



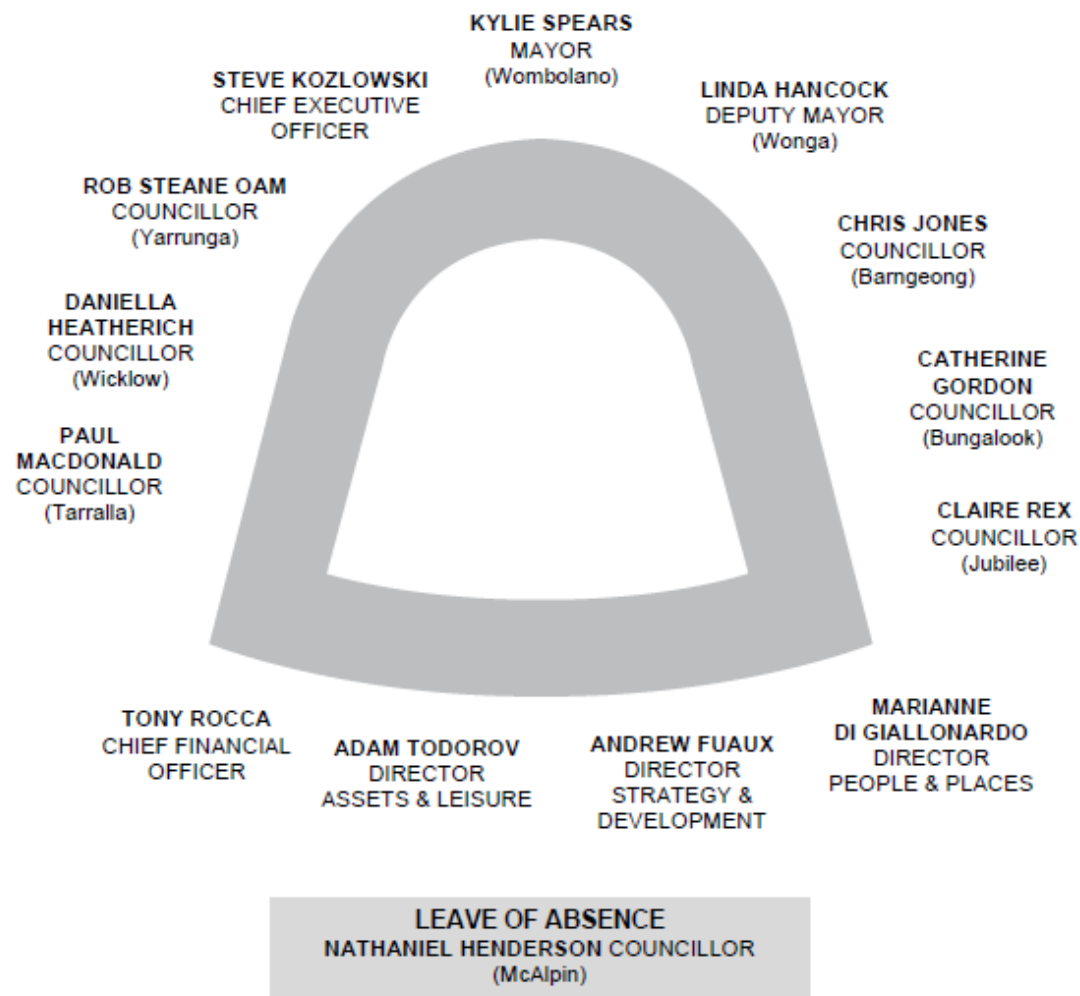
Council Meeting Agenda

Monday 22 September 2025

Commencing at 7:30pm

Realm - Council Chamber
Level 2, 179 Maroondah Highway
Ringwood

Council Chamber Seating



Public Gallery



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



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 25 August 2025.
6. Public Questions
7. Officers' Reports

Chief Financial Officer

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | Attendance Report | 5 |
| 2. | Reports of Councillor Briefings | 7 |
| 3. | Councillor Representation Reports | 9 |
| 4. | Councillor Gift Policy | 11 |
| 5. | Outcomes - Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government 2025 | 13 |
| 6. | Cost Shifting Impacts - 2025/2026 | 16 |
| 7. | Report of Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - 27 August 2025 | 20 |

Director Strategy & Development

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 (Update 2025) | 23 |
| 2. | Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy | 27 |
| 3. | Petition - Greenwood Avenue Ringwood - Intersection Access Changes | 31 |

8. Documents for Sealing
9. Motions to Review
10. Late Items
11. Requests for Leave of Absence
12. In Camera

Chief Financial Officer

1. Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21093 Cleaning Services for Realm

Director Assets & Leisure

1. Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21095 Hughes Park Sporting Pavilion Refurbishment

Director People & Places

1. Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21092 Cleaning Services for Maroondah Federation Estate, Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Karralyka Centre & Community Halls

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

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together* and the *Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 – 2029:

- 5.1 Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.

