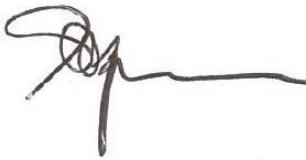


Councillor
(as addressed)

The next Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber on Monday 30 June 2025, commencing at 7:30pm and your presence is requested.

Yours faithfully



Steve Kozlowski
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Note:

***This meeting is being streamed live on the internet and recorded.
Every care is taken to maintain privacy and attendees are advised they may be recorded.***

This meeting of Council can be viewed on Council's website via:

<https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Live-Council-Meetings>

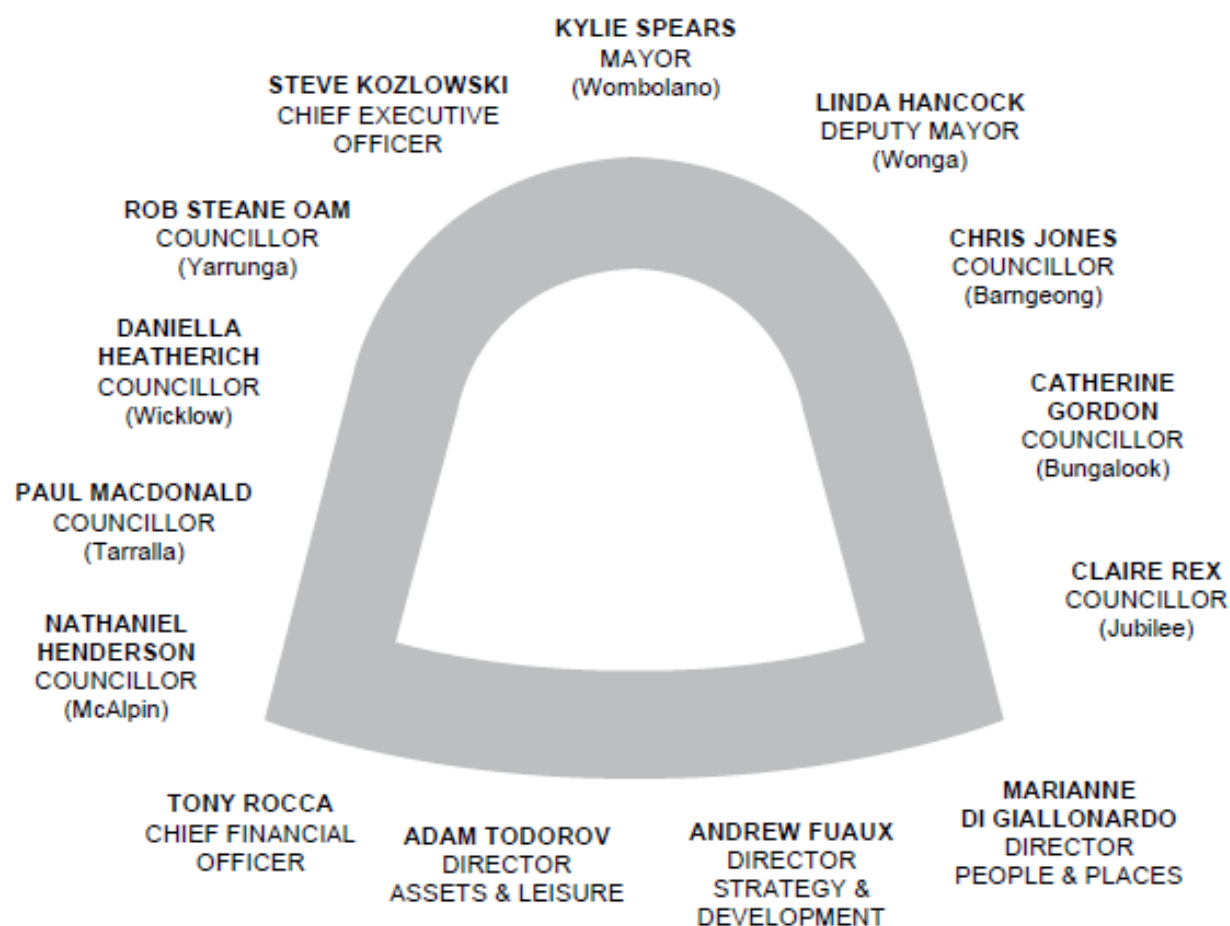


COUNCIL CHAMBER
IS FITTED WITH A HEARING AID
INDUCTION LOOP

**SWITCH HEARING AID TO 'T' FOR
RECEPTION**

Realm	179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood, 3134
Postal	PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134
	DX 38068, Ringwood
Telephone	1300 88 22 33
	Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): 131 450
	National Relay Service (NRS): 133 677
Facsimile	(03) 9298 4345
Email	maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au
Web	www.maroondah.vic.gov.au
Service Centres	Croydon: Civic Square, Croydon 3136
	Realm: 179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood 3134

Council Chamber Seating



Public Gallery



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Prayer and Councillor Pledge
2. Acknowledgment of Country
3. Apologies
4. Declaration of Interests
5. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 26 May 2025
6. Public Questions
7. Officers' Reports
 - Chief Financial Officer
 1. Attendance Report 4
 2. Reports of Councillor Briefings 6
 3. Councillor Representation Reports 8
 4. Model Councillor Code of Conduct - Internal Resolution Procedure 10
 5. Council Plan 2025-2029, Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26-2028/29 and 2025/26 Annual Budget 13
 6. Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) and Region Shared Service Provisions 35
 - Director Assets & Leisure
 1. Capital Funding for Community Groups 2025/26 39
 2. Asset Plan 2025-2035 42
 3. Road Management Plan 2025-2029 46
 - Director Strategy & Development
 1. Community Grants Program 2025/26 50
 - Director People & Places
 1. Arts and Cultural Grants 2025/26 53
8. Documents for Sealing
 1. Letter Under Seal - North Ringwood Community House 50 Year Anniversary 58
 2. Letters Under Seal - Recognition of 2025 King's Birthday Honours 59
9. Motions to Review
10. Late Items
11. Requests for Leave of Absence

ATTENDANCE REPORT**ITEM 1****PURPOSE**

To provide an opportunity for Councillors to report on Council activities undertaken since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council and forthcoming ward activities.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community.

Our Community's Aspiration: Council continues to be a transparent, accountable, and future-focused leader that collaborates locally and regionally and actively champions local needs. Everyone in Maroondah is informed about matters that affect them and are provided opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

It is intended that the Mayor and Councillors be given the opportunity to present a verbal or written report updating Council on the activities they have undertaken since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 May 2025 in their role as Councillors and forthcoming ward activities.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Not applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

It is appropriate that Councillors formally report to Council upon the activities they have undertaken in their role as Councillors.

ATTENDANCE REPORT Cont'd

ITEM 1

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORTS AS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS

REPORTS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS

ITEM 2

PURPOSE

To present the 'Public Record' of those Councillor Briefings which are attended by Councillors and generally held on Monday evenings at Realm, usually two weeks prior to the formal Council Meeting, and to note the issues discussed.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community.

Our Community's Aspiration: Council continues to be a transparent, accountable, and future-focused leader that collaborates locally and regionally and actively champions local needs. Everyone in Maroondah is informed about matters that affect them and are provided opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable.

BACKGROUND

As part of decision-making processes at Maroondah, it is essential that Councillors are briefed on a range of issues which come before Council for consideration. As a means of providing this information, Councillor Briefings are conducted.

Councillor Briefings are also attended by Council Officers, and sometimes other specific advisors, to provide Councillors with a detailed knowledge and understanding of issues under consideration to a level of detail that would inhibit timely decision-making, that would not be possible in an open Council meeting, where decision-making related debate is governed by strict meeting procedures.

A Councillor Briefing is a non-decision-making forum, and as per past good governance practice, is deemed to be a scheduled or planned meeting comprising a majority of Councillors (at least 5) and one (1) Council employee, for the purpose of discussing matters that are intended or likely to be:

- the subject of a decision of the Council; or
- subject to the exercise of a delegated function, duty or power of Council.

Examples of a Councillor Briefings may include:

- On-site inspections,
- Consultative Meetings with residents, developers, consultants
- Meetings with local organisations, Government Departments, statutory authorities, and local politicians.

REPORTS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS Cont'd**ITEM 2****ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Councillor Briefings are generally held twice a month, on Monday evenings at Realm, usually two (2) weeks prior to, and on the night of a formal Council meeting.

The intent of this report is to present a 'Public Record' of those Councillor Briefings which are generally attended by all Councillors and typically held on Monday evenings, and to note the items discussed. The 'Public Record' of the Councillor Briefings held on 26 May 2025 and 2 June 2025 are attached for information.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Not applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

Councillor Briefings are important forums for advice and discussion, on what are often complex issues facing the municipality, in the lead up to formal decisions being made by Councillors at Council Meetings. At Councillor Briefings, or outside them, Councillors also have the opportunity of requesting additional information to assist in the decision-making process. It is appropriate that the 'Public Record' of those Councillor Briefings, which are attended by a majority of Councillors, i.e., at least five (5) Councillors and one (1) employee of Council, be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  2025 May 26 - Councillor Briefing Public Record
2.  2025 June 02 - Councillor Briefing Public Record

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS HELD ON 26 MAY 2025 AND 2 JUNE 2025

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS

ITEM 3

PURPOSE

To receive and note meeting minutes from the following organisations, boards and/or advisory committees where Council is represented:

- Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee held on 20 May 2025
- Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee held on 28 May 2025

The Maroondah Liveability Safety and Amenity Advisory Committee was held on 28 May 2025 however, according to the Terms of Reference, the required attendance to achieve a quorum was not achieved at the meeting and therefore no minutes have been included in this report.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Community's Aspiration: Council continues to be a transparent, accountable, and future-focused leader that collaborates locally and regionally and actively champions local needs. Everyone in Maroondah is informed about matters that affect them and are provided opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable.

BACKGROUND

As part of Council's commitment to the principles and practice of good governance, it is appropriate that Councillors and the Community are formally updated on the actions and activities of the various organisations, boards and advisory committees where Council is represented.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council is represented on numerous internal and external bodies.

Internal advisory committees have been initiated by Council and are serviced administratively. They typically consider in-depth issues that are related to Council policy or activities.

External bodies operate under their own charter and determine their own procedures, policies and practices. In these instances, Council involvement is to participate and influence the activities of those external organisations, boards and committees where those activities are in the interests of Maroondah residents.

Representation on these internal and external bodies is reviewed on an annual basis at the commencement of the new Mayoral term.

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS Cont'd**ITEM 3**

Council representatives for the bodies providing reports for this item are noted below:

Crs Jones, Macdonald and Rex are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee.

