



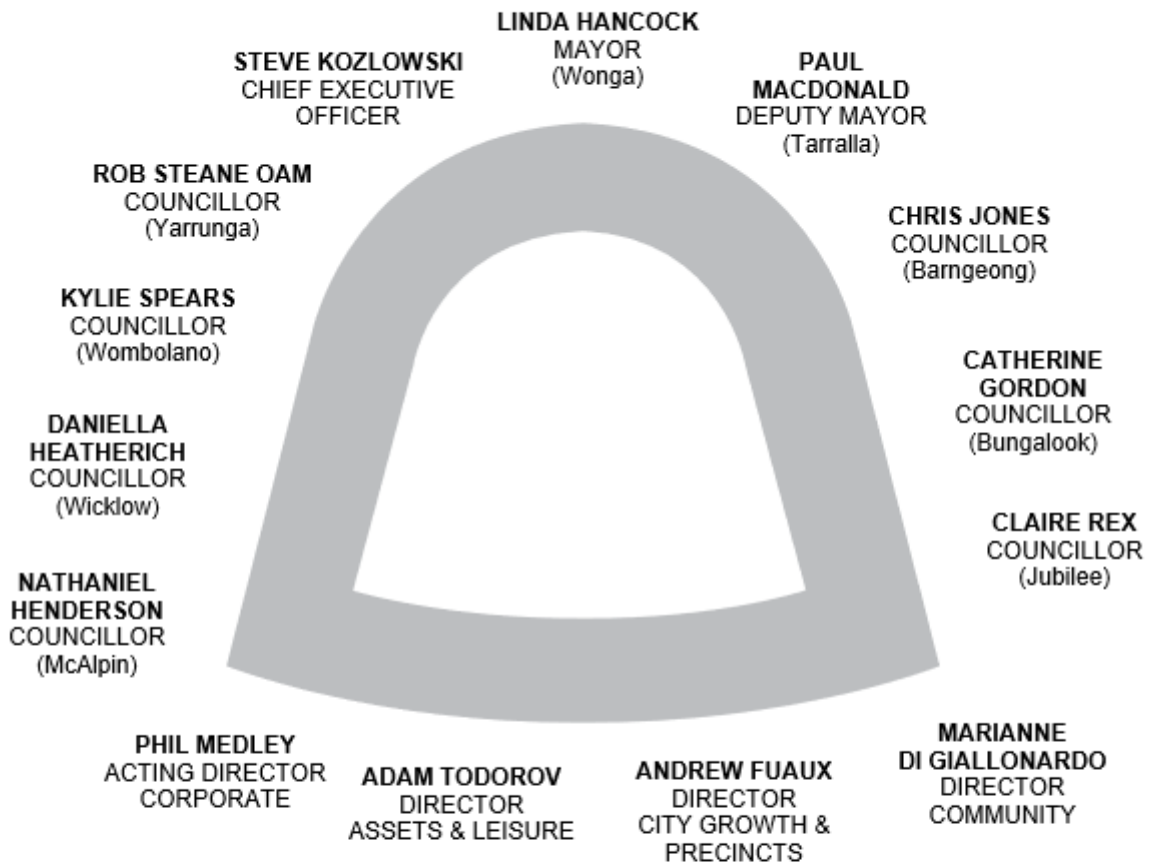
Council Meeting Agenda

Monday 15 June 2026

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 18 May 2026.
6. Public Questions
7. Officers' Reports
 - Acting Director Corporate
 1. Attendance Report 4
 2. Reports of Councillor Briefings 6
 3. Councillor Representation Reports 8
 4. Outcomes - Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council - 29 May 2026 10
 5. Instruments of Appointment & Authorisation to Council Officers (Planning & Environment Act 1987 & Environment Protection Act 2017) 14
 6. Report of Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - 18 May 2026 17
 - Director Assets & Leisure
 1. Capital Funding for Community Groups 2026/27 20
 - Director City Growth & Precincts
 1. Draft Maroondah Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026 23
 2. Draft Maroondah Reconciliation Plan 2026-2030 27
 3. Maroondah Community Arts and Cultural Grant Program 2026-27 30
 4. Community Grants Program 2026/27 35
8. Documents for Sealing
 1. Letter Under Seal - Employee Milestones 2026 38
 2. Letters Under Seal - Recognition of 2026 King's Birthday Honours 41
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

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 18 May 2026 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 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 18 May 2026 and 1 June 2026 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. 2026 May 18 - Councillor Briefing Public Record
2. 2026 June 01 - Councillor Briefing Public Record

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS HELD ON 18 MAY 2026 AND 1 JUNE 2026

PURPOSE

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

- Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee held on 21 April 2026
- Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee held on 12 May 2026

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, Hancock and Henderson are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee.

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS Cont'd

ITEM 3

Crs Jones, Macdonald and Rex are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Environment 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. 2026 April 21 - Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. 2026 May 12 - Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES

1. **MAROONDAH DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 APRIL 2026**
2. **MAROONDAH ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 MAY 2026**

PURPOSE

To advise on the outcome of the motion submitted by Council to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting held on Friday 29 May 2026.

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, including the lead up to the Victorian Government elections in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The MAV is one of the Victorian local government sector peak body associations and together with local members of Parliament, provides significant advocacy to both Victorian and Australian Governments on behalf of Maroondah residents and ratepayers.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Annual Meeting was held on Friday 29 May 2026 with Council having resolved to submit one (1) motion.