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 25 August 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

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together* and the *Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 – 2029:

- 5.1 Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.

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 25 August 2025 and 8 September 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 August 25 - Councillor Briefing Public Record
2.  2025 September 08 - Councillor Briefing Public Record

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS HELD ON 25 AUGUST 2025 AND 8 SEPTEMBER 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 Access, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee held on 19 August 2025

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together* and the *Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 – 2029:

- 5.1 Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.

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.

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

Crs Gordon Henderson and Jones are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Access, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee.

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS Cont'd**ITEM 3****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 August 19 - Maroondah Access Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES MINUTES OF THE MAROONDAH ACCESS, INCLUSION AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2025

COUNCILLOR GIFT POLICY

ITEM 4

PURPOSE

To consider the adoption of the updated Councillor Gift Policy pursuant to sections 49 and 138 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2025-2029 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 provided with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 - 2029:

- 5.1 Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Sections 49 and 138 of the Act, Council is required to adopt and maintain a Councillor Gift Policy. The aim of the Policy is to build and maintain public confidence and trust in Councillors by ensuring decision making is transparent and impartial.

The Councillor Gift Policy sets out standards, established pursuant to the Act, for the receipt and disposal of gifts/gratuities.

The Councillor Gift Policy is closely associated with the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. If a Councillor fails to act in accordance with this Policy, they will be deemed to have breached the Model Code.

The previous Councillor Gift Policy was adopted in April 2021 as part of the implementation of new requirements associated with the Act.

This Policy is scheduled for review during each Council term to ensure it remains compliant with both legal and regulatory requirements, along with sector practices.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A revised Councillor Gift Policy has been prepared in accordance with gifts and benefits provisions contained within Section 137 of the Act and Section 3 of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

Several changes have been made to the Policy arising from this review:

- Council has adopted the requirements of section 137 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for acceptance of all gifts.
- All gifts accepted are to be declared.

COUNCILLOR GIFT POLICY Cont'd

ITEM 4

- All gifts that are offered and declined, over the value of \$50, are to be declared.
- A position that any offer of a gift in the form of cash, cheque or cash equivalents (incl. gift card or vouchers) should be declined.
- Inclusion of the relationship of this Policy to conflict-of-interest provisions outlined under Section 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

There have also been several administrative amendments, including clarification of roles and responsibilities, updates to definitions and implementation examples.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

All changes and current requirements of the Policy can be managed within existing allocated budgets.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

In line with Council's overall governance practice obligations, this Policy review continues Council's ongoing adherence to better governance standards.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community expectations and feedback relating to corporate governance accountability, transparency and integrity arising from community input provided on the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029 have informed the review of this Policy. Benchmarking with other municipalities has also been undertaken.

CONCLUSION

The Councillor Gift Policy has been reviewed and exceeds the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*. This revised Policy is tabled for Council adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Draft Councillor Gift Policy - September 2025

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL ADOPTS THE COUNCILLOR GIFT POLICY, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 49 AND 138 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020

**OUTCOMES - AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
(ALGA) NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NGA) OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT 2025**

ITEM 5

PURPOSE

To advise of the outcome of the motion submitted by Council to the 31st ALGA National Assembly held in Canberra from 25 to 27 June 2025.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together* and the *Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 – 2029:

- 5.1 Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.

Priority Action 2025-2026:

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

BACKGROUND

The 31st Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly of Local Government was held in Canberra from 25 to 27 June 2025.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) together with local members of Parliament provide significant advocacy to the Federal Government on behalf of Maroondah residents and ratepayers.

The theme for the 2025 National General Assembly is '*National Priorities Need Local Solutions*'. The Assembly provides elected representatives the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers, allowing them the opportunity to vote on proposed motions affecting local government nationally. There are twelve priority areas for this Assembly, including 'circular economy' which is the focus of this proposed motion.