Crs Henderson, Macdonald and Spears are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Not applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

It is appropriate that Councillors and the community are formally updated on the actions and activities of the various organisations, boards and advisory committees where Council is represented. Recent meeting minutes from a number of these bodies are tabled for noting.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  2025 May 20 - Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2.  2025 May 28 - Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES**

1. **MAROONDAH ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 MAY 2025**
2. **MAROONDAH ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 MAY 2025**

**MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT - INTERNAL
RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

ITEM 4

PURPOSE

To consider the adoption of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct - Internal Resolution Procedure in accordance with section 140 of the *Local Government Amendment (Governance & Integrity) Act 2024* and as prescribed in regulation 12A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Community's Aspiration: Council continues to be a transparent, accountable, and future-focused leader that collaborates locally and regionally and actively champions local needs. Everyone in Maroondah is informed about matters that affect them and are provided opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable.

Priority Action 2024-2025:

The legislated requirement is for local governments to adopt an Internal Resolution Procedure by 1 July 2025.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* requires Council to adopt a number of key strategic documents, including an internal resolution procedure, by 1 July 2025.

Council's lawyers Maddocks developed a new comprehensive internal resolution procedure template that Councils could adopt to ensure best practice. The procedure aims to address any alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct before they are escalated to formal processes like internal arbitration.

The Act has been amended to incorporate the requirement of an Internal Resolution Procedure. The specified procedure aims to establish a structured approach for Councils in managing complaints and allegations concerning councillor conduct, with the goal of enhancing accountability and transparency. This initiative is designed to uphold good governance practices and uphold elevated levels of conduct among councillors. Additionally, the updated provisions introduced a Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Regulation 12A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* requires Council to adopt an Internal Resolution Procedure.

**MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT - INTERNAL
RESOLUTION PROCEDURE Cont'd**

ITEM 4

Schedule 1A of regulation 12A of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 prescribes -

1. A Council must implement and adopt an internal resolution procedure that may be followed by Councillors to deal with alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.
2. The internal resolution procedure of the Council—
 - a. must include a conciliation process that is to be conducted by—
 - i. the Mayor; or
 - ii. if the Mayor is a party to the matter or is unable to perform the role, functions and duties of the conciliator for any reason, the Deputy Mayor or another person; and
 - b. may include any other process that the Council considers appropriate.
3. Without limiting subclauses (1) and (2), the internal resolution procedure of the Council must—
 - a. detail how a matter that is the subject of an alleged breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct is to be dealt with, including the circumstances in which the available processes may be used to deal with a matter; and
 - b. detail how a Councillor can access the internal resolution procedure, including how a Councillor may initiate a request to have a matter dealt with through the available processes; and
 - c. detail, for the purposes of the conciliation process specified in subclause (2)(a) or any other process under subclause (2)(b)—
 - i. the roles and responsibilities of the parties to a matter; and
 - ii. the role, functions and duties of the person responsible for conducting the relevant process; and
 - iii. any support the Council is to make available to the parties or the person conducting the relevant process; and
 - iv. the form and availability of a record of any agreement, resolution or outcome reached through the process.

The aim of the procedure is to improve the overall governance of local councils by ensuring a fair and consistent approach to handling councillor misconduct.

The formal Internal Resolution Procedure details the three-step process incorporating reference to the Councillor Conduct Framework.

An allegation of Councillor Misconduct is the foundation for commencing the procedure:

- Step 1 - Informal Process: Interpersonal Disputes - Discussion
- Step 2 - Informal Process: Interpersonal Disputes - Conciliation
- Step 3 - Formal Process: Breach of Code - Arbitration

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Not applicable

**MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT - INTERNAL
RESOLUTION PROCEDURE Cont'd**

ITEM 4

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable


COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

In compliance with section 140 of *the Local Government Amendment (Governance & Integrity) Act 2024* and regulation 12A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*, the Model Councillor Code of Conduct - Internal Resolution Procedure is submitted to Council for consideration and adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Model Councillor Code of Conduct - Internal Resolution Procedure

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. **ADOPTS THE MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT - INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO SECTION 140 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY) ACT 2024 AND REGULATION 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY) REGULATIONS 2020**
2. **CONSIDERS THE NEED TO REVIEW THE INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE IN 6 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ADOPTION, FOR ANY REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS**

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET

ITEM 5

PURPOSE

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Local Government (Planning and Reporting Regulations 2020 (the Regulations), Council is required to prepare and adopt the following key strategic documents:

- Council Plan 2025-2029,
- Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35,
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 to 2028/29; and
- Annual Budget for 2025/26 and the subsequent three financial years.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together and the *Council Plan 2021-2025* provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Community's Aspirations: Council continues to be a transparent, accountable, and future-focused leader that collaborates locally and regionally and actively champions local needs. Everyone in Maroondah is informed about matters that affect them and are provided opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable.
- 8.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets, infrastructure and natural environment.

BACKGROUND

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council is required to:

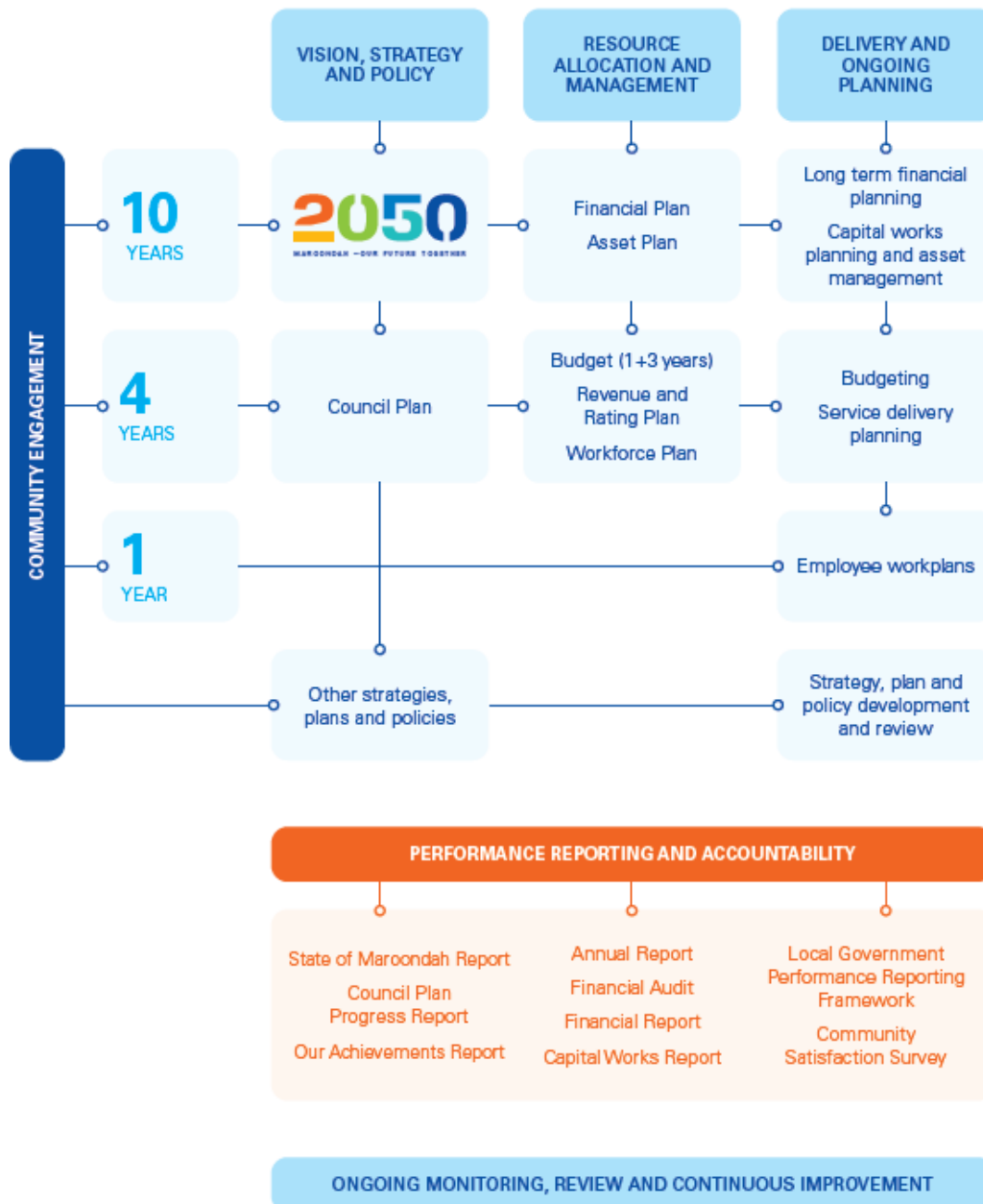
- prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years after a general election;
- develop, adopt and keep in force a Financial Plan that is for a period of at least the next 10 financial years;
- prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by the next 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years; and
- prepare and adopt a Budget for each financial year and the subsequent three financial years.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

ITEM 5

These, and other strategic documents of Council, are linked by an Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (refer to Figure 1), which seeks to ensure Council's activities and resources are aligned in order to meet the aspirations, needs and expectations of the Maroondah community as outlined in the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision.

Figure 1: Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

ITEM 5

Council Plan

Under the Act (Section 90), Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. Council must adopt the Council Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election.

Resources needed for effective implementation of the Council Plan are outlined in the Budget, and risks to effective implementation identified and addressed through Council's Risk Management Framework.

Reporting against the Council Plan is undertaken quarterly to Council. Reporting on annual achievements is undertaken through the Annual Report and the 'Our Achievements' document.

The *Council Plan 2025-2029* is Maroondah City Council's medium-term strategy linking the local community's aspirations and priorities for the future of Maroondah, as detailed in the community vision *Maroondah 2050 – Our future together*, to the current and future work of Council.

The new four-year *Council Plan 2025-2029* is structured around the five future outcome areas of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision. Extending across the period from 2025/26 to 2028/29 the document outlines Council's goals and key directions, priority actions, strategic indicators, services, and supporting strategies, plans and policies.

Development of the *Council Plan 2025-2029* has been informed by an extensive community engagement process which resulted in over 9800 inputs from our diverse Maroondah community; recommendations from the Maroondah 2050 Community Panel; and research into emerging trends, opportunities and challenges to set the future direction for Maroondah.

Financial Plan

Under the Act (Section 91), Council must develop or review the Financial Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Financial Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election. The scope of a Financial Plan is a period of at least the next 10 financial years

The Financial Plan is developed in the context of the following strategic planning principles:

- a) Council has an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting.
- b) Council's Financial Plan addresses the Community Vision by funding the aspirations and priorities outlined in the Council Plan. The Council Plan key directions and priority actions are formulated in the context of the Community Vision.
- c) The Financial Plan statements articulate the 10-year financial resources necessary to implement the goals and aspirations of the Council Plan to achieve the Community Vision.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

ITEM 5

- d) Council's strategic planning principles identify and address the risks to effective implementation of the Financial Plan.
- e) The Financial Plan provides for the strategic planning principles of monitoring of progress and reviews to identify and adapt to changing circumstances.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Under the Act (Section 93), Council must prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which Council proposes to work.