The motion submitted was viewed as being of significance across the Victorian Local Government sector and therefore of importance for debate and consideration by the MAV State Council Meeting.

OUTCOMES - MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
(MAV) STATE COUNCIL - 29 MAY 2026 Cont'd

ITEM 4

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

<i>Motion Number/Name</i>	<i>Motion</i>	<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
<p><i>Motion 46</i></p> <p>Maroondah City Council</p> <p>Review of Domestic Animals Act 1994</p>	<p>That MAV call on Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to promptly initiate a legislative review of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and relevant companion regulations, to re set the penalty for nuisance animal infringements, and to ensure the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a contemporary legislative framework that meets the health and safety expectations of communities and governments, around the seriousness of nuisance animal offences and the adverse impact nuisance animals can have on neighbours and governments across Victoria and; Strongly encourages compliance through appropriate education, complaint management mechanisms and realistic deterrents, such as appropriate infringements and court penalties. 	<p>The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) is Victoria’s primary legislation for promoting animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and protecting the community and environment. The Domestic Animals Regulations (the Regulations) were remade under the Act in November 2025.</p> <p>Section 32 of the Act defines an animal as a nuisance if it causes harm or persistently disrupts others’ peace, typically through excessive barking. This is the primary tool for managing barking dog complaints, which are often distressing and a major source of neighbourhood conflict leading to health and safety impacts for residents. Resolving these disputes requires significant time and effort from complainants and Council Animal Management teams, who collect evidence over weeks or months before any penalties are considered.</p> <p>Despite these efforts, the infringement penalty for owners of nuisance animals was reduced to a modest fifty-one dollars (\$51), which fails to motivate owners to address their pet’s behaviour. Many may simply pay the fine and ignore the warning, leading Councils to escalate matters to the Magistrates Court for Orders, unnecessarily burdening the Victorian justice system.</p> <p>Additionally, the Victorian Government proposes higher fees for unpaid infringements, meaning that after missing one payment deadline, people face another penalty near equal to the original more serious offence.</p>	<p>92/8</p>

OUTCOMES - MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
(MAV) STATE COUNCIL - 29 MAY 2026 Cont'd

ITEM 4

<i>Motion Number/Name</i>	<i>Motion</i>	<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
		<p>In anticipation of the Regulations being sunset in November 2025, the Victorian Government invited Councils to provide feedback on a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). All thirty-one submissions from local Councils opposed the proposed decrease in the infringement penalty for nuisance offences under s. 32(4) of the Act for the above reasons.</p> <p>The Regulations review led to the infringement penalty being reduced by 50% of the statutory penalty. The Victorian Government argued this is now proportionate and acknowledged that many Council concerns were beyond the scope of the Regulations and increasing the statutory penalty would require legislative change to the Act.</p> <p>Legislative reform is therefore crucial to ensure the Act remains effective and reflective of community and Local Government's expectations, given the impact of nuisance animals. An effective framework of complaint management mechanisms and deterrents are essential for compliance. Sector experience demonstrates, low penalties are unlikely to motivate owners to control nuisance animals.</p>	

Outcomes arising from the MAV State Council Meeting:

A total of 84 motions were received for debate at the MAV State Council. Of these motions:

- 20 were consolidated motions;
- 64 were single motions;
- Included in the 64 single motions (Strategic to the MAV) were:
 - 6 motions under the Active Local Democracy theme,
 - 2 motions under the Connected Places theme,

**OUTCOMES - MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
(MAV) STATE COUNCIL - 29 MAY 2026 Cont'd**

ITEM 4

- 4 motions under the Health and Wellbeing,
- 3 motions under the Sustainable Economy,
- 4 motions under the Climate and Regenerative Design,
- 1 motion under the Resilience & Recovery; and
- 44 motions were deemed 'Significant to the Sector'
- One motion was lost.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Refer to rationale as highlighted under Issue / Discussion.

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

CONCLUSION

The motions indicate the willingness of Council to advocate in such forums to other levels of government on behalf of residents and ratepayers, in addition to demonstrating Council's continued leadership on issues within the sector. The overwhelming level of endorsement provided to Council's motion indicates the shared support gathered for this issue across the sector.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE MOTION SUBMITTED BY MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL TO THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 MAY 2026

**INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT & AUTHORISATION TO
COUNCIL OFFICERS (PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT
1987 & ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017)**

ITEM 5

PURPOSE

To review the current Council Instruments of Appointment and Authorisations for Council Officers under section 147(4) of the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*, section 242(2) *Environment Protection Act 2017* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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

Appointments and authorisations of Council Officers are required to enable the enforcement of specific legislation and local laws.