The motion submitted was considered of national significance, particularly considering continued funding and financial pressures faced by the local government sector across Australia in the current financial climate.

The Australian Local Government Association together with local members of Parliament provide significant advocacy opportunities to the Federal Government on behalf of Maroondah residents and ratepayers.

**OUTCOMES - AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION (ALGA) NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NGA) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2025 Cont'd****ITEM 5****ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The motion submitted by Council for consideration at the 2025 ALGA National General Assembly -

Motion Number/Name	Outcome
Motion # 36 <i>National Standardisation and Expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)</i>	Carried

National Standardisation and Expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

That this National General Assembly calls upon the Federal Government to:

- a. Lead the development of a nationally consistent Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) - in collaboration with all states and territories - to harmonise regulations, refund values, and operations across Australia, creating a uniform approach to container recycling; and*
- b. Ensure that the National CDS is to include all glass beverage containers such as wine and spirit bottles. Whilst exploring the expansion of the scheme to include glass jars used for food - thereby ensuring these containers are covered by deposit/refund incentives for recycling.*

Motion Outcomes:

The resolutions from the 2025 National General Assembly include the following outcomes:

- 192 motions submitted
- 154 motions carried
- Six (6) of those motions were lost
- 23 motions (22 carried and 1 lost) were debated after an additional 15 minutes of debate time was endorsed. Due to the timing, there was no quorum, so the motions were referred to the ALGA Board for consideration
- Nine (9) motions were not debated due to timing but were resolved to be sent to the ALGA Board for further consideration
- The motion submitted by Maroondah City Council was carried
- Attachment 1 to this report provides a comprehensive list of 2025 ALGA National General Assembly outcomes

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Refer to rationale as highlighted under Issue / Discussion.

**OUTCOMES - AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION (ALGA) NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NGA) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2025 Cont'd**

ITEM 5

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Refer to rationale as highlighted under Issue / Discussion.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Refer to rationale as highlighted under Issue / Discussion.


COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council, through various forums, consultation, and strategies, has engaged the Maroondah community regarding these various issues. This report further demonstrates Council's preparedness to advocate to the Federal Government on behalf of Maroondah residents.

CONCLUSION

This report highlights the outcomes of motions considered and debated at the 2025 ALGA National General Assembly. The Maroondah City Council submitted motion indicates the willingness of Council to advocate on behalf of Maroondah residents and ratepayers, in addition to demonstrating Council's continued leadership on issues within the sector. With this motion successfully carried, it also indicates the support gathered across the local government sector nationwide relating to National Standardisation and Expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Australian Local Government Association - 2025 National General Assembly
 Resolutions

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL THAT WAS THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERATION AND DEBATE AT THE 2025 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD FROM 25 TO 27 JUNE 2025

COST SHIFTING IMPACTS - 2025/2026

ITEM 6

PURPOSE

To provide Councillors with an overview of the increasing impacts of cost shifting on Council, outlining the financial and community implications, and present options for advocacy and mitigation in response to these impacts.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together* and the *Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 provided with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 - 2029:

- 5.1 Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.

BACKGROUND

Cost shifting has emerged as a significant long-term structural issue across the local government sector. It occurs when the Commonwealth or State Government:

- Transfers service responsibilities without adequate ongoing funding.
- Withdraws from direct service delivery or reduces grants, expecting councils to absorb the gap.
- Imposes regulatory or compliance obligations without covering costs.

An Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) report in 2022 estimated cost shifting accounts for 10-20% of council operating budgets nationally. Since then, both state and federal parliamentary inquiries have highlighted the financial strain this practice places on local governments, noting that councils are increasingly required to deliver services beyond the traditional "three Rs" of rates, roads, and rubbish, or more recently, also known as the "four Ps" being people, places, participation and partnerships.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Maroondah City Council, like other Local Government Authorities, is significantly affected by cost shifting. Key service areas where costs have been shifted include school crossing supervisors, maternal child health, immunisation, libraries, aged and disability services, and waste reforms. The estimated total cost impact for Council is over \$5.8M annually, with a further \$8.6 million in waste-related reforms such as the glass bin rollout and landfill levy.

COST SHIFTING IMPACTS - 2025/2026 Cont'd**ITEM 6**

The impacts of cost shifting on Council include:

- Increased reliance on rate revenue.
- Reduction in discretionary services.
- Challenges in maintaining long-term financial sustainability.
- Community expectations mismatch, where responsibilities are not clearly understood.

Parliamentary inquiries into local government sustainability have reinforced that these pressures are widespread. Councils now shoulder responsibilities in areas such as health, childcare, aged care, housing, biodiversity, and climate adaptation - traditionally the remit of other tiers of government.

Sector bodies including Financial Professionals in Local Government (FinPro), Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and ALGA continue to advocate for fairer cost-sharing frameworks and enforceable funding agreements, with Maroondah playing an active role.

Maroondah continues to consider and identify efficiencies and continuous improvement opportunities at the heart of all services being delivered. This report highlights that, without that methodology and way of thinking, it would be near on impossible for the local government sector to remain financially sustainable. Given there is the impossible equation of rate capped environment, that is raising the core source of income at a lower rate than what the cost of services and contracts is increasing at a higher rate than the rate cap, all whilst managing the challenges of cost shifting.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Cost shifting imposes a direct and ongoing financial burden of at least \$16 million annually on Maroondah, when both service and waste reform impacts are considered. This financial pressure heightens reliance on rate revenue, within the constraints of the rate cap.

Without enforceable agreements, Council remains vulnerable to further service cost transfers. All whilst vertical fiscal imbalance persists, as councils typically raise only 3.5% of the total taxation bill, but deliver 20-25% of public services by volume.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Reduced funding for essential community services risks undermining quality and accessibility to services. Community trust can be impacted when residents perceive Council as responsible for service shortfalls that are in fact the result of state or federal cost shifting.

Local amenity and safety services, such as mowing, graffiti removal and CCTV are increasingly reliant on Council resources, further stretching capacity to deliver discretionary and community-driven initiatives.

COST SHIFTING IMPACTS - 2025/2026 Cont'd**ITEM 6****COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

As part of Maroondah 2050 consultation, the consultative group was presented on the matter of cost shifting and the impacts it has on the local government sector. The community representatives communicated their concerns about the impacts it is having on the sector and the importance of councils and Maroondah particularly, to continue to advocate to other levels of government to receive the appropriate funding to deliver these community services.

CONCLUSION

Cost shifting represents a critical and ongoing structural challenge that threatens Council's long-term financial sustainability and the community's access to vital services. While advocacy through FinPro, MAV, and ALGA has elevated awareness, stronger sector alignment and clear position statements are required.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Cost Shifting - Council Meeting Report - September 2025

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION**THAT COUNCIL**

1. **NOTE THE IMPACTS OF COST SHIFTING, ACKNOWLEDGING THE FINANCIAL BURDEN THIS PLACES ON COUNCIL WHEN FACTORING IN BOTH SERVICE DELIVERY AND WASTE REFORM IMPACTS**
2. **ENDORSE CONTINUED ADVOCACY TO**
 - A. **RESTORE FUNDING FOR MANDATED OR HISTORICALLY SHARED SERVICES**
 - B. **ESTABLISH FORMAL COST-SHARING FRAMEWORKS BETWEEN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**
 - C. **REQUIRE REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR NEW REFORMS THAT INVOLVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**
3. **SUPPORT THE CONTINUED REVISION OF AN ANNUAL COUNCIL POSITION PAPER THAT OUTLINES THE LOCAL IMPACTS, UPDATES ADVOCACY MESSAGING AND RAISES COMMUNITY AWARENESS**
4. **CONTINUE TO REVIEW STATE/FEDERAL SERVICES THAT HAVE SHIFTED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVER TIME, TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS NON-CORE OR HISTORICALLY SHARED TO ASSESS SUSTAINABILITY OF DELIVERY WHERE ADEQUATE EXTERNAL FUNDING IS NOT PROVIDED**

COST SHIFTING IMPACTS - 2025/2026 Cont'd

ITEM 6

- 5. EXPLORE REGIONAL COLLABORATION, INCLUDING INVESTIGATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE EASTERN REGION GROUP OF COUNCILS AND OTHER PARTNERSHIPS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION AND MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COST SHIFTING**
- 6. RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS THROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACT OF COST SHIFTING ON SERVICE DELIVERY AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, ENSURING THE COMMUNITY HAS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE COUNCIL PLAYS VERSUS OTHER TIERS OF GOVERNMENT**

**REPORT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 27
AUGUST 2025**

ITEM 7

PURPOSE

To report to Council on the outcomes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 27 August 2025.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 provided with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 - 2029:

- 5.1 Ensure transparent and accountable governance, including balanced and sustainable decision making that is evidence informed and is in the best interests of the community.
- 5.2 Prioritise responsible, sustainable and timely management of Maroondah's financial resources, assets, infrastructure and the natural environment.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* prescribes that Council must establish an Audit & Risk Committee and that such Committee will be advisory in nature. The Audit & Risk Committee helps Council strategically examine operations to ensure risk management, legal compliance, financial control, and governance.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee consists of both Council and external representatives. Mayor Cr Kylie Spears (or alternatively Deputy Mayor Cr Linda Hancock), and Cr Chris Jones, are the nominated Councillors on the Committee. The external independent members are Dr John Watson (chair), Mr Bruce Potgieter and Mr Michael Ulbrick.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter requires that this Committee report to Council on the findings and recommendations from its meetings. This report provides a summary of matters under consideration by the Committee of the meeting held on 27 August 2025.

Many items on the agenda are regular reports such as the Chief Executive Officer's Report, Council's Internal Audit Progress Report, quarterly Finance Report, Risk and Insurance Report, Internal Audits Actions Register Report and sector related agencies reports.

**REPORT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 27
AUGUST 2025 Cont'd****ITEM 7****ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Details associated with some of the regular reports as well as other specific items considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at this meeting held on 27 August 2025 are noted below:

- A report from the Chief Executive Officer highlighted sector updates of interest related to local government integrity and risk management.
- The Draft VAGO Closing Report and Final Management Letter for the year ending 30 June 2025
- A Draft Year End Financial Report 2024-2025 was received. The Committee noted the draft Annual Financial Report and draft Performance Statement, VAGO Closing Report and Final Management Letter from the Auditor-General's appointed auditors RSM and advised that it supported the decision taken by Council to approve in principle the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement (the Statements) for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- A Risk and Insurance Report for the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 financial year as at 30 June 2025 was tabled. The report provided details on Council's strategic risk outlook, organisational risk profile, organisational risk trends and priorities, key risk controls and mitigation activities, along with recent insurance and claims matters.
- Internal Auditors HLB Mann Judd provided an update of the Internal Audit Program including current audits underway and forthcoming audits planned. An issues paper was also tabled by the Internal Auditors that outlined general sector guidance and trends.
- An Internal Audit Report relating to a review of operational fraud risks was presented to the Committee. Several findings and recommended actions arising from this audit were highlighted.
- The Internal Audit Actions Register for the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 financial year as at 30 June 2025 was discussed. The Committee noted progress made by Council regarding implementation of internal audit recommendations.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Council's current budget provides for the operation of the Audit and Risk Committee, the completion of an Internal Audit Program and associated duties and responsibilities to ensure the organisation is actively and effectively managing its risks.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable

**REPORT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 27
AUGUST 2025 Cont'd**

ITEM 7

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council's Quarterly Financial Reports are tabled at Council Meetings during the financial year and incorporated into Council's Annual Report.

CONCLUSION

This Report provides a summary of the outcomes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 27 August 2025 in accordance with transparency and accountability principles.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORT FROM THE AUDIT AND RISK
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2025**

**LIVEABILITY WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY
2021-2031 (UPDATE 2025)**

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

For Council to adopt the Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 (Update 2025).

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2025-2029* 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.

Priority Action 2025 - 2029:

Review, update and implement the Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031

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 provided with opportunities to meaningfully engage regarding Council decision making.

Key Directions 2025 - 2029:

- 5.3 Undertake evidence informed strategic planning and policy development that promotes the social, environmental (built-form and natural) and economic sustainability of Maroondah.

BACKGROUND

The *Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 (Update 2025)* (the Strategy) is Council's key social environment strategic plan that describes how Council and partners will work towards enhanced community health and wellbeing, liveability, and resilience over 10 years from 2021-2031. The Strategy is also Maroondah's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

In accordance with the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, Council is required to prepare a health and wellbeing planning document every four years, within 12 months of general council elections. The *Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 (Update 2025)* meets these statutory requirements and is an updated version of the previous *Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031*.

**LIVEABILITY WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY
2021-2031 (UPDATE 2025) Cont'd**

ITEM 1

As a requirement of good practice and in response to the Victorian Public Health Act 2008, the Strategy has been updated to:

- Incorporate recent community consultation and feedback
- Update the data and research, and
- Review the priority actions in line with the above if necessary

The Strategy (Attachment 1) outlines a vision for the future social environment of the municipality supporting the desired outcomes within *Maroondah 2050 - Our future together*. Through this Strategy and supporting action plans, Council and its partners will work towards a common agenda that is evidence informed, community driven and one that improves the health and wellbeing of Maroondah residents.

The companion document to the Strategy (Attachment 2) contains an overview of the research and community consultation that has informed the development and update of the Strategy.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Strategy was originally developed, and now updated, through comprehensive and rigorous research and wide-ranging community consultation. The six key focus areas featured in the diagram below respond to the broader domains of liveability, wellbeing and resilience that, together, have a direct effect on community health and wellbeing.



The high-level key focus areas and strategic priorities that appear in the Strategy will guide the development of supporting action plans to identify the specific actions that Council will undertake to implement the Strategy. The supporting documents focus on: Children and Families; Youth; Reconciliation; Disability; Positive Ageing, and Health & Wellbeing.

**LIVEABILITY WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY
2021-2031 (UPDATE 2025) Cont'd**

ITEM 1

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

It is expected that the Strategy will be implemented within existing resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

The Strategy addresses environmental and amenity issues through strategic priorities that include, for example, connection to nature; climate change; open spaces; local neighbourhood amenity; transport and road safety, and emergency management.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

The Strategy is Council's key social strategic plan to address community issues and has positive community health and wellbeing outcomes at the centre of all key focus areas and strategic priorities.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



Comprehensive community consultation was undertaken for the first iteration of the Strategy and, for the update, relevant consultation data from Maroondah 2050: Our future together, has also been incorporated.

In addition, the updated Strategy was on Public Exhibition on Maroondah's Your Say website for a period of four weeks between 15 July-14 August 2025. The results show a very high level of support for the Strategy with over 87% of respondents 'definitely supporting' all key focus areas.

CONCLUSION

The Liveability, Wellbeing, and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 (Update 2025) serves the dual purpose of being Council's key social environment strategy as well as Maroondah's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029. As such it will guide Council's initiatives to enhance the health and wellbeing of the Maroondah community in a holistic and sustainable way.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 - (Update 2025)

2. Background Report - Liveability, Wellbeing & Resilience in Maroondah - (Update 2025)


CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL ADOPTS THE LIVEABILITY WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY 2021-2031 (UPDATE 2025) AND APPROVES ITS SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS MAROONDAH'S MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2025-2029

**LIVEABILITY WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY
2021-2031 (UPDATE 2025) Cont'd**

ITEM 1

DRAFT ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**ITEM 2****PURPOSE**

To advise Council of the outcomes of the community consultation undertaken on the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy 2025 - 2030 and to recommend that Council adopts the Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy 2025 - 2030.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together* and the *Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 2025 - 2029:

- 1.5 Provide programs, services and initiatives that protect, improve and promote public health.

BACKGROUND

In May 2024, the Environment Protection Act 2017, *Obligations for Managers of Land and Infrastructure (OMLI) (Urban Stormwater Management and On-site Wastewater Management) Order in Council* was issued. This requires Council to develop, consult on and publish an onsite wastewater management plan, and to review and update the plan every 5 years.

As a result, in early 2025, Council's existing Domestic Wastewater Management Strategy was reviewed and updated to include the following OMLI requirements:

- A risk assessment of the management of onsite domestic wastewater and the risks posed to human health and environment.
- Council's approach to compliance; and
- An action plan to continue to address the identified risks from the use of onsite wastewater management systems (OWMS) (septic tank systems) in Maroondah.

The Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy 2025-2030 (the Strategy) then went out for community consultation between 10 June 2025 to 8 July 2025. The consultation was targeted to property owners operating an OWMS and relevant authorities.

The overall vision of the strategy was unchanged: *Protect public health and the natural environment and the amenity of the municipality by promoting environmental best practice in the management of domestic wastewater* and continues to align with Council's key directions.

**DRAFT ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Cont'd**

ITEM 2

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Feedback from the consultation indicates generally households with an OWMS:

- Do not feel the OWMS poses too much risk to health or the environment if maintained well.
- Are interested in being provided with more information on how to use and maintain OWMS and their legal obligations.
- Have some concern about the cost of maintaining their system, some interest in connecting to sewer and some interest in upgrading the system to maintain wastewater onsite
- Have not have any issues with their own system or that of their neighbours.

Stakeholders indicated the Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy:

- adequately assessed and addressed the risks to health and the environment from OWMS use, now and over the next 5 years and;
- that Council's approach to compliance was reasonable.

Key themes identified from the consultation feedback included:

- Council continue to advocate to water corporation to prioritise sewer in Maroondah.
- Provision of further information to assist with effective OWMS use.
- Council continue to find opportunities for financial assistance or funding for property owners to upgrade OWMS or connect to sewer if available.

Following consultation, the very minor administrative amendments were made to the Strategy. As well as:

- Removal of Yarra Valley Water (YVW) community sewerage program (CSP) data due to ongoing variability and now references a direct link for further information on properties included in the program.
- Update to the following actions:
 - Work with Yarra Valley Water and advocate for all *high-risk properties* (E.g. commercial, offsite discharge, close to waterways etc) serviced by an OWMS to be included in the Community Sewerage Program.
 - Investigate funding opportunities for programs to improve domestic wastewater management (*including, where possible, ways for community to be supported to upgrade their OWMS or connect to sewer*).

The updated version of the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy is attached to this report (Attachment 2).

**DRAFT ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Cont'd**

ITEM 2

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The Draft Strategy will be implemented within existing resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Environmental and amenity issues have been addressed in the Strategy.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Social and community issues are considered in the Draft Strategy.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A summary of the community consultation is attached (Attachment 1). The consultation process included:



- A letter sent to occupiers of the 136 households/businesses with OWMS, outlining the Domestic Wastewater Management Strategy review. A link to a targeted survey on the Maroondah's Your Say page was included, and a copy of the draft Strategy was made available with the survey.
- 77 visits were made to the website, and 19 survey responses were received.
- An online survey link with the draft Strategy, was sent in an email to 5 key external authorities and internal Council service areas.
- There were 3 external authority responses from the YVW and DEECA and 1 internal Council response.
- A consultation workshop was also held with the Maroondah Environmental Advisory Committee.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy has been prepared to align with the new requirements of the Environment Protection Act 2017 (OMLI), in consultation with a targeted community and relevant authority stakeholders.

The Strategy will help Council and the community achieve the Maroondah 2050 Vision. The Strategy is proposed to be implemented over a 5-year period and its recommended actions integrated into Council service delivery plans.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Report - Consultation - Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy 2025 - 2030
2.  Draft Maroondah Onsite Wastewater Management Strategy 2025-2030

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

**DRAFT ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Cont'd**

ITEM 2

RECOMMENDATION

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVES TO ADOPT THE MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL DRAFT
ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025-2030**

**PETITION - GREENWOOD AVENUE RINGWOOD -
INTERSECTION ACCESS CHANGES**

ITEM 3

PURPOSE

To receive a petition in relation to Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood, submitted to Council on 25 August 2025.

The petition requests Council halt road construction works at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue, Bedford Road and Station Street in Ringwood to investigate alternative access arrangements for the Ringwood Activity Centre Car Park.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in *Maroondah 2050 - Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2025-2029* 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 2025 - 2029:

- 2.5 Strategically plan and advocate for the future built environment needs of the Maroondah community, including housing, transport, infrastructure, facilities, land use, and open space.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.10 Ensure safety, inclusion, accessibility and sustainable design principles are considered in the planning, development and enhancement of Council facilities, infrastructure and spaces.
- 2.13 Advocate and plan for integrated safe, accessible and sustainable road and public transport infrastructure to meet current and future transport needs in Maroondah.

Priority Action 2025 - 2026:

Construct the Ringwood Activity Centre Car Park.

BACKGROUND

Council's Asset Projects team is currently finalising the construction of the Ringwood Activity Centre Car Park, located at the corner of Bedford Road and Warrandyte Road. The carpark on Council land has been funded by Council and also through the Federal Government and will provide significant additional parking capacity to the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre for a variety of users, including those requiring short- and long-term parking.

**PETITION - GREENWOOD AVENUE RINGWOOD -
INTERSECTION ACCESS CHANGES Cont'd**

ITEM 3

Alongside the final stages of construction of the Ringwood Activity Centre car park, Council is also undertaking intersection changes, along with improved pedestrian and cycling connections along Station Street and Greenwood Avenue. These changes recommended as part of an independent traffic engineering study are designed to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the area, including for children from local schools and other local vulnerable people that navigate the roads in this area.

The works commenced on 11 August 2025 and are due for completion in late September 2025.

The petition (see Attachment 1) submitted to Council on 25 August 2025 was in the form of a Change.org petition, with eight hundred and nineteen names and associated post codes at the time of submission.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Ringwood Activity Centre car park features an access point directly opposite Greenwood Avenue. Originally it was proposed to construct a roundabout at the intersection alongside the car park development, however, subsequent traffic modelling highlighted operational issues with this proposal, with potential to cause significant congestion in the surrounding road network.

To address the issues, the roundabout design was removed and instead it was proposed to retain the existing unsignalised intersection design, with modifications informed by the traffic modelling results. Right turn bans were proposed to maintain satisfactory operation of all approaches to and turns into and out of the intersection. In particular, right turns to and from Greenwood Avenue to Bedford Road are to be prohibited by modifying the existing traffic islands.

It is proposed to engage a traffic engineering consultant, separate from the consultant who prepared the traffic modelling for the new works, to undertake an independent assessment of the basis for the changes proposed to the intersections operation and also a separate post-works assessment following completion of the carpark works to review the traffic conditions within the precinct surrounding Greenwood Avenue.

The post-works assessment would review the impact of the carpark and the changes at Greenwood Avenue on the operation of the surrounding road network. It would assess any safety impacts as a result of traffic redistribution to alternative local streets and intersections. Pending the assessment, additional treatments would be proposed to resolve any issues identified.

The proposal to undertake as a first stage an independent assessment of the basis for changes to the Greenwood Avenue intersection has already commenced and been communicated to the lead petitioner.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Halting the current construction works as called on by the petition would not be safe or practical and would incur significant financial penalties under the construction contract.

**PETITION - GREENWOOD AVENUE RINGWOOD -
INTERSECTION ACCESS CHANGES Cont'd**

ITEM 3

Should the post-works traffic engineering assessment identify further treatments are required to address any issues identified (including those raised in the petition), and or changes to the currently proposed intersection layout, the cost could readily be absorbed in existing project budgets.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

The petition has raised concerns regarding the impact to road users and local community accessing the precinct south of the intersection. In particular, the detours that users would need to take as a result of the proposed turn bans. As noted above the proposed post-works traffic assessment will review the impact on traffic conditions and the local community.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

The petition has raised concerns regarding the impact of the proposed intersection changes on the local community. The proposed post-works traffic assessment will review the impact on traffic conditions and the local community.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A notification bulletin was distributed to the community in late July 2025, advising of the upcoming works and proposed changes at the intersection.

Additional information was also added to the project page on Council's website detailing why the changes were needed.

Correspondence was received from several members of the community objecting to the proposed changes. Council officers have responded to each piece of correspondence explaining the need for the proposed changes.

The process of responding to the members of the community culminated in a meeting with the lead petitioners, who were invited to Council's offices to discuss the matter in detail with the independent traffic engineers involved with the revised intersection. A written response was also provided by Council Officers following this meeting.

CONCLUSION

The Ringwood Activity Centre Car Park is nearing completion. The changes to the intersection at Greenwood Avenue are based on traffic modelling that was undertaken by an independent traffic engineering company. The petition was received in objection to these changes and disputes the outcome. The post-works traffic engineering assessment will identify if any unforeseen issues have arisen because of the carpark construction and intersection changes. This report will also identify any changes needed to manage the local road network.

ATTACHMENTS

1.  Petition Extract - Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

**PETITION - GREENWOOD AVENUE RINGWOOD -
INTERSECTION ACCESS CHANGES Cont'd**

ITEM 3

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PETITION RECEIVED ON 25 AUGUST 2025 REQUESTING TO HALT CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT THE INTERSECTION OF GREENWOOD AVENUE, BEDFORD ROAD AND STATION STREET IN RINGWOOD; AND TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RINGWOOD METROPOLITAN ACTIVITY CENTRE CARPARK**
- 2. AUTHORISES THE COMPLETION OF AN INDEPENDENT TRAFFIC ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT OF THE POST-WORKS TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE PRECINCT**
- 3. DIRECTS OFFICERS TO ADVISE THE LEAD PETITIONER OF THE DECISION TO UNDERTAKE THE INDEPENDENT TRAFFIC ENGINEERING POST-WORKS ASSESSMENT, AND SHARE THE OUTCOME OF THE ASSESSMENT INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT TRAFFIC ENGINEER WHEN COMPLETED**