Council provides a broad range of services and facilities to our local community, and in doing so, must collect revenue to cover the cost of providing these services and facilities.

The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Council, which in conjunction with other income sources will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

This plan sets out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available under the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also set out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

Budget

Under *Division 2 - Budget Process - Section 94* of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must prepare a budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years

The Budget is one of Council's high-level strategic documents. The 2025/26 budget is aligned to the vision outlined in the Council Plan 2025-2029. It seeks to maintain and improve services and infrastructure as well as deliver projects and services that are valued by our community within the capped rate increase mandated by the Victorian Government. This Budget projects a surplus of \$17.61 million for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Budget is a critical planning and resource tool of Council and is vital to the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council. It sets out the expected income and expenditure for the next four years and also incorporates Council's rates and charges as well as estimating the net worth of the municipality at the end of each year. It is the culmination of detailed preparation by employees and management, including consultation with Councillors.

The *2025/26 Budget* is closely linked to the achievement of the *Council Plan 2025-2029* as part of Council's integrated planning and reporting framework. The *2025/26 Budget* outlines the provision of financial resources for the next 12 months and details how these resources will be applied to meet the actions and initiatives detailed in the Council Plan, as well as delivering the more than 120 services and the extensive range of programs and activities that Council provides to the Maroondah community.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

ITEM 5

The 2025/26 Budget contains 39 major initiatives as identified in the Council Plan. These initiatives will contribute to the achievement of the key directions identified in the four-year Council Plan and ultimately the outcomes as outlined in the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision.

Statutory requirements

The Act defines the legislative requirements for the Council Plan, Financial Plan, Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan.

Council Plan

In terms of the Council Plan, several sections of the Act are relevant.

- Section 90 of the Act requires Council to prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next 4 financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. Council must develop or review the Council Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Council Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election, with effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.
- Section 89 of the Act requires preparation of the Council Plan to be in accordance with the strategic planning principles of the Act which require:
 - (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and reporting;
 - (b) addressing of the Community Vision;
 - (c) taking into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
 - (d) identifying and addressing the risks to effective implementation; and
 - (e) providing for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular review.
- Section 90(2) of the Act also requires Council to include in the Council Plan:
 - (a) the strategic direction of Council;
 - (b) strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction;
 - (c) strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next 4 financial years;
 - (d) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;
 - (e) a description of Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity; and
 - (e) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

ITEM 5

Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan, and Budget

In terms of the Financial Plan, Revenue and Rating Plan, and Budget, a number of sections of the Act are relevant.

- Section 93 of the Act requires Council to prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by the next 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next four financial years;
- Section 91 of the Act requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force a Financial Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and is for a period of at least 10 financial years;
- Section 94 of the Act requires Council to prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year and subsequent 3 financial years. It must adopt its budget by 30 June each year or such other date fixed by the Minister;
- Section 96 of the Act provides that Council must develop the budget in accordance with the financial management principles and its community engagement policy; and
- The Section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989* remains in force at this time in relation to the declaration of rates and charges and requires Council to declare, for each financial year, the amount which the Council intends to raise by general rates, service rates and service charges by 30 June.
- Section 39 of the Act provides that A Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor is entitled to receive from the Council an allowance as a Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor in accordance with a Determination of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019.

Community consultation

A number of sections of the Act are relevant In terms of community consultation for the Council Plan, Financial Plan and Budget.

- Sections 90(3) and 91(4) of the Act require that the Council Plan and Financial Plan are prepared in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices.
- Section 96(1)(b) of the Act requires that the Budget is prepared in accordance with Council's community engagement policy.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council Plan

The *Council Plan 2025-2029* is structured to meet to legislative requirements of the Act. The Maroondah 2050 Community Vision sets the strategic direction for Council, with the five outcome areas of the Vision acting as the strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

ITEM 5

For each outcome area, the strategies for achieving the objectives are articulated through the key directions, and Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity are contained within the priority actions. Each outcome area also has a set of strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives.

Key directions

The key directions listed in the *Council Plan 2025-2029* describe the key policy areas and strategies of Council to guide Council service delivery and inform priority actions for the four years of the Council Plan (2025/26 to 2028/29). There are key directions identified for each outcome area of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision. The key directions are as follows, with details within the Council Plan 2025-2029 document.

A healthy, inclusive and connected community

- Provide inclusive and accessible leisure and sporting facilities and programs for undertaking physical activity.
- Enhance local parks, reserves and paths and trails to provide further opportunities for active and passive recreation.
- Advocate for accessible and appropriately located health and wellbeing services and facilities within Maroondah.
- Provide inclusive and accessible programs, services and initiatives that promote wellbeing, build resilience, and reduce vulnerability.
- Provide programs, services and initiatives that protect, improve and promote public health.
- Promote equity, respect and understanding to foster an inclusive community where everyone is welcome and valued.
- Ensure equity and inclusion principles are considered in the provision of services, programs, and events.
- Partner to support the needs of people in Maroondah who experience vulnerability, marginalisation or disadvantage.
- Partner with the First Peoples of Maroondah, the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung People of the Kulin Nation, to acknowledge, celebrate and engage with their heritage, culture and communities.
- Partner to advocate for the needs of, and greater opportunities for, Maroondah's First People.
- Advocate and facilitate increased provision of safe and secure social and affordable housing in Maroondah.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

ITEM 5

- Facilitate the provision of lifelong learning opportunities for all people in Maroondah.
- Provide inclusive and accessible places and spaces in the built and natural environments for community gathering and social connection.
- Provide inclusive and welcoming programs, initiatives, events and experiences that create opportunities for social interaction and connection.
- Support community groups, clubs and organisations as providers of opportunities for belonging, connection and participation.
- Encourage and support volunteering across Maroondah to promote social inclusion, involvement in community life, and education and employment pathways.

A safe and liveable community

- Partner to deliver community safety programs, initiatives and infrastructure improvements.
- Promote and facilitate safer cultures, spaces and settings in relation to social harms.
- Advocate and partner for the prevention and early intervention of violence and abuse.
- Advocate to preserve and enhance the valued and unique attributes of Maroondah's neighbourhoods and activity centres, including the green, leafy natural environment, neighbourhood character and local history and heritage.
- Strategically plan and advocate for the future built environment needs of the Maroondah community, including housing, transport, infrastructure, facilities, land use, and open space.
- Advocate and continue to plan for the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre to be a vibrant regional destination with an active local economy, and contemporary lifestyle options set in a natural landscape which is connected through an integrated and efficient transport network.
- Plan and advocate for the sustainable development of Croydon, Heathmont and Ringwood East activity centres, integrating diverse housing and accessible transport options, with access to local businesses, services and amenities.
- Enhance neighbourhood centres through place-based planning to enable opportunities for local business, access to services and places for social connection.
- Encourage urban planning, design and construction that is attractive, sustainable and enhances the connection between the built, natural and social environments.
- Ensure safety, inclusion, accessibility and sustainable design principles are considered in the planning, development and enhancement of Council facilities, infrastructure and spaces.

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- Provide appropriately located community precincts and facilities that meet the diverse needs of our current and future community.
- Advocate for a greater diversity of appropriately located housing to meet the current and future needs of the Maroondah community.
- Advocate and plan for integrated safe, accessible and sustainable road and public transport infrastructure to meet current and future transport needs in Maroondah.
- Enhance pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in Maroondah to enable safe, accessible and connected active transport options.

A green and sustainable community

- Create and foster a culture within our community that is committed to protecting and enhancing the unique features of Maroondah's landscape and natural environment.
- Preserve and enhance Maroondah's parks, reserves, gardens, bushlands, street and canopy trees, vegetation, indigenous plants, creek corridors, wetlands, and waterways.
- Protect, restore, enhance and maintain biodiversity, biolinks and habitat corridors.
- Provide for the inclusion of trees, vegetation and green infrastructure within activity centres and the built environment.
- Provide regional and sector leadership in environmental sustainability.
- Partner to mitigate and adapt to the effects and impacts of climate change on community health and wellbeing, and the natural and built environments.
- Partner to educate, encourage and incentivise the community to make more sustainable choices, reduce waste, and reuse, recycle and recover resources.
- Partner to ensure effective stormwater management and flood mitigation across Maroondah.

A vibrant and prosperous community

- Facilitate vibrant places and spaces through placemaking initiatives and events, including public art and arts activations.
- Enhance cultural precincts and venues as vibrant places where the community can connect, learn and create.
- Facilitate and program a diverse range of arts and cultural initiatives and experiences through engagement with the local creative sector.
- Promote the competitive strengths of Maroondah, and build strong partnerships, to facilitate economic development and investment attraction in the outer eastern region.

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- Leverage the strategic location and unique roles of the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre, the Croydon Major Activity Centre and the Bayswater Business Precinct as significant contributors to local and regional economic growth and employment opportunities.
- Enhance the accessibility and amenity of neighbourhood centres and commercial and industrial precincts across Maroondah to facilitate thriving local and regional businesses with diverse employment opportunities.
- Provide business development support to enable strong, successful and sustainable local businesses.
- Enhance business resource hubs that enable access to business support, encourage innovation and support alternative modes of employment.
- Promote skills development and employment pathways and opportunities for all people in Maroondah.

A well governed and empowered community

- Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.
- Prioritise responsible, sustainable and timely management of Maroondah's financial resources, assets, infrastructure and the natural environment.
- Undertake evidence informed strategic planning and policy development that promotes the social, environmental (built-form and natural) and economic sustainability of Maroondah.
- Embed a culture of being collaborative, strategic and sustainable, implementing best practice principles, to further position Maroondah City Council as a leader in local government.
- Foster a workforce that is adaptable, capable, positive and engaged.
- Deliver services to the Maroondah community that are people-focused, proactive, integrated and responsive.
- Foster and leverage local and regional partnership opportunities with community organisations, service providers, businesses, and other levels of government.
- Embed innovative digital solutions that enhance service delivery, asset management, cyber security, communications and community engagement.
- Advocate for and champion the needs and aspirations of the community to the Victorian and Australian Governments, service providers and the business sector.
- Partner with key agencies and other levels of government to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disruptions.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029, FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26-2034/35, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26-2028/29 AND 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET Cont'd

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- Provide the Maroondah community with timely and accessible information on matters important to them, including tailored information for both diverse and hard-to-reach groups.
- Undertake meaningful, creative and inclusive engagement to understand community needs, priorities, and aspirations.
- Deliver an integrated, responsive and accessible customer service experience for the Maroondah community.
- Promote and raise the awareness of Maroondah's facilities, services, programs, projects and events.

Priority actions

The priority actions listed in the *Council Plan 2025-2029* describe the initiatives to be undertaken by Council, over the four-year period from 2025/26 to 2028/29, that will significantly contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan key directions. For *Budget* purposes, all listed Council Plan priority actions above have been classified as *Major Initiatives*.

The *Council Plan 2025-2029* includes a total of 43 priority actions for the four-year period from 2025/26 to 2028/29 as listed below. Of the 43 priority actions, 39 will either commence in 2025/26 or continue on from 2024/25. These are identified in the list below with an asterisk (*).

A healthy, inclusive and connected community

- 1) Determine Council's role in positive ageing and support for Maroondah's older people.*
- 2) Review, update and implement the *Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031* (including the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan).*
- 3) Develop and implement Council's Reconciliation Plan.*
- 4) Undertake the staged redevelopment of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct.*
- 5) Work in partnership with a broad range of service providers and community organisations and groups to develop and deliver services, activities and experiences in the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct.*
- 6) Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to support the construction of a new hospital in Maroondah to ensure the location and construction maximises community benefit.*
- 7) Design and construct the redevelopment of The Rings and Ringwood Golf (subject to funding).*
- 8) Design and construct the Quambee Reserve tennis redevelopment.*
- 9) Work in partnership to plan for and support the Victorian Government kindergarten reforms, including advocating for funding at all levels of Government for new and redeveloped facilities to enable these reforms in Maroondah.*

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- 10) Design and construct the Croydon North Early Learning Centre (subject to funding).

A safe and liveable community

- 11) Construct the Ringwood Activity Centre Car Park.*
- 12) Develop and implement a liveable neighbourhoods strategy.*
- 13) Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to implement the objectives of Victoria's Housing Statement for the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre.*
- 14) Undertake staged enhancements of the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre including:
- Maroondah Highway Boulevard (subject to funding)
 - Staley Gardens (subject to funding).*
- 15) Develop and implement masterplans for the Croydon and Ringwood East activity centres.*
- 16) Work in partnership to implement road improvement works at:
- Eastfield Road, Railway Avenue and Morinda Street, Ringwood East
 - Holloway Road, Croydon North
 - Glenvale Road, Ringwood North.*
- 17) Implement technological advancements for car parking management within Maroondah.*
- 18) Undertake footpath construction in the Principal Pedestrian Network and progress renewal of the Mullum Mullum Creek shared trail.*
- 19) Advocate to the Australian and Victorian Governments for the provision of new and upgraded transportation infrastructure in Maroondah.*

A green and sustainable community

- 20) Work in partnership to advocate to the Victorian Government to postpone the mandatory implementation of the glass only bin service to households, as well as the expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme.*
- 21) Implement Council's *Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031*, including the development of a Climate Change Plan.*
- 22) Review, update and implement Council's *Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030*.*
- 23) Develop and implement a series of Biolink Action Plans that implement the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Study.*
- 24) Work in partnership to deliver the staged implementation of the *Reimagining Tarralla Creek* project*

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25) Undertake flood mitigation works at:

- San Remo Road, Ringwood North
- Possum Lane, Heathmont
- Erica Crescent, Heathmont.*

26) Implement Council's annual streetscape enhancement program.*

A vibrant and prosperous community

27) Develop and implement Council's Creative Maroondah Strategy.*

28) Construct the staged redevelopment of Karralyka (subject to funding).*

29) Work in partnership to implement the *Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy* and investigate and implement innovative opportunities to enhance business capability, skill development, employment and education pathways for the manufacturing sector.*

30) Identify and facilitate co-working opportunities and spaces in Maroondah.*

31) Work in partnership to explore, plan and implement a regional women in business program.*

32) Work in partnership to explore, plan and implement a regional business awards program.*

A well governed and empowered community

33) Implement the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision.*

34) Develop and implement Council's Customer Service Strategy.*

35) Develop and implement Council's Communications Strategy.*

36) Implement Council's *Property Management Strategy 2025-2029*.*

37) Review a range of Council's core technological systems and undertake the phased implementation of enterprise-wide replacement systems.*

38) Evolve organisational capacity and implement systems to minimise risks to cybersecurity impacts.*

39) Partner and advocate regionally with the Eastern Region Group of Councils to address common challenges and progress shared priorities.*

40) Advocate on key local issues on behalf of the Maroondah community in the lead up to the Victorian and Australian Government elections.*

41) Engage the community in undertaking a refresh of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision and prepare the Council Plan 2029-2033 following election of a new Council.*

42) Work in partnership with the Victorian Electoral Commission to coordinate a Council Election in October 2028 for the 2028-2032 period.*

43) Implement the Council Election Period Policy for the Council election in October 2028, and transition to a new Council following the election.*

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FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

These are contained within the *Council Plan 2025-2029* at an aggregated level and articulate Council's current policy directions.

The adoption of the *Annual Budget 2025/26* (and associated documents) contributes to compliance with the financial planning and reporting requirements of the Act, along with providing an important tool to monitor and control the detailed financial performance and directions of Council over the next 10 years.

The *Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 to 2028/29* explains how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

These are contained within the *Council Plan 2025-2029* at an aggregated level and articulate Council's current policy directions.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

These are contained within the *Council Plan 2025-2029* at an aggregated level and articulate Council's current policy directions.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

An extensive and thorough community and stakeholder consultation process was undertaken to inform the development of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision and *Council Plan 2025-2029*.

The engagement was undertaken in a number of stages between August 2023 and May 2025 and included:

- **Broad community and stakeholder engagement** undertaken between August and December 2023 using surveys, workshops, pop-up event activities, and online activities.
- **Targeted engagement** with harder to reach and under-represented population cohorts undertaken between February and April 2024 using surveys, workshops and pop-event activities; and Maroondah advisory committee input was captured between May and June 2024
- **Deliberative engagement** with the Maroondah 2050 Community Panel undertaken between February and May 2024.
- **Public exhibition** of the Council Plan 2025-2029 in April and May 2025.

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Broad community and stakeholder engagement (August - December 2023)

An extensive community and stakeholder engagement process was undertaken between August and December 2023. The aim of this stage of engagement was to provide all Maroondah community members with opportunities to share their thoughts, aspirations, and ideas for the future of Maroondah.

The broad community and stakeholder engagement stage was designed so that there was an extensive range of activities available – both online and face to face – and that these activities were delivered to a range of cohorts of people across the municipality. A broad range of communication mechanisms were used to promote the engagement to encourage participation.

The engagement program for the broad community and stakeholder engagement included the following:

- A dedicated Maroondah 2050 Community Vision Your Say Maroondah webpage containing information about the project, and opportunities for the community to provide their input via a series of engagement activities.
- A Maroondah 2050 Community Vision survey – in both online and hard copy formats.
- Face to face, pop-up engagement at a series of Council events, in each of Council's nine Wards (Councillors and officers delivered these), and on the ground floor of the Realm building in Ringwood.
- Workshops with all Council advisory committees, key stakeholders, Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community leaders, and young people.
- Employee engagement as both the Realm and Operations Centre sites.

Engagement activities undertaken during the broad community and stakeholder engagement included the following:

- Community survey (both online and in hard copy) which asked community members to share what they love about Maroondah, their vision for the future of Maroondah, and what they believe Council's future priorities should be?
- Vision boards where community members were asked to share their vision for the future of Maroondah in three words.
- Voting tubes where community members were asked to vote for what was most important to them for the future of Maroondah from 10 current and emerging priorities (both adult and children's versions were used).
- Online activities where community members could vote for future priorities and share their thoughts on what makes Maroondah great, and what they see the future of Maroondah looking like.

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- Workshop activities where participants used Menti technology and small group discussions to share their thoughts on the future of Maroondah.

In total, the community, stakeholders and employees participated in the following engagement activities:

- 386 community surveys completed (both online and/or in hard copy).
- 519 responses on the vision boards available at pop-up engagement sessions, the ground floor foyer of the Realm building, and at other Council sites.
- 4614 votes via the voting tubes at a variety of engagement sessions for community members and employees of Council.
- 106 responses via online activities (online ideas board and quick poll) on the Your Say Maroondah 2050 Community Vision webpage.
- 250 participants in workshops with key stakeholders, community leaders, youth advocates, advisory committee and Council employees.

In total, from all engagement activities Council received more than 8900 contributions over the four key focus areas.

- 672 individual responses on values - what makes Maroondah great.
- 1356 individual responses on aspirations - their hopes and dreams for the future of Maroondah.
- 5642 individual responses on priorities - what Council, its partners, and the Maroondah community should focus on in the future.
- 1244 individual responses on actions - what could be done by Council, its partners, and the Maroondah community to achieve future aspirations and priorities.

Targeted community engagement (January - June 2024)

The targeted engagement process aimed to build on the inputs received during the broad community and stakeholder engagement. Targeted community members and/or groups were determined following a review of the initial results from the broad community and stakeholder engagement activity, along with a comparison with the ABS 2021 Census of Population and Housing statistics for the City of Maroondah.

It was identified that the preparation of the new Community Vision would benefit from further engagement opportunities being undertaken with harder to reach or under-represented people within the Maroondah community, including: young people and young adults (aged 12-25 years); First Peoples; members of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities; people with disability and carers of people with a disability; and socially isolated and vulnerable members of our community, including older people aged over 85 years.

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The engagement program for the targeted engagement included the following:

- A simplified version of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision survey – online, telephone and hard copy formats.
- Face to face, pop-up engagement at a series of Council and community activities and events.
- Workshops with community leaders, students/young people and Council advisory committees.
- Two members of the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates group joined the Maroondah 2050 Community Panel with the aim of ensuring that young people were represented in the deliberative engagement process, for the development of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision.

Activities undertaken during targeted engagement process included the following:

- Simplified community survey (online, telephone, and in hard copy) which asked community members to share what they love about Maroondah, what they believe Council's future priorities should be, and their vision for the future of Maroondah.
- Voting tubes using simplified themes covering 10 current and emerging priorities. Community members (aged 12 years and over) were asked to vote for what was most important to them for the future of Maroondah.
- Workshop activities where participants participated in small group discussions and used technology, such as Menti, to share their thoughts on the future of Maroondah.

In total, 891 contributions were received from 279 participants throughout the targeted engagement process. This included the following:

- 18 individual responses from Maroondah's First People.
- 84 individual responses from young people.
- 445 individual responses from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members.
- 18 individual responses from people with a disability, and their carers.
- 326 individual responses from socially isolated and vulnerable members of the community.

A further 21 ideas were put forward during a second round of workshops with Council advisory committee members.

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Maroondah 2050 Community Panel (February - May 2024)

As well as Council's commitment to effectively engage with the local community, section 88(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to maintain a Community Vision that is developed with its municipal community in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

To inform the development of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision, Council undertook a deliberative engagement process with a demographically representative group of Maroondah community members between April and May 2024.

Recruitment for the Maroondah 2050 Community Panel was undertaken concurrently with the broad community and stakeholder engagement and occurred between August and December 2023. The expression of interest was open to Maroondah community members who met all of the following criteria: live or work in Maroondah; aged 18 years or older; not a Maroondah City Council Councillor or employee; available between February and April 2024 to attend Maroondah 2050 Community Panel workshop sessions.

Selection of Maroondah 2050 Community Panel members was undertaken by Maroondah City Council officers. ABS 2021 Census of Population and Health data for Maroondah was used to select a demographically representative group. A total of 34 community members accepted the invitation to join the Maroondah 2050 Community Panel.

Maroondah 2050 Community Panel members attended five workshop sessions, receiving information and presentations from Council officers and working with Council and an external facilitator to recommend their vision for Maroondah in 2050 as well as make recommendations for the forthcoming Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

Public exhibition (April and May 2025)

The *Council Plan 2025-2029, Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 to 2028/29, and Annual Budget 2025/26* were placed on public exhibition from 22 April - 20 May 2025. Community members were encouraged to review the draft documents and provide their feedback via an online survey.

The public exhibition process involved 727 visits to the Council's future strategic plans Your Say Maroondah webpage.

Council Plan 2025-2029

During the public exhibition period there were:

- 119 downloads of the *Council Plan 2025-2029*
- 23 feedback surveys completed.

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The community feedback reinforced the following priorities for the Maroondah community: preserving and enhancing Maroondah's natural environment; enhancing local parks, reserves and paths/trails; inclusion of trees, vegetation and green infrastructure with activity centres and the built environment; enhancing cultural precincts and venues; and ensuring transparent and accountable governance for Maroondah.

Suggestions during the public exhibition process by the Maroondah community were considered in the finalisation of the *Council Plan 2025-2029*. Feedback relevant to future strategic and service planning activities will be shared across Council.

Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35

No feedback was received during the public exhibition period.

Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 to 2028/29

In total, during the public exhibition period there were two feedback surveys completed relating to the Revenue and Rating Plan. This feedback related to the potential inclusion of differential rates for retirement village properties.

Annual Budget 2025/26





No feedback was received during the public exhibition period.

CONCLUSION

The *Council Plan 2025-2029, Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26-2028/29 and Annual Budget 2025/26 (strategic documents)* have been prepared and reflect Council's commitment to pursue excellence, good governance and responsible management of resources for the Maroondah community.

To meet Council's legislative obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Council Plan 2025-2029, Financial Plan 2025/26-2034/35, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26-2028/29 and Annual Budget 2025/26* are presented for Council adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Council Plan 2025-2029
2.  Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35
3.  Revenue and Rating Plan 2025/26 to 2028/29
4.  Annual Budget 2025/26

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

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RECOMMENDATION

A. COUNCIL PLAN

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. ADOPTS THE COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029**
- 2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 57 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY 2020 AUTHORISE OFFICERS TO MAKE THE COUNCIL PLAN AVAILABLE ON COUNCIL'S WEBSITE AND AT COUNCIL OFFICES**
- 3. AUTHORISES OFFICERS TO ARRANGE FOR THE SUITABLE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNCIL PLAN TO COMMUNITY GROUPS AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS**

B. FINANCIAL PLAN

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. ADOPTS THE FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35**
- 2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 57 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY 2020 AUTHORISE OFFICERS TO MAKE THE FINANCIAL PLAN AVAILABLE ON COUNCIL'S WEBSITE AND AT COUNCIL OFFICES**

C. REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. ADOPTS THE REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025/26 - 2028/29**
- 2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 57 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY 2020 AUTHORISE OFFICERS TO MAKE THE REVENUE AND RATING PLAN AVAILABLE ON COUNCIL'S WEBSITE AND AT COUNCIL OFFICES**

D. BUDGET

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. ADOPTS THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2025/26, AS PRESENTED**
- 2. ADOPTS THE SCHEDULE OF USER FEES AND CHARGES, AS DETAILED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2025/26, TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM 1 JULY 2025 (EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE INDICATED)**

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3. **APPLIES DIFFERENTIAL RATING USING CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE (CIV) AS THE BASIS OF VALUATION TO ALL RATEABLE LAND TO RAISE RATES BY 3.00 PER CENT IN 2025/26**
4. **APPLIES THE FINAL CONFIRMATION TO THE VALUATION DATA PROVIDED BY THE VALUER GENERAL AND SIGNED BY THE MINISTER IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE MINISTER'S RATE CAP DETERMINATION**
5. **APPLIES A SERVICE CHARGE FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE AS DETAILED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2025/26**
6. **ENDORSES THAT THE RATES WILL BE SEPARATELY LEVIED IN RESPECT TO EACH PORTION OF RATEABLE LAND FOR WHICH COUNCIL HAS AS A SEPARATE VALUATION (UNLESS COUNCIL HAS DETERMINED A CHARGE IN LIEU OF RATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL LANDS ACT 1963)**
7. **IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 167 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989, DECLARES THE RATES AND CHARGES MUST BE PAID:**

7.1 IN A LUMP SUM ON OR BEFORE 16 FEBRUARY 2026 OR

7.2 BY FOUR INSTALMENTS ON OR BEFORE:

- **30 SEPTEMBER 2025**
- **01 DECEMBER 2025**
- **02 MARCH 2026**
- **1 JUNE 2026 OR**

7.3 BY NINE MONTHLY DIRECT DEBIT INSTALMENTS DUE:

- **30 SEPTEMBER 2025**
- **31 OCTOBER 2025**
- **30 NOVEMBER 2025**
- **31 DECEMBER 2025**
- **31 JANUARY 2026**
- **28 FEBRUARY 2026**
- **31 MARCH 2026**
- **30 APRIL 2026**

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8. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 57 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY 2020 AUTHORISE OFFICERS TO MAKE THE ADOPTED BUDGET 2025/26 AVAILABLE ON COUNCIL'S WEBSITE AND AT COUNCIL OFFICES
9. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 (4) OF THE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL LANDS ACT 1963, THE AMOUNTS IN LIEU OF RATES PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF EACH RATEABLE LAND TO WHICH THAT ACT APPLIES BE THE AMOUNTS RESPECTIVELY SET OUT BELOW:

Land	\$
Heathmont Club Inc.	4,623.25
Bayswater North Tennis Club	1,583.30
Eastwood Golf Club	12,159.85
TOTAL	18,366.40

10. WILL APPLY INTEREST TO OVERDUE RATES AND CHARGES PAYMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 172 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989, NOTING THAT THE RATE OF INTEREST IS PAYABLE ON THE RATES AND CHARGES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PAID BY THE DATES DECLARED, IS FIXED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2 OF THE PENALTY INTEREST RATES ACT 1983

E. GENERAL

THAT COUNCIL

1. AUTHORISES THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO MAKE ANY IMMATERIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS AS REQUIRED TO ALL STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

**EASTERN REGION GROUP OF COUNCILS (ERG) AND
REGION SHARED SERVICE PROVISIONS**

ITEM 6

PURPOSE

To consider and endorse the Eastern Regional Group of Council's (ERG) Strategic Plan 2025-2029, along with a commitment to support the shared priorities identified in the Plan.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Community's Aspiration: Council continues to be a transparent, accountable, and future-focused leader that collaborates locally and regionally and actively champions local needs. Everyone in Maroondah is informed about matters that affect them and are provided opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable
- 8.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets, infrastructure and natural environment
- 8.11 Work in partnership to advocate for and champion the needs and aspirations of the community to Victorian and Australian levels of government, service providers and the business sector
- 8.12 Foster local and regional partnerships with individuals, community groups, businesses, service providers, agencies and all levels of government

BACKGROUND

The ERG comprises Mayors, Deputy Mayors and CEOs of five eastern councils - Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges. The current Chair is Cr Deirdre Diamante, Mayor of Manningham City Council.

The ERG acts as a catalyst for these councils to collaborate and partner on shared priorities through advocacy, integrated planning, shared services and joint procurement to benefit the communities of the region.

The group continues to strengthen each year, with stronger relationships across member councils and with a higher profile among regional stakeholders. Activities are underpinned by a four-year Strategic Plan.

The ERG has completed an extensive review process of its Strategic Plan 2025-29 for consideration by June 2025, in line with the development of the five eastern Council Plans.

**EASTERN REGION GROUP OF COUNCILS (ERG) AND
REGION SHARED SERVICE PROVISIONS Cont'd**

ITEM 6

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The ERG has played a key role in a range of strategic projects, including:

- Developing Plan East and the Voice for the East campaign to inform the *Plan for Victoria*.
- Holding meetings between the CEO and ERG, as well as council officer workshops, to shape strategic priorities and actions for the Strategic Plan.
- Collaborating with Melbourne's East Economic Development Group to design and deliver both short- and long-term regional initiatives.
- Contributing to the Parliamentary Inquiry into recent planning reforms and providing feedback on the draft *Infrastructure Victoria Strategy*.
- Creating a regional navigator to support understanding and navigation of recent planning reforms.
- Writing to Ministers to raise concerns and offer solutions about planning reforms and tree canopy clearance for electricity infrastructure.
- Developing a Federal Government advocacy platform, which was shared with election candidates.

The ERG Strategic Plan 2025-29

The Strategic Plan sets a longer-term vision for the region and the outcomes sought for each of four 'pillars' - People, Places, Economy and Environment.

The vision for the region is to be connected, healthy, sustainable and prosperous, supported by financially secure, high performing councils.

- **People:** Resilient, cohesive communities who enjoy an improving quality of life, great access to services and better health and wellbeing.
- **Places:** Great places that foster social cohesion, equality of opportunity, are resource efficient and healthy, in a region that's easy to get around by active or public transport for short distances.
- **Economy:** Local employment opportunities support a diverse and adaptable workforce who enjoy a connected, competitive, and prosperous future.
- **Environment:** Environmental stewardship and regional responses to sustainability with spaces for people and nature where healthy ecosystems support healthy people and growing economies.

There are five strategic priorities supported by ERG projects and activities:

1. Build shared services and increase joint procurement
2. Enhance regional infrastructure

**EASTERN REGION GROUP OF COUNCILS (ERG) AND
REGION SHARED SERVICE PROVISIONS Cont'd**

ITEM 6

3. Transform movement in the East
4. Support community safety
5. Develop local employment

ERG's focus is on activities that benefit all councils, reduce duplication and avoid competing interests. We aim to achieve a more enabling operating environment, improve community infrastructure and liveability, and more efficient and effective councils.

These respond directly to the challenges ERG councils face relating to financial sustainability, housing and population growth and other external pressures.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The ERG Strategic Plan identifies several shared regional economic challenges and opportunities. Strategic priorities within the Plan include collaborative efforts to promote shared services and joint procurement to improve council services in a rate-capped, fiscally constrained environment; and enhance cooperative economic development activities regionally to promote local employment.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

The ERG Strategic Plan identifies several shared regional built and natural environment challenges and opportunities. A strategic priority within the Plan involves implementing a 'Transform movement in the East' initiative including development of a regional Sustainable and Integrated Transport Plan. Another priority relates to enhancing regional infrastructure by undertaking a Community Infrastructure Needs Analysis.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

The ERG Strategic Plan identifies several shared regional social and community challenges and opportunities. A strategic priority within the Plan involves supporting community safety initiatives to facilitate a place-based coordinated response to local issues between all levels of government and service agencies.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Through extensive community engagement in preparing their respective community vision and Council Plan strategic documents, ERG Councils have identified what is most important to their communities and the broader region. Community feedback has been incorporated into the ERG Strategic Plan under the four pillars of People, Places, Economy, and Environment. To support the four pillars, five strategic priorities have been identified, as informed by community input to emerging Council Plans for each of the ERG Councils.

CONCLUSION

The Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) is a key collaborative partnership mechanism that amplifies the voice and impact of participating Councils; enhances their collective efficiency and effectiveness; and improves community access to infrastructure and services across the region. The ERG Strategic Plan sets out a longer-term vision for the region and the shared priorities of this group over the 2025-2029 period.

**EASTERN REGION GROUP OF COUNCILS (ERG) AND
REGION SHARED SERVICE PROVISIONS Cont'd**

ITEM 6

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Draft ERG Strategic Plan 2025-2029

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SECTION 9 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 EXPRESSLY PROVIDES FOR OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES THAT INCLUDE THE DESIRE FOR COUNCILS TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER COUNCILS, GOVERNMENTS AND STATUTORY BODIES**
2. **ENDORSE COLLABORATION BY THE EASTERN REGION GROUP OF COUNCILS (ERG) TO:**
 - i. **AMPLIFY EACH COUNCIL'S VOICE AND IMPACT,**
 - ii. **IMPROVE EACH COUNCIL'S EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS, AND**
 - iii. **IMPROVE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES ACROSS THE REGION**
3. **ENDORSE ERG'S FOUR-YEAR PLAN AND SUPPORT THE PRIORITY ACTIONS THEREIN WHICH INCLUDE AN EMPHASIS ON JOINT PROCUREMENT AND SHARED SERVICE PROVISION ACROSS MEMBER COUNCILS AND IN SO DOING:**
 - i. **COMMIT TO EXPLORE, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE SHARED SERVICE PROVISION WITH ERG PARTNER COUNCILS WITH SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONGER TERM OBJECTIVES;**
 - ii. **EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, DIRECT SERVICE PROVISION, PARTNERED SERVICES WITH OTHER AGENCIES OR OUTSOURCED SERVICE PROVISION;**
 - iii. **ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE SHARED SERVICES OUTCOMES; AND**
 - iv. **ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES BEST PRACTICE MODEL AS AN EXEMPLAR FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR MORE BROADLY**

CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2025/26

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval for the proposed projects as part of the *Capital Funding for Community Groups Funding* Program for the 2025/26 financial year.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (2024-2025 Update) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A safe and liveable community

Our Community's Aspiration: Everyone in Maroondah feels physically and emotionally safe. Local neighbourhoods and activity centres are easy to move around. There are the housing options, amenities and services people need to live, work, learn and play locally. The unique attributes of Maroondah, and our local history and heritage, are valued and promoted.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025

- 1.13 Promote physical activity by supporting education initiatives and providing a diverse range of accessible active and passive open spaces, state of the art sporting precincts and integrated recreation facilities.
- 1.14 Work in partnership to increase opportunities and create welcoming, supportive and accessible environments for all community members to undertake physical activity.

BACKGROUND

There are two (2) categories available for organisations to apply for Capital Funding:

- **Category 1** – projects up to \$7,000 GST Excluded, which are fully funded by Council; and
- **Category 2** – projects over 7,000 GST Excluded, where a Council contribution of 50% of the total project cost (with a max of \$75,000 Council contribution) applies.

The Capital Funding for Community Groups 2025/2026 Program was advertised on Council's website. Application guidelines were sent to all kindergartens, senior citizens groups, youth groups and sporting clubs/organisations, within the municipality, that utilise Council facilities.

The application process involved two stages: Stage 1 required applicants to submit an initial project proposal for Council consideration. Council officers reviewed the submissions and recommended eligible projects to Stage 2, which required a detailed project submission and full written application. Organisations were requested to submit applications for Capital Funding for Community Groups 2025/2026 by Sunday 4th May 2025.

The Capital Funding for Community Groups 2025/2026 review process was undertaken by Council Officers, and Councillors were briefed on the status of the review process at the Councillor Briefing on Monday 2nd June.

**CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2025/26
Cont'd****ITEM 1**

All applications received were considered and recommendations were made based on a clearly defined set of selection criteria, which included:

Community Benefit

- Demonstrated a direct benefit to the residents of the City of Maroondah;
- Evidence that supports an anticipated increase in participation rates;
- The extent to which the project maximises the use of the facility;
- That the proposed project is sympathetic to the surrounds of the reserve or building; and
- The extent to which projects address the issues of safety and risk management

Evidence of Need

- Evidence that demonstrates community support and need for the project;
- Evidence to demonstrate improvement to Council's community assets; and
- The extent to which the project is supported by an adopted concept plan, feasibility assessment and/or linked to any planning process of Council

Financial Assessment

- The financial capacity of the organisation to service a deferred payment plan and initial cash contribution; and
- The ability of the project to be completed within the following financial year

Category 1 (i.e. less than \$7,000 GST Excluded) projects are fully funded by Council with no organisational contribution. The Category 2 (i.e. over \$7,000 GST Excluded) project costs are split evenly between Council and the organisation (with a maximum Council contribution of \$75,000). The organisational contribution is also split between an upfront contribution of at least 50% and an optional 5-year deferred payment to be repaid to Council by the relevant organisation.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Nineteen (19) community groups requested a total of \$286,800 (exclusive of GST) in funding assistance, from which thirteen (13) projects are recommended to receive funding.

The submissions recommended for funding are detailed in Attachment 1.

In relation to the six (6) projects not recommended for funding in the 2025/2026 program, Council officers will provide feedback on the applications and work with these organisations in preparation for future funding submissions.

**CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2025/26
Cont'd****ITEM 1****FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

A total of \$190,000 (GST Exclusive) is available for allocation in the Capital Funding for Community Groups 2025/2026 Program budget. Thirteen (13) projects are recommended for funding, at a cost of \$190,300 (GST Exclusive).

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Financial assistance provided by the Capital Funding for Community Groups Program fosters positive links between Council and community organisations through the improvement and effective management of Council's community assets.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Considerable effort has been made to ensure that all relevant groups/organisations were aware of this funding program through Council's website and via direct email updates to local clubs and organisations. Significant discussions have also occurred between Council Officers and the various community groups prior to the application process commencing, to ensure that the various community groups had adequate information to support their respective applications.

CONCLUSION

The Capital Funding for Community Groups Program encourages commitment from organisations for the continued improvement to Council's community facilities and their future development.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Capital Funding for Community Groups 2025 2026 - Projects

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION**THAT COUNCIL**

1. **APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED ALLOCATIONS FOR PROJECTS THROUGH THE CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2025/2026 PROGRAM TOTALLING \$190,300 (EXCLUSIVE OF GST) AS OUTLINED IN ATTACHMENT 1 TO THIS REPORT**
2. **APPROVES THESE ALLOCATIONS BASED ON ONE-YEAR FUNDING AND SERVICE AGREEMENTS**
3. **ADVISES ALL ORGANISATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR APPLICATION**

ASSET PLAN 2025-2035

ITEM 2

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Asset Plan 2025-2035 which has been developed pursuant to section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A healthy, inclusive and connected community

Our Community's Aspiration: Everyone in Maroondah feels valued, welcome and respected, and has opportunities to thrive regardless of their background, identity or circumstances. Community members experiencing vulnerability, marginalisation or disadvantage have access to the support they need. Opportunities for social connection, and to enhance health and wellbeing, are encouraged.

Outcome Area: A safe and liveable community

Our Community's Aspiration: Everyone in Maroondah feels physically and emotionally safe. Local neighbourhoods and activity centres are easy to move around. There are the housing options, amenities and services people need to live, work, learn and play locally. The unique attributes of Maroondah, and our local history and heritage, are valued and promoted.

Outcome Area: A green and sustainable community

Our Community's Aspiration: Maroondah's green, leafy natural environment and landscape continues to be preserved and enhanced, with biodiversity and habitat corridors progressively restored and maintained. Our community is supported to make sustainable choices and is actively working to reduce emissions and waste, as well as adapt to climate change.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Community's Aspiration: Council continues to be a transparent, accountable, and future-focused leader that collaborates locally and regionally and actively champions local needs. Everyone in Maroondah is informed about matters that affect them and are provided with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 1.2 Plan and advocate for the application of community safety principles that facilitate a safe built environment.
- 1.13 Promote physical activity by supporting education initiatives and providing a diverse range of accessible active and passive open spaces, state of the art sporting precincts and integrated recreation facilities.
- 4.5 Preserve and enhance Maroondah's parklands, bushlands, gardens, canopy vegetation and open spaces.

ASSET PLAN 2025-2035

ITEM 2

- 4.7 Plan for increased vegetation and green spaces within activity centres and major development sites to link the built environment to the natural landscape and better connect people to nature.
- 5.1 Ensure community infrastructure, services and events are accessible for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- 5.2 Apply universal design principles to create a built environment that strengthens the inclusiveness and accessibility of our local neighbourhoods, activity centres, facilities and services.
- 5.7 Advocate and work in partnership to enhance Maroondah's road network, including planning for increased automated vehicles and emerging transportation technologies.
- 5.8 Enhance Maroondah's walking and cycling shared path network to promote walkability and strengthen connections with the wider metropolitan Melbourne network.
- 6.2 Facilitate urban design that enhances the connection between the built, natural and social environments.
- 6.3 Work in partnership to pursue urban design that promotes environmental sustainability, water sensitivity, and community wellbeing.
- 6.7 Coordinate and advocate for the increased utilisation, longevity and availability of fit for purpose community facilities and spaces that meet local needs and act as key places for neighbourhood connection.
- 6.8 Ensure the management of infrastructure and prioritisation of capital works is informed by demographic change, technological advancement, the impacts of climate change, and accessibility for all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- 6.9 Plan for and support a range of multi-use community connection hubs that are inclusive, promote social interaction, encourage lifelong learning, and provide a wide range of services.
- 8.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets, infrastructure and natural environment.
- 8.7 Embrace emerging technology, the digital economy and opportunities for innovation in the delivery of services, enhancement of assets, and engagement of the community.

BACKGROUND

Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020 mandates Councils create and adopt a public facing 10-year Asset Plan (using deliberative engagement practices) by October 31 in the year following a Council election.

The Asset Plan is an important part of the Council's integrated planning framework and has been prepared based on the outcomes of engagements for Maroondah 2050 and Council Plan and using inputs from Council's key Asset Management Plans.

ASSET PLAN 2025-2035**ITEM 2**

The revised Asset Plan has been developed in accordance with section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy. The plan contains key information on the asset lifecycle (acquisition, maintenance, operations, renewal, upgrade, expansion disposal) and projected expenditure for the next 10 years.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Community engagement for the development of Council's Asset Plan 2025-2035 was undertaken between August 2023 and May 2024 in conjunction with the engagement for the Maroondah 2050 Vision and Council Plan 2025 -2029.

This included:

- Broad community and stakeholder engagement surveys
- Deliberative engagement workshops/community panel
- Targeted engagement with hard to reach and under-represented community groups
- Engagement with Maroondah's Advisory Committees, Councillors and Management

Council's Asset Plan 2025-2035 was then created using (or taking account of):

- Council current Asset Plan
- Community engagement 2023/24 outcomes
- Local Government Act 2020 / Victoria - Asset Plan Guidance 2022
- Local Government Sector Benchmarking
- Maroondah internal Asset Management Plans
- Maroondah Asset Management maturity

The revised Asset Plan was then made available for final community engagement between 23 April 2025 and 21 May 2025. Following the conclusion of the engagement period, no formal submissions were received regarding the draft. However, there were 7 responses of a general nature, primarily focusing on planting more flowers and oak trees to support local habitat, and prioritising new footpath constructions.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The Asset Plan demonstrates how Council assets are managed in a financially sustainable manner. The primary focus is to assess levels of service, taking account of what is considered reasonable, affordable, and achievable.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

ASSET PLAN 2025-2035**ITEM 2****SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

The proposed amendments to the Asset Plan have been prepared with consideration to the social and community issues impacting Council's assets.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Act and Council's community engagement policy, the revised Asset Plan was made available for community engagement between 23 April 2025 and 21 May 2025 with no formal submissions received.

CONCLUSION

The Asset Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Act and Council's community engagement policy taking account of what is reasonable, affordable, and achievable - ensuring assets are effectively managed for sustainable service delivery and compliance.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Asset Plan 2025-2035

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES THE ASSET PLAN 2025-2035

ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2029

ITEM 3

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Road Management Plan 2025-2029, which has been developed pursuant to the Road Management Act 2004 and Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A safe and liveable community

Our Community's Aspiration: Everyone in Maroondah feels physically and emotionally safe. Local neighbourhoods and activity centres are easy to move around. There are the housing options, amenities and services people need to live, work, learn and play locally. The unique attributes of Maroondah, and our local history and heritage, are valued and promoted.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 5.5 Work in partnership to facilitate a safe, accessible and efficient integrated transport network that enhances liveability and facilitates living locally within 20-minute neighbourhoods.
- 5.7 Advocate and work in partnership to enhance Maroondah's road network, including planning for increased automated vehicles and emerging transportation technologies.
- 5.8 Enhance Maroondah's walking and cycling shared path network to promote walkability and strengthen connections with the wider metropolitan Melbourne network.

BACKGROUND

Council's Road Management Plan (RMP) outlines Council's commitment to a safe road and pathway network and details maintenance standards, inspection frequencies and authority/service provider management demarcations.

The *Road Management Act 2004* outlines Council's role and obligation (as a road authority) to inspect, maintain and repair public roads within its jurisdiction.

The *Road Management (General) Regulation 2016*, requires Council to undertake a review of its RMP following the election of a new Council, or by 30 June.

The review of Council's RMP was undertaken in accordance with Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 public notice requirements and Council's Community Engagement Policy - to ensure that road management responsibilities, maintenance schedules, and safety standards are transparent and aligned with community needs.

ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2029**ITEM 3****ISSUE / DISCUSSION**The review process:

In 2023, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) initiated a process to audit and benchmark Council's Road Management Plan (RMP). The aim of the audit was to assess Council's RMP against peer group standards and demonstrate liability risks that could be mitigated by adjusting Council's RMP to align with industry sector standards i.e. MAV best practice RMP Template. Following the MAV audit, Council's key stakeholders met to consider the appropriateness of the audit recommendations for incorporation into Council's next RMP iteration RMP 2025 – 2029, by 30 June 2025.

Findings:

The audit noted the requirement for Council to have clear standards for roads inspection and maintenance, comparable to other Victorian Councils. The audit found some differences between intervention and measurement levels documented in Council's publicly available Road Management Plan and the MAV best practice RMP Template.

Proposed Changes:

The audit recommended the following changes to Council's RMP:

- align Road Management Plan (RMP) with new MAV Best Practice Template clarifying relevant stakeholders, updating references, glossary, images, tables and figures.
- enhance relevant key legislation, key strategic links (Vision, Council Plan, Asset Plan)
- amend level of service for overhanging vegetation in relation to defect definitions, identification, severity and response times to ensure achievable targets, taking account of resource levels (i.e. 3m to 2.5m and 140 days to 56 days)
- enhance signs defect definition RD13 to improve operational practices and systems
- clarify hierarchy, inspection frequencies and categories - to ensure achievable targets, taking account of resource levels.

Community Feedback

In accordance with the Act and Regulations, the amended RMP 2025-2029 was made available for community engagement between 3 April 2025 - 30 April 2025. The engagement included:

- The publication of a notice to review and amend the RMP in the Government Gazette
- Copies of the amended RMP made available for viewing at Maroondah City Council's Offices
- A webpage to view and provide feedback on the amended RMP and;
- Promotion on Council's social media channels.

ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2029

ITEM 3

At the conclusion of the engagement period, no formal submissions were received regarding the proposed amendments to the RMP 2025-2029. However, there were 8 responses of a general nature that were collated and forwarded to Council's Engineering Services Team for consideration and appropriate action.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

In reviewing the levels of service within the RMP, consideration was given to what is reasonable, affordable and achievable, taking account of current and future budgetary constraints.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

The proposed amendments to the RMP have been prepared with consideration to the amenity and safety of road and associated road infrastructure. It is a desired outcome that the amenity provided within the road environment be to the highest level that is reasonable, affordable and achievable.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

The social and community issues considered when undertaking this review focused around the desire for all modes of transport being undertaken in as safe an environment as practical for the benefit of the community.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Act and the Regulation, the RMP 2025-2029 was made available for community engagement between 3 April 2025 - 30 April 2025. At the conclusion of the engagement period, no formal submissions were received regarding the proposed amendments. However, there were 8 responses of a general nature, primarily focusing on key themes:

1. Road Upgrades and Safety Concerns:
 - Concerns regarding traffic and safety issues on Bayswater Road due to increased housing density, with requests for road duplication for enhanced safety.
 - Calls for widening and safer pedestrian crossings on Dorset Road to address congestion and safety concerns.
2. Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Needs:
 - Requests for pedestrian crossings on Dorset Road at Moore Ave and between Adams Reserve Playground and a childcare centre.
 - Appeals for footpaths on Hillcrest Avenue and other roads to ensure pedestrian safety.
3. Traffic Management Strategies:
 - Suggestions for monitoring traffic congestion areas and implementing strategies such as optimizing traffic lights and adjusting speed limits to alleviate traffic jams.
 - Emphasis on the importance of upkeep of roadside verges and median strips for a more visually appealing environment.

ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2029

ITEM 3

While these themes fall outside the scope of the RMP, the feedback has been provided to Council's Engineering Services Team for consideration and appropriate action, noting ongoing advocacy and projects in the following areas [Bayswater Road upgrade](#) (Council), [Canterbury Road upgrade](#) (Department of Transport), [Lincoln Road footpath works](#) (Council) and [Works nearby Hillcrest Ave](#) (Council).

CONCLUSION

The RMP review process has been conducted in compliance with the Act, Regulation, and Council's community engagement policy, considering reasonableness, affordability, and achievability.

The proposed amendments to Council's Road Management Plan (RMP) aim to enhance the plan's clarity and effectiveness, leading to increased safety for the community.

It is therefore recommended that the Road Management Plan 2025-2029 (RMP) be officially endorsed.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Road Management Plan (RMP) 2025-2029

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES THE ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2029

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2025/26

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To consider the recommended allocations of financial assistance to be provided through Council's Community Grants Program to nominated community organisations for the 2025/26 financial year.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 4: 2024-2025) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A healthy, inclusive and connected community

Our Community's Aspiration: Everyone in Maroondah feels valued, welcome and respected, and has opportunities to thrive regardless of their background, identity or circumstances. Community members experiencing vulnerability, marginalisation or disadvantage have access to the support they need. Opportunities for social connection, and to enhance health and wellbeing, are encouraged.

Key Directions 2021-2025:

- 1.9 Promote community wellbeing by supporting and empowering local community groups, sporting clubs and special interest groups across Maroondah.
- 7.5 Promote and create opportunities for social interactions, learning, mentoring, skills transfer and volunteering for people from all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Outcome Area: A vibrant and prosperous community

Our Community's Aspiration: Maroondah is a vibrant and prosperous destination. Creative precincts, placemaking, and experiences make Maroondah a culturally rich place to live, work, play and visit. Our strategic location and competitive strengths facilitate economic development, and local businesses are supported to be successful and sustainable.

Key Directions 2021-2025:

- 3.1 Promote innovative, contemporary and socially engaged arts practice and encourage artistic expression and community participation in the arts.

BACKGROUND

The Maroondah Grants Programs offer four grant schemes to incorporated, not-for-profit community groups on an annual basis.

Community Development Grants offer funding up to \$5,000 to develop programs, projects and events that enhance community wellbeing and increase participation.

Emergency Relief Grants offer funding up to \$7,000 to develop and deliver programs and resources to assist vulnerable people and those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2025/26 Cont'd**ITEM 1**

Small Equipment Grants respond to requests of \$750 or less to cover small equipment purchases, printing, or administration costs to incorporated not for profit community support groups.

Eligible applications were reviewed and rated according to the program criteria. The assessment criteria for the grant programs are as follows:

Community Building

Projects which increase community participation, encourage volunteering, provide leadership opportunities and increase learning and skill development and align with Council priorities.

Community Benefit

New initiatives or the expansion of an existing service that will address a clearly identified community need, contribute to improved community health and wellbeing and align with Council priorities.

Community Support

Funding required to provide help, advice or support to a specific population group who share a common experience.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Following the assessment process, a total of 81 applications are recommended for funding across the four grant programs, with a proposed overall allocation of \$199,937.

- 27 Community Development Grant applications are recommended for funding, with a proposed overall allocation of \$89,880
- 19 Emergency Relief Grant applications are recommended for funding, with a proposed overall allocation of \$87,300.
- 35 Small Equipment Grant applications are recommended for funding, with a proposed overall allocation of \$22,757.

All successful applicants for the 2025/26 Community Grants Program will be required to enter into a funding and service agreement with Council. The agreements detail specific responsibilities, obligations and any identified reciprocal arrangements.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The total value of grants recommended for the 2025/26 Community Grants Program is \$199,937 providing funding to 81 community organisations.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Financial assistance provided by Council through the Grants Programs will facilitate an increase in the availability and range of community services, community support initiatives and inclusion programs throughout the municipality.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2025/26 Cont'd**ITEM 1****COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**


The Grants Programs were promoted through an extensive mail-out to previous recipients and local networks, along with communications through Council's website and social media channels. In addition, a Grant Writing Fundamentals workshop was held as well as two online information sessions and three library drop-in sessions.

CONCLUSION

The applications recommended for funding are detailed in the Attachment to this Report.

All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their grant submission. Wherever possible, alternative funding options and other forms of assistance will be provided to unsuccessful organisations.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  2025-2026 Community Grant Recommendations - Council meeting - 30 June 2025

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION**THAT COUNCIL**

1. **APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS (AS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REPORT) THROUGH THE MAROONDAH COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2025/26, TOTALLING \$199,937**
2. **ADVISES ALL ORGANISATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR GRANT SUBMISSIONS**

ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS 2025/26**ITEM 1****PURPOSE**

To seek Council endorsement for the allocation of financial assistance through the Arts and Cultural Grants Program to nominated artists, community and cultural organisations for the 2025/26 year.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (2024-25 Update) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A vibrant and prosperous community

Our Community's Aspiration: Maroondah is a vibrant and prosperous destination. Creative precincts, placemaking, and experiences make Maroondah a culturally rich place to live, work, play and visit. Our strategic location and competitive strengths facilitate economic development, and local businesses are supported to be successful and sustainable.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 3.1 Promote innovative, contemporary and socially engaged arts practice and encourage artistic expression and community participation in the arts.
- 3.2 Create opportunities for artists to curate their work, and program a diverse range of art experiences, catering to all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- 3.3 Work in partnership to facilitate pop up events, local art installations and public art that celebrates the unique characteristics of Maroondah to enliven thriving neighbourhoods and vibrant activity centres.
- 3.4 Celebrate, promote and recognise Indigenous culture through the arts to facilitate enhanced community respect, understanding and reconciliation.
- 3.5 Broker partnerships and relationships to better connect and increase the profile of local artists, local businesses and the broader community.
- 3.6 Celebrate the local history, diversity, arts and produce of our community through a range of festivals, events, programs and activities.
- 3.7 Celebrate, value and recognise local history to facilitate enhanced community understanding and a broader appreciation of cultural heritage.

Priority Action 2021-2025:

Implement the new Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020 - 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Arts and Cultural Grants Program supports a diverse and culturally rich Maroondah through community driven projects, initiatives and events that increase arts profile and participation. These initiatives may focus on a wide variety of art forms.

ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS 2025/26 Cont'd**ITEM 1**

Objectives of the Program:

- Increase community participation in arts and cultural activities.
- Enhance and celebrate local identity through high quality projects with artists and community.
- Build and strengthen local networks within the Maroondah community and encourage partnerships and collaboration with community, business and Council.
- Strengthen the identity and profile of the arts in Maroondah through effective arts programming and marketing.

An online process through Smarty Grants is used for grant applications.

Council received twelve applications with a total request of \$62,745. The funding pool for the program is \$26,728.

Applications were individually reviewed and rated according to the published criteria by a panel made up of representatives from the Arts and Cultural Development and Karralyka teams. Recommendations were then presented to the Councillor representatives on the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee.

The Assessment Criteria include broad Community Grants criteria as follows:

Community Building

Projects that increase participation, encourage volunteering, provide leadership opportunities, and increase learning and skill development;

Community Benefit

New initiatives or the expansion of an existing service that addresses a clearly identified community need or opportunity and contributes to improved wellbeing;

Community Support

Funding for community groups that provide help, advice or support to a specific population group who share a common experience.

In addition, Arts and Cultural Grant proposals must also meet two or more of the following criteria:

Participation

Supports a diverse and culturally rich Maroondah through community driven projects, initiatives and / or events that increase the profile and participation in the arts;

Artist / Arts Group Involvement

Involves the participation of a skilled artist/s or arts worker or arts or cultural organisation, suitable to the desired outcomes of the project;

Innovation

Supports creative development of new or existing activities with innovative approaches and activities.

ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS 2025/26 Cont'd**ITEM 1****ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

All successful applicants for the 2025/26 Arts and Cultural Grants Program will be required to enter into a Funding and Service Agreement with Council. The Agreements detail specific responsibilities, obligations and any identified reciprocal arrangements.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The budget available for the 2025/26 Arts and Cultural Grants Program is \$26,728. The total value of recommendations endorsed is \$26,728 providing funding to seven cultural and community organisations.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Financial assistance provided by Council through the Arts and Cultural Grants Program will:

- Increase community participation in arts and cultural activities.
- Enhance and celebrate local identity through high quality projects with artists and community.
- Build and strengthen local networks within the Maroondah community and encourage partnerships and collaboration with community, business and Council.
- Strengthen the identity and profile of the arts in Maroondah through effective arts programming and marketing.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Arts and Cultural Grants Program was promoted through a wide range of accessible media including Council's website and Arts in Maroondah social media channels and mailouts.

CONCLUSION

The successful applications recommended for funding are detailed below.

All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their grant submission. Where possible, constructive panel feedback and other forms of assistance will be provided to unsuccessful organisations.

Central Ringwood Community Centre (CRCC) - Colours of Culture Exhibition \$2,453

Colours of Culture is an inclusive community art competition celebrating cultural diversity through creativity. Open to all ages and abilities, it invites locals to explore what culture means to them. Collaborating with Ringwood Art Society (RAS) and culminating in a public exhibition at the CRCC hall, the project fosters connection, expression, and community pride in Maroondah.

ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS 2025/26 Cont'd**ITEM 1***Claire Bridge - The Water Carriers (Auspiced by Auspicious Arts Projects Inc)* **\$2,500**

Claire Bridge's exhibition 'The Water Carriers: Hybrid Futures', scheduled for the Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery program in January 2026, explores connections between women, water, and the environment through a new series of sculptures and installations. Drawing on the Daphne myth, Bridge speculates on hybridity and the queering of human and non-human relationships, as collective strategies for imagining new futures. Exhibition incorporates artist talks with AUSLAN interpretation, guest speakers and a live performance.

Community Music and Performances (CMaP) **\$3,775**

CMaP will present three public concerts at Maroondah Federation Estate — a large swing band; jazz with vocalist; and classical ensemble— to promote social inclusion and wellbeing. With refreshments and artists mingling, the ticketed events will encourage social connection.

Dr Ajay Castelino - Melodies and Memories **\$3,000**

Melodies and Memories is a 15-week program offering weekly 45-minute music sessions for people with dementia in the Maroondah region. Offered at Caladenia Dementia Care in Mooroolbark, the program will be facilitated by an experienced music therapist. With up to 15 participants and their carers, the program enhances wellbeing and concludes with an inclusive performance for family and friends.

Knaith Road Childcare - First Nations Mural **\$5,000**

Work with established First Nations artist Simone Thomson to develop a mural for the children's outdoor learning space (backing onto Knaith Road reserve and publicly viewable). The mural will educate the Knaith Street Childcare community around First Nations culture and support and encourage early years education of First Nations history and reconciliation.

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP) - Possum Skin Cloak **\$5,000**

MMIGP's Women's Group will carefully craft a Possum Skin Cloak. The creation of the cloak will increase participation in their group and give a voice to Aboriginal women sharing their cultural connection journeys with one another and the community. Creating the possum skin cloak will be an avenue for story-telling and identity, connection to mob and ancestors, healing and empowerment to reclaim and restore cultural knowledge and practice. The completed cloak will be available to lend to schools wanting to learn more about Aboriginal culture.

Your DNA Creative Arts (FUZE Ensemble) - Auspiced by Arts Access Victoria **\$5,000**

Presents accessible, all-abilities workshops and public performances that amplify the lesser-heard voices of disabled artists from Maroondah. The project explores Wurundjeri heritage in collaboration with renowned Wurundjeri artist Brooke Wandin, giving rise to beautiful storytelling with sophisticated projections and spectacle at Your DNA's Croydon performance space.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS 2025/26 Cont'd

ITEM 1

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THIS REPORT, THROUGH THE ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS PROGRAM, TOTALLING THE FULL BUDGETED AMOUNT OF \$26,728**
- 2. ADVISES ALL ORGANISATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR GRANT SUBMISSIONS**

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

**LETTER UNDER SEAL - NORTH RINGWOOD COMMUNITY HOUSE 50
YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

ITEM 1

LETTERS UNDER SEAL

BACKGROUND

Council's Honours and Recognition Policy provides a framework for the recognition of significant milestone events achieved by Councillors, community organisations and residents within the City of Maroondah.

Council has been made aware that North Ringwood Community House are celebrating their 50-year anniversary this year.

North Ringwood Community House is a non-profit organisation located in Maroondah that offers a wide variety of programs and services, such as adult education courses, recreational programs, health and wellness programs and support groups. Their primary goal is to cater to the needs of individuals who are disadvantaged, marginalised, or considered 'at risk' in the community. All their activities are designed to be affordable and easily accessible to ensure inclusivity.

North Ringwood Community House are to be presented with a Letter Under Seal in recognition of this significant anniversary and their contribution to the Maroondah community.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

**THAT COUNCIL SIGNS AND SEALS A LETTER RECOGNISING THE 50 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH RINGWOOD COMMUNITY HOUSE**

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

LETTERS UNDER SEAL - RECOGNITION OF 2025 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

ITEM 2

LETTERS UNDER SEAL

Council's Honours and Recognition Policy provides that recipients of Australian Honours who reside within the City of Maroondah, or whose work for which they are being recognised has been undertaken within Maroondah also be acknowledged on such recognition by Council and presented with a Letter Under Seal.

The Australian Honours comprise of:

- Order of Australia medal,
- Australian Bravery decorations,
- Military medals for Gallantry and for Distinguished and Conspicuous Service,
- Commemorative medals,
- Meritorious Service and Long Service medals, and
- Public Service Medals

The Honours List is published twice a year, for Australia Day (January) and King's Birthday (June).

Council has been made aware of the following recognition conferred in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List, as recently announced by the Governor General:

- Ms Karen Michelle Milward AM - appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to Indigenous advocacy, and to reconciliation.
- Mrs Wendy Rowe OAM - Awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community through thalidomide awareness.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

**THAT COUNCIL SIGNS AND SEALS A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS IN
RECOGNITION OF THE 2025 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AWARDED TO**

- 1. MS KAREN MICHELLE MILWARD AM - APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**
- 2. MRS WENDY ROWE OAM - RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF
AUSTRALIA**