It is important to distinguish between powers under delegations and the powers associated with Authorised Officers. Delegations are powers of Council, whereas Authorised Officers obtain their powers from Victorian Acts of Parliament and are authorised via formal Instruments of Appointment and Authorisations to use those powers.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Authorisations are updated on a regular basis across a range of Council Officers. Usually, they are conferred via the powers granted to the Chief Executive Officer, however any appointments and authorisations under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, section 242(2) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, are required to be executed directly by Council. At its meeting on 27 October 2025, Council endorsed the corresponding delegations to Council Officers.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Not applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

**INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT & AUTHORISATION TO
COUNCIL OFFICERS (PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT
1987 & ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017) Cont'd**

ITEM 5

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

A review of Council Officer authorisations ensures Council continues to comply with its obligations under various Acts and Regulations, which in turn enables the business of Council to be carried out efficiently. It is recommended that Council signs and seals the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation from Council direct to Council Officers as listed in the Recommendation to this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026 - S11A Instrument of Appointment & Authorisation (P&E Act)
2. 2026 - S11B Instrument of Appointment & Authorisation (EP Act)

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **COUNCIL, IN THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED BY SECTION 147(4) OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987, AND SECTION 313 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020, RESOLVES THAT THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL OFFICERS, NAMELY:**

ENGINEERING & BUILDING SERVICES

BRENDON BASILY

LOCAL LAWS

FIONA CALKIN

STATUTORY PLANNING

**DION BUTTERWORTH
TASMAN JONES
JOHN PERRY**

INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT & AUTHORISATION TO COUNCIL OFFICERS (PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 & ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017) Cont'd **ITEM 5**

- A. BE APPOINTED UNDER SECTION 147(4) OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 TO BE AUTHORISED OFFICERS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 AND THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THAT ACT
 - B. BE APPOINTED UNDER SECTION 313 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 TO GENERALLY INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 AND THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THAT ACT
2. COUNCIL, IN THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED BY SECTION 242(2) OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017, AND SECTION 313 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020, RESOLVES THAT THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL OFFICER, NAMELY:

LOCAL LAWS

FIONA CALKIN

- A. BE APPOINTED UNDER SECTION 242(2) OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017 TO BE AUTHORISED OFFICERS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017 AND THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THAT ACT
 - B. BE APPOINTED UNDER SECTION 313 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 TO GENERALLY INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017 AND THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THAT ACT
3. COUNCIL SIGNS AND SEALS INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION FOR ALL EMPLOYEES NAMED WITHIN THIS RESOLUTION
4. THE INSTRUMENTS COMES INTO FORCE IMMEDIATELY THE COMMON SEAL OF COUNCIL IS AFFIXED TO THE INSTRUMENTS, AND REMAINS IN FORCE UNTIL COUNCIL DETERMINES TO VARY OR REVOKE IT
5. ANY PREVIOUS INSTRUMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE ACTS AND REGULATIONS DESCRIBED IN THIS RESOLUTION ARE HEREBY REVOKED
6. THE INSTRUMENTS OF DELEGATION BE EXECUTED UNDER THE SEAL OF COUNCIL

**REPORT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 18
MAY 2026**

ITEM 6

PURPOSE

To report to Council on the outcomes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 18 May 2026.

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 provides a mechanism for Council to strategically examine various aspects of the Council operations to ensure risk management, legal compliance, financial control, and governance measures are in place.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee consists of both Council and external representatives. Mayor Cr Linda Hancock (or alternatively Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Macdonald), 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 18 May 2026.

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 - 18
MAY 2026 Cont'd**

ITEM 6

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 18 May 2026 are noted below:

- A report from the Chief Executive Officer highlighted sector updates of interest related to local government integrity and risk management.
- The VAGO Draft Interim Management Letter for year ending 30 June 2026
- 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.
- A Financial Report was received for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year as at 31 March 2026, providing a summary of Council's financial position.
- A Risk and Insurance Report for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year as at 31 March 2026 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.
- An Internal Audit Report relating to a review Payroll (including data analytics) was presented to the Committee. Several findings and recommended actions arising from this audit were highlighted.
- The Internal Audit Actions Register for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year as at 31 March 2026 was discussed. The Committee noted progress made by Council regarding implementation of internal audit recommendations.
- A verbal update in respect to the Whittlesea City Council Insurance Payout was provided by the Director Corporate.
- The Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Policy update. The updated document reflects a more holistic and integrated approach to risk management across Council. The Committee noted the updated document as being clear and well structured.
- Review of Strategic and Organisational Risk Profiles. The review of strategic and organisational risk profiles updates Council's risk framework to align with Maroondah 2050 and the Council Plan.
- The Committee congratulated Tony Rocca, Director Corporate on his recent appointment at the MAV. They thanked him for his tenure at Council, noting he would be leaving a great legacy and that he would be missed by the Committee.

**REPORT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 18
MAY 2026 Cont'd**

ITEM 6

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

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 18 May 2026 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 18 MAY 2026**

CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2026/27

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval for the proposed projects as part of the *Capital Funding for Community Groups Funding Program* for the 2026/27 financial year.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2025-2029 (2026-2027 update) 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

1.13 Provide inclusive and accessible leisure and sporting facilities and programs for undertaking physical activity

1.14 Ensure equity and inclusion principles are considered in the provision of services, programs, and events.

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 2026/2027 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 2026/2027 by Sunday 3rd May 2026.

The Capital Funding for Community Groups 2026/2027 review process was undertaken by Council Officers, and Councillors were briefed on the status of the review process at the Councillor Briefing on Monday 1st June.

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

**CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2026/27
Cont'd**

ITEM 1

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

Seventeen (17) community groups requested a total of \$234,700 (exclusive of GST) in funding assistance, from which sixteen (16) projects are recommended to receive funding.

The submissions recommended for funding are detailed in Attachment 1.

In relation to the one (1) project not recommended for funding in the 2026/2027 program, Council officers will provide feedback on the application and work with the organisation in preparation for a future funding submission.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

A total of \$200,000 (GST Exclusive) is available for allocation in the Capital Funding for Community Groups 2026/2027 Program budget. Sixteen (16) projects are recommended for

**CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2026/27
Cont'd**

ITEM 1

funding, at a cost of \$230,000 (GST Exclusive). The balance of funds is proposed to be allocated from the 2026/27 Community Facilities Improvement program.

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 2026 2027 - Projects

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. **APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED ALLOCATIONS FOR PROJECTS THROUGH THE CAPITAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS 2026/2027 PROGRAM TOTTALLING \$230,000 (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**

**DRAFT MAROONDAH GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION AND
MINIMISATION POLICY 2026**

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To present and seek Council endorsement of the Draft Maroondah Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026.

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:

Promote and facilitate safer cultures, spaces, and settings in relation to social harms.

BACKGROUND

Gambling is legal in Australia. It is estimated Australians spend approximately \$25 billion on legal forms of gambling every year, the most of any country in the world.

In 2024 just under two thirds of Australian adults participated in gambling. More than two thirds of Victorians gamble in venues (compared to online), with just over half gambling in venues only and just under a quarter of Victorians engaging in online gambling. The lengthy periods of lockdown caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic significantly increased the proportion of sports bettors who gamble online. Traditionally, average gambling losses per adult are highest for electronic gaming machines (EGMs).

Gambling-related harm is recognised as a significant, global public health concern and is defined as:

Any initial or exacerbated adverse consequence due to an engagement with gambling that leads to a decrement to the health or wellbeing of an individual, family unit, community or population.

More than two thirds (70 per cent) of gambling-related harm is experienced by people whose behaviour is not classified as 'problem gambling'. Of those at risk, 50 per cent, 25 per cent and 15 per cent are considered at low, moderate and high risk of gambling-related harm respectively.

Maroondah City Council is committed to protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of its community including those at risk of gambling-related harm. Council developed the Maroondah Gambling Policy in 2018 and has undertaken a thorough review of it, resulting in the Draft Maroondah Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026 (the Draft Policy).

DRAFT MAROONDAH GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION AND MINIMISATION POLICY 2026 Cont'd **ITEM 1**

Council has a statutory responsibility to create environments that maintain healthy lifestyle behaviours and prevent harm from gambling. This responsibility is carried out in collaboration with other agencies such as peak bodies, service providers, advocacy groups and the gambling industry. This statutory responsibility is defined by a suite of Victorian legislative instruments.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires local governments to ensure the peace, order and good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 gives local government specific statutory responsibilities to plan for and contribute to protecting and improving health and wellbeing.

The Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires Council to manage the location and operation of gaming venues and EGMs and in doing so consider the impact of the venue of the amenity of the area along with adjoining and nearby land uses.

The Gambling Regulation Act 2003 provides Council with the opportunity to make a submission describing the potential social and economic impacts of a gaming licence application on the community's wellbeing on behalf of the community.

There is strong support amongst stakeholders for Council to continue to fulfil its statutory responsibilities to prevent and minimise gambling harm.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The City of Maroondah has eight gaming venues (five clubs and three hotels). There are currently 640 attached EGMs in the municipality and 671 EGM licences. There are 31 EGM licences currently not operating.

The City of Maroondah has experienced an overall increase in total EGM player loss since the gaming venues re-opened in the 2021-22 Financial Year following their closure due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is despite a reduction in the number of both gaming venues and EGMs in this period. In the 2024-25 Financial Year player loss in the municipality was \$64.2million.

In the 2024-25 Financial Year, compared to the average of adjoining municipalities and metropolitan municipalities, the City of Maroondah compared unfavourably in relation to:

- Density of EGMs per 1,000 adults,
- Player loss per venue, and,
- Number of adults per venue.

Gambling harm is disproportionately experienced by specific population cohorts such as young people aged 18-25 years, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women, and people experiencing social and financial vulnerability. In some instances, gambling harm is a function of the intersectionality between specific social, demographic and environmental conditions, resulting in a health inequality in gambling-related harm. Health issues such as depression and anxiety, substance abuse and homelessness are both risk

DRAFT MAROONDAH GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION AND MINIMISATION POLICY 2026 Cont'd **ITEM 1**

factors for and negative outcomes caused by gambling harm. EGMs are responsible for 51-57 per cent of gambling problems in Australia.

Gambling can result in social, health and economic harms to the person gambling, their family and friends and the broader community.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Financial harm experienced by those who gamble in the Maroondah community can have serious and far-reaching effects on individuals, families, and households. Gambling losses may lead to difficulty paying for essentials such as rent, mortgage repayments, groceries, utilities, and transport, creating stress and instability. Some people may borrow money, use savings, or accumulate debt to recover losses, which can worsen their financial situation over time. This harm can also affect relationships and wellbeing, as financial pressure often contributes to conflict, anxiety, and reduced quality of life.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Problem gambling can have significant social and community impacts, extending well beyond the individual affected. It can contribute to family conflict, relationship breakdown, financial hardship, and increased stress within households, often placing pressure on partners, children, and other dependants. In some cases, it may lead to neglect of responsibilities, reduced workplace productivity, social isolation, and greater demand on local support services such as counselling, housing assistance, debt advice, and mental health services. Problem gambling can also be associated with stigma, shame, and, in more severe cases, crime or legal issues as individuals attempt to recover losses or manage debt. These effects can place a broader burden on the community and highlight the importance of prevention, early intervention, and accessible support services.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation was undertaken to receive feedback on the Draft Policy. There was overwhelming support for the Draft Policy with 90% of respondents agreeing with all key objectives. Gambling venues within the municipality were also contacted and offered the opportunity to provide feedback.

In addition, consultation was undertaken with select Council Advisory Committees to inform the Draft Policy and it was shared with the *Victorian Local Governance Association* and the *Alliance for Gambling Reform* for feedback.

All feedback was carefully considered and incorporated where appropriate and relevant.

CONCLUSION

As the closest tier of government to the community, Council is committed to exercising its statutory responsibility to prevent and reduce the negative impacts gambling has on mental and physical health and wellbeing. Council is particularly concerned about the harm gambling can cause among groups at an elevated risk of gambling harm.

The municipality displays multiple indicators of gambling harm such as a high density of player loss per attached EGM, adults per venue, density of EGMs and player loss per adult to

DRAFT MAROONDAH GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION AND MINIMISATION POLICY 2026 Cont'd **ITEM 1**

metropolitan municipalities. The research found that the communities in Bayswater North, Ringwood North and Ringwood have concentrations of socio-economic disadvantage and are at a disproportionate risk of vulnerability to gambling harm.

The review of the Maroondah Gambling Policy 2018 has resulted in an updated and succinct Draft Maroondah Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026 that aligns with Council's statutory roles and the Community Vision 2050 and is firmly based on contemporary research on the causes and impacts of gambling harm.

The document informs the gambling industry, the community, peak bodies, statutory authorities, Victorian local governments and other relevant stakeholders of Council's policy position, priorities and strategic objectives in relation to preventing and minimising gambling harm.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Maroondah Gambling Harm Prevention and Minimisation Policy 2026 DRAFT

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL ADOPTS THE MAROONDAH GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION AND MINIMISATION POLICY 2026

PURPOSE

To present and seek Council endorsement on the Draft Maroondah Reconciliation Plan 2026-2030.

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:

1.9 Partner with the First Peoples of Maroondah, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, to acknowledge, celebrate and engage with their heritage, culture and communities.

Priority action 2025 - 2026:

Develop and implement Council's Reconciliation Plan.

BACKGROUND

For more than 35,000 years, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation have been the Traditional Custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah. The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People maintain a deep spiritual connection to the land and waterways, and a unique ability to care for Country.

Central to reconciliation is the recognition that First Peoples of Australia have experienced enduring injustices and inequities, resulting in significantly fewer life opportunities than those available to the general population. These matters have been examined in detail by the Yoorrook Justice Commission, Victoria's formal truth-telling process, and documented in its final report Yoorrook: Truth Be Told. The report draws on extensive evidence and lived experience to reveal how past policies and practices continue to influence negative outcomes for First Peoples today.

Reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples is about building understanding and respect between First Peoples' communities and the broader Australian community. It recognises the importance of acknowledging history, strengthening relationships, and working collaboratively towards a future that is fair, inclusive, and respectful of First Peoples' cultures, rights, and histories as part of Australia's shared identity.

Maroondah City Council has formally supported reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples since 2008 with the Maroondah Reconciliation Policy Statement followed by the Maroondah Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2020.

**DRAFT MAROONDAH RECONCILIATION PLAN 2026-2030
Cont'd**

ITEM 2

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The journey towards reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples is an important and ongoing process that when done well can help to positively shape community cohesion. Recognising the history, cultures, and contributions of Australia's First Peoples is a modest and essential step to improved mutual respect and understanding. Reconciliation is not only about addressing past injustices but also about fostering meaningful positive relationships and creating opportunities for all members of our community to thrive together.

The Draft Maroondah Reconciliation Plan 2026-2030 (Attachment 1) (the Draft Plan) builds on Council's long-standing commitment to reconciliation. The Draft Plan continues to advance the reconciliation priorities Council has been working on for many years. It relies on key partners such as Mullum Mullum Aboriginal Gathering Place to provide support and services, while also making use of existing Council commitments.

Experience has shown that significant progress can be made towards reconciliation by using existing Council systems, programs and partnerships. This approach has helped build strong and trusted relationships between Council, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, and other First Peoples community members and service providers in Maroondah, and has resulted in the development of a framework structured around three key themes:

- **History, art and culture:** Acknowledging and supporting First Peoples' histories, cultures and creativity.
- **Relationships, collaboration and partnership:** Strengthening the capacity of First Peoples' communities and organisations through sustained support and strategic collaboration.
- **Leadership, governance and economic participation:** Building Council's capacity to embed First Peoples' participation and perspectives in leadership, governance and economic development.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The Draft Plan recognises the importance of building resilient economies and creating opportunities for all. Research shows that focusing on economic reconciliation and inclusion of First Peoples leads to better project outcomes when community partnerships are established. First Peoples' communities with strong economic participation show improved economic outcomes when local governance structures are supportive.

Economic participation builds self-sufficiency, reduces dependency, and creates shared prosperity while reducing social tensions.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Working closely with Australia's First Peoples can greatly benefit the environment because Australia's First Peoples have cared for Country for tens of thousands of years and hold deep knowledge of local ecosystems, seasonal changes, and sustainable land management practices. Their perspectives can help councils and communities make better decisions about protecting biodiversity, managing waterways, reducing waste, and responding to climate change. By listening to and partnering with Australia's First Peoples, environmental programs

**DRAFT MAROONDAH RECONCILIATION PLAN 2026-2030
Cont'd**

ITEM 2

can be more culturally informed, locally grounded, and effective, while also recognising the ongoing connection between First Peoples, Country, and the natural environment.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

The Draft Plan outlines opportunities to strengthen relationships, increase understanding, and build a more inclusive Maroondah community. By encouraging respectful dialogue, meaningful participation, and cultural awareness, Council can help create trust, connection, and shared commitment to reconciliation. Additionally, the social value of cultural heritage preservation is well-documented in reconciliation research, contributing significantly to social cohesion and community identity.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Draft Plan has been developed collaboratively with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Elders and shaped by extensive community consultation, data analysis, and research. A thorough consultation process was undertaken involving Australia's First Peoples' communities and organisations, Council staff, community service organisations, several Council Advisory Committees, and Victorian State Government departments. The community consultation and engagement activities were guided and supported by Karen Milward OAM a senior advisor on Australia's First Peoples.

Throughout the development of the Draft Plan, regular feedback was sought from the Maroondah Reconciliation Partnership Group. This Group is co-chaired by Wurundjeri Elders, Aunties Gail Smith and Julieanne Axford, together with Senior Council Officers, and includes representatives from a range of First Peoples' organisations. The process has fostered strong and ongoing support from both the Partnership Group and Council staff, who are committed to continuing this collaborative approach and jointly overseeing the implementation of the Draft Plan.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Maroondah Reconciliation Plan 2026–2030 reflects Council's ongoing commitment to reconciliation and to building respectful, meaningful relationships with Australia's First Peoples communities. It provides a practical framework for continuing this work through Council's existing systems, partnerships and services, while strengthening opportunities for cultural recognition, collaboration, leadership and participation. The Draft Plan builds on the progress already made and positions Council to continue working alongside Australia's First Peoples, community partners and the broader Maroondah community towards a more inclusive, respectful and reconciled future.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Maroondah Reconciliation Plan 2026-2030 FINAL DRAFT

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL ADOPTS THE MAROONDAH RECONCILIATION PLAN 2026-2030

MAROONDAH COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANT PROGRAM 2026-27

ITEM 3

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement of the proposed funding allocations for the Maroondah Arts and Cultural Grant Program 2026-2027, ensuring alignment with Council's strategic priorities, relevant policies, and newly reviewed program guidelines.

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 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.

Goals and Key Directions 2025-2029:

- 4.1 Facilitate vibrant places and spaces through placemaking initiatives and events, including public art and arts activations.
- 4.2 Enhance cultural precincts and venues as vibrant places where the community can connect, learn and create.
- 4.3 Facilitate and program a diverse range of arts and cultural initiatives and experiences through engagement with the local creative sector.
- 4.4 Promote the competitive strengths of Maroondah, and build strong partnerships, to facilitate economic development and investment attraction in the outer eastern region.
- 4.5 Leverage the strategic location and unique roles of the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre, the Croydon Activity Centre and the Bayswater Business Precinct as significant contributors to local and regional economic growth and employment opportunities.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 Provide business development support to enable strong, successful and sustainable local businesses.
- 4.8 Enhance business resource hubs that enable access to business support, encourage innovation and support alternative modes of employment.
- 4.9 Promote skills development and employment pathways and opportunities for all people in Maroondah.

MAROONDAH COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANT PROGRAM 2026-27 Cont'd

ITEM 3

Priority Action 2025-2029:

Develop and implement Council's Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026-2030.

BACKGROUND

The Annual Maroondah Arts and Cultural Grants provide financial support to artists, creative practitioners, arts and cultural organisations, not-for-profit community groups or organisations that are legally constituted or auspiced by eligible organisations and registered pre-schools or schools.

Alongside Maroondah Council's Community Grants Program, Council's Annual Arts and Cultural Grants are underpinned by the following strategic documents:

- *Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together* – Outlines the long-term vision for a healthy, inclusive, connected, safe, sustainable, and prosperous community.
- *Community Grants Policy (2025)* – Establishes the principles of fairness, equity, accountability, and strategic alignment for all grant allocations.
- *Community Grants Program Guidelines (2026-2027)* – Provides operational detail on eligibility, assessment, and annual priorities for all grant streams.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Maroondah Annual Arts and Cultural Grants continue to offer support for individual artists, creative practitioners, groups and organisations to deliver arts and cultural activities that increase creative participation, learning and expression, raise the profile of the arts in Maroondah and engage and provide benefit to our diverse community.

In 2026, following an internal audit of Maroondah grants' programs, Council adopted a new [Community Grants Policy](#). This policy aims to ensure the program is transparent, equitable, and strategically aligned with Council priorities, and has directly informed the design of the 2026–2027 program.

Significant changes have been introduced for the 2026-2027 program:

- **Annual Arts and Cultural Grants:** Increased support up to \$10,000 for creative and cultural initiatives.
- **Annual Community Grants:** Continued funding support up to \$10,000 for community-led activities, with refined criteria to emphasise new projects, partnerships, diversity, inclusion, and measurable outcomes.
- **Introduction of the Changemaker Grants:** A new grant stream offering funding up to \$20,000 supporting strategic, multi-year projects that address complex or emerging community needs.
- **Emergency Relief Grants:** Continued support up to \$7,000 for organisations providing crisis support.

MAROONDAH COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANT PROGRAM 2026-27 Cont'd

ITEM 3

- **Quick Response Grants:** A new stream (opening July 2026) funding up to \$500 for individuals and \$1500 for community groups needing timely support for emerging opportunities or needs.
- **Discontinued Programs:** The Small Equipment Grant and Community Assistance Fund have been discontinued to focus on more strategic funding streams.

The 2026–2027 Maroondah Community Grants Program offered four grant streams: Arts and Cultural Grants, Community Grants, Emergency Relief Grants, and the new Changemaker Grants. This report focuses upon the Arts and Cultural Grants only.

Arts and Cultural Grant Funds - What we can fund

The reviewed guidelines for the 2026-2027 grant round require applicants to align their project with one of the three focus areas:

- **Arts Participation and Engagement** - Deliver new community engaged projects, programs or events that foster collaboration and partnerships between artists / arts organisations and the Maroondah community. Supports a diverse and culturally rich Maroondah that develops, increases and presents art / creative programs to explore and express locally important experiences and needs.
- **Creative Development** - Develop new and innovative skills, projects, programs or events that support artists and creative practitioners and organisations to develop and flourish in their art form and increase local access to professional arts and cultural experiences in Maroondah.
- **Creative Placemaking** – Develop a quality arts project that reflects the cultural and social identity of Maroondah and creatively enhances public spaces.

From the 16 eligible applications received, 10 applicants elected to apply under the Arts Participation and Engagement focus area; 4 under the Creative Development focus area and 2 under the Creative Placemaking focus area.

Funds 2026-2027

The total allocated funding pool for Arts and Cultural Grants is \$34,413 (inclusive of \$4,950 unallocated operational grants 2025-2026 funds made available to relevant projects, and \$2,000 fund reallocation from Community Grants).

Arts and Cultural Grant Applications 2026-2027

- 18 applications received with a total request of \$123,401 – 28% more than last year (13 applications)
- 16 applications were eligible, 2 were ineligible and one was reallocated to Community Grants – with a total request from eligible applicants for \$100,401.
- 7 new applicants (of 16 eligible applicants) representing the program is reaching new audiences.

MAROONDAH COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANT PROGRAM 2026-27 Cont'd

ITEM 3

Arts and Cultural Grant Recommendations

Funding recommendations:

Seven (7) projects recommended for funding, comprising:

- 2 proposed for full funding
- 2 partial funding
- 2 projects funded via unallocated operational grant funds
- 1 project funded by pooled budget from Community Grants.

Not recommended for funding:

A total of eight (8) applications were not recommended in this grant round primarily due to insufficient alignment with program objectives or insufficient information provided within applications; and two applicants deemed ineligible due to being outside of the funding eligibility criteria, including ineligible equipment funding and delivery timelines outside of the funding period.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The budget available for the 2026-2027 Arts and Cultural Grants Program is \$34,413. The total value of recommendations endorsed is \$34,413, providing funding to eligible artists, creative practitioners, arts and cultural and community organisations.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable

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. In addition, a Grant Writing Fundamentals workshop was held as well as two online information sessions and four library drop-in sessions.

CONCLUSION

The successful 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. Where possible, constructive panel feedback and other forms of assistance will be provided to unsuccessful organisations.

**MAROONDAH COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANT
PROGRAM 2026-27 Cont'd**

ITEM 3

ATTACHMENTS

1. Maroondah Arts and Cultural Grants Funding Program Summary 2026-27

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. **APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS (AS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHMENT TO THIS REPORT) THROUGH THE MAROONDAH ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS PROGRAM 2026-2027, TOTALLING \$34,413.**
2. **ADVISES ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR GRANT SUBMISSIONS.**

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement of the proposed funding allocations for the Maroondah Community Grants Program 2026–27, ensuring alignment with Council’s strategic priorities, relevant policies, and program guidelines.

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.

Goals and Key Directions 2025-2029:

1.15 Support community groups, clubs and organisations as providers of opportunities for belonging, connection and participation.

BACKGROUND

The Maroondah Community Grants Program (MCGP) provides financial support to not-for-profit organisations and community groups to deliver projects, programs, and services that benefit the Maroondah community.

The MCGP is underpinned by the following strategic documents:

- *Maroondah 2050: Our Future Together* – Outlines the long-term vision for a healthy, inclusive, connected, safe, sustainable, and prosperous community.
- *Community Grants Policy (2025)* – Establishes the principles of fairness, equity, accountability, and strategic alignment for all grant allocations.
- *Community Grants Program Guidelines (2026–27)* – Provides operational detail on eligibility, assessment, and annual priorities for all grant streams.

The recommended 2026–27 allocations ensure funding is distributed transparently, equitably, and in line with Council’s strategic direction.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Maroondah Community Grants Program continues to provide vital financial support to not-for-profit community groups and organisations, enabling them to deliver projects that strengthen the local community and align with Council’s Maroondah 2050 strategic objectives.

In 2025, following an internal audit of the grants program, Council adopted a new Community Grants Policy. This policy aims to further ensure the program is transparent, equitable, and strategically aligned with Council priorities, and has directly informed the design of the 2026–2027 program.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2026/27 Cont'd

ITEM 4

Significant changes have been introduced for the 2026–27 program as follows:

- **Introduction of the Changemaker Grants:** A new grant stream offering funding up to \$20,000 over two years supporting strategic, multi-year projects that address complex or emerging community needs (total funding pool of \$20,000 per annum).
- **Annual Community Grants:** Funding up to \$10,000 for community-led activities, with refined criteria to emphasise new projects, partnerships, diversity, inclusion, and measurable outcomes (total funding pool of \$100,000).
- **Emergency Relief Grants:** Funding up to \$7,000 for organisations providing crisis support (total funding pool of \$70,000).
- **Arts and Cultural Grants:** refer separate agenda item.
- **Quick Response Grants:** A new stream (opening July 2026) funding up to \$500 for individuals and \$1,500 for community groups needing timely support throughout the year for emerging opportunities or needs (total funding pool of \$62,550).
- **Discontinued Programs:** The Small Equipment Grant and Community Assistance Fund have been discontinued to focus on the above funding streams.

The 2026–27 Maroondah Community Grants Program offers five grant streams: Community Grants, Emergency Relief Grants, the new Changemaker Grants, Arts and Cultural Grants and Quick Response Grants.

- Two **Changemaker Grant** applications are recommended for funding, with a proposed allocation of \$38,000 across 2026-27 and 2027-28.
- 22 **Annual Community Grant** applications are recommended for funding, with a proposed overall allocation of \$100,000 in 2026-27.
- 14 **Emergency Relief Grant** applications are recommended for funding with a proposed overall allocation of \$69,500 in 2026-27.
- **Arts and Cultural Grants** - see separate agenda item.

Full details of applications and recommended funding are provided in [Attachment A](#) for Changemaker, Emergency Relief and Annual Community Grants.

Unsuccessful Applications

A total of 32 applications, Changemaker, Emergency Relief and Annual Community Grants requesting a combined amount of \$168,076, are not recommended in this grant round.

Key issues identified across unsuccessful applications include requests for funding of core or ongoing operational costs, repeat activities, insufficient community-wide benefit, lack of measurable outcomes or innovation, activities located outside Maroondah, and duplication of services already provided by Council or other levels of government.

These recommendations ensure allocated funding is directed towards projects that demonstrate clear, broad community benefit and adhere to the intent of the new Community Grants policy adopted in November 2025.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2026/27 Cont'd

ITEM 4

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The total value of grants recommended for the 2026/27 Community Grants Program is \$207,500, providing funding to 38 community organisations. An additional \$62,550 will be available to community organisations via the Quick Response Program during the 2026/27 financial year.

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 CONSULTATION

The Grants Programs were promoted through communications 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 four 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. In line with best practice, Council Grants Officers will offer to meet with unsuccessful applicants to explain the assessment outcomes and provide tailored feedback.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Maroondah Community Grants Funding Program 2026-27 Summary

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 2026/27, TOTALLING \$207,500.**
2. **ADVISES ALL ORGANISATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR GRANT SUBMISSIONS.**

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

LETTER UNDER SEAL - EMPLOYEE MILESTONES 2026

ITEM 1

BACKGROUND

Council recognises employees each year who have achieved service milestones. Combined service with either the former Cities of Ringwood or Croydon and Maroondah City Council is recognised.

During the year, from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, four (4) employees will have achieved 30 years of service, thirteen (13) will have achieved 20 years, and fifty two (52) will have achieved 10 years. The names of employees to be presented with Letters Under Seal are listed in the recommendation to this report.

The Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor will present the Letters Under Seal to the recipients at the upcoming Employee Milestone Function. Feedback from employees over many years has indicated that the Milestone recognition and the celebration are both held in high esteem by employees and their immediate families. They also align to Council's workplace values and assist to continue building Council's high performing culture.

It is a necessary for Council to formally resolve to execute the Letters Under Seal in line with Council's Local Law 15 Common Seal and Conduct at Meetings (2021) and Council Honours and Recognition Policy (2022).

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL SIGNS AND SEALS LETTERS TO THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES:

1. THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE GIVEN BY:

- CECILE ARONSON
- PAULINE RENKEMA
- ELIZABETH TAYLOR
- LEANNE YOUNG

2. TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE GIVEN BY:

- GLYN BERESFORD
- MATTHEW COOK
- SHERRYN DUNSHEA
- CLAUDIA FERLAZZO
- HEIDI GRAVE
- DEANNE KEOGH

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

- SIMON MCCOY
- JENNIFER MULLENS
- MARIE NATHAN
- YVONNE PONGHO
- KYM ROWE
- ROBYN WILLIAMS
- HELEN YOUNG

3. TEN YEARS OF SERVICE GIVEN BY:

- KARA ASTLE
- GEOFFREY AUSTEN
- SARAH BATTERSBY
- JULIA BAYLISS
- VICKI BENNETT
- STEFANIE BLACK
- JULIE BRONSON
- SALLY BRUTON
- EVIA CHAN
- MICHELLE CHAPMAN
- COLIN COUTINHