harm minimisation outcomes, has strong alignment with the no-net detriment test and aligns with Council's longstanding strategic approach to supporting community organisations to divest from gambling revenue.

27. Therefore, the Officers' recommendation is that Council does not oppose the application, recognising the opportunity to support BPSRC's intent to divest from EGMs and strengthen a family-friendly club environment and remove barriers for future funding opportunities.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.9

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr C Burson seconded -

That Council:

1. **Does not undertake a Social and Economic Impact Assessment in response to the application to increase electronic gaming machines at the Fyansford Hotel.**

2. **Notes that the proposal involves the transfer of Electronic Gaming Machines from a community sporting club environment to an existing gaming venue, results in an no-net increase in Electronic Gaming Machines within the municipality, and does not increase overall social risk to the community;**

3. **Does not oppose the application by PJ Cook Investments Pty Ltd to increase the number of Electronic Gaming Machines at the Fyansford Hotel; and**

4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to advise the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission of its decision.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

28. There are no direct financial impacts for Council arising from the recommendations.

29. Should Council elect to undertake a SEIA and/or prepare a submission to the VGCCC it is recommended that a consultant be engaged to conduct an accurate Social Economic Impact Assessment at an estimated cost of between $10,000 - $30,000.

30. To oppose the application at the VGCCC, it would cost approximately $30,000 for legal representation at the hearing.

Community Engagement

31. Community engagement with BSPRC has indicated that members do not support the ongoing presence of EGMs at the club and wish to return to a stronger community sporting club model. This feedback is consistent with the direction of the Hamlyn Park Master Plan, which seeks to strengthen the BSPRC community role and support delivery of future improvements to the Reserve Plan.

Social Equity and Sustainability

32. The proposed divestment of EGMs from BSPRC supports social equity by reducing gambling exposure in a community sporting club setting and aligning with Council's harm minimisation objectives. This is particularly relevant given Hamlyn Heights has a comparatively higher level of disadvantage than Fyansford, with a lower SEIFA index (1019 compared with 1033). The transfer also supports the long-term sustainability of the BSPRC by improving access to grant funding and enabling a stronger focus on community participation, sport and recreation outcomes.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

33. A Gender+ Impact Assessment is not required because this report relates to a statutory licensing decision and does not propose a new policy, service, program or infrastructure change that would directly and significantly affect people of different genders in different ways.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

34. Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy

35. Gaming Clause 52.28 of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

36. Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2029 (priority 6 – Harm Minimisation)

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

37. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:

    Healthy and Caring Community

38. 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

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

40. The key risks associated with this report relate to community and reputational impacts arising from decisions about electronic gaming machines, and compliance with statutory VGCCC response timeframes.

41. Council's risk appetite for actions that may increase gambling harm is low; however, in this case the application involves a transfer of existing EGMs from a community sporting club setting to an established gaming venue within the municipality, resulting in no net increase in EGMs and supporting harm minimisation outcomes.

42. Procedural and legal risk is managed through monitoring VGCCC notification timelines and ensuring a Council decision is made within required periods.

Environmental Sustainability

43. This report relates to a statutory licensing decision and does not involve works, construction, procurement or operational changes that would have a direct impact on the natural environment.

Attachments

Nil

Cr T Sullivan returned to the meeting at 7.42pm.

2.10. Planning Authorisation Council to Staff

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To appoint City officers as authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987 (P&EA).

Background

2. City officers are appointed as authorised officers to exercise statutory powers under various Acts and regulations. Appointments as authorised officers are to individual staff members.

3. The P&EA regulates enforcement and is reliant on authorised officers acting on behalf of the responsible authority (Council).

Key Matters

4. Where there is a specific power within an Act, Council should appoint authorised officers pursuant to that Act. This is the case for the P&EA.

5. **Attachment 1** sets out the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the P&EA and lists the staff member to whom this authorisation applies.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.10

Cr A Katos moved, Cr R Nelson seconded -

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council resolves that

1. **City staff referred to in the Instrument (Attachment 1) be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument;**

2. **The Instrument comes into force immediately upon the resolution of Council; and**

3. **The Instrument be signed by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of Council.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

6. There are no financial sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

7. Relevant City managers have been consulted regarding this recommended appointment and authorisation.

Social Equity and Sustainability

8. There are no social equity sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

9. A Gender+ Impact Assessment was not required for this decision.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

10. The recommended appointment and authorisation of staff members complies with the relevant provisions of the P&EA and the *Local Government Act* 2020.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

11. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
    Governance and Integrity

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

13. Council has no appetite for risks that result in material non-compliance of legislation or regulatory requirements. The recommendation ensures that Council remains compliant by appropriately authorising Council staff under the P&EA.

Environmental Sustainability

14. There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Attachments

1. D26 236745 Planning Authorisations Council to Staff June 2026 (1) [**2.10.1** - 2 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 T Sullivan seconded -

That Council receive the summary of the informal meetings of Councillors for the period to 23 June 2026.

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. GME External Committee Member Appointment 2026-2030 (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLUTION - Item 4.1

Cr A Katos moved, Cr E Wilkinson 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 this report relates to the appointment of an individual to a role.

Carried

4.2. CEO Employment Matter (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLUTION - Item 4.2

Cr A Aitken moved, Cr T Sullivan 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 relates to the Chief Executive Officers personal Affairs.

Carried

4.3. 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants Funding Recommendations (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLUTION - Item 4.3

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr E Sinclair 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 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 7.46pm.

RESOLUTION

Cr R Nelson moved, Cr C Burson seconded –

That the meeting be re-opened to the public,

Carried.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.58pm on Tuesday 23 June 2026.

Signed: ______________________________

Cr Stretch Kontelj (Mayor)

Date: ______________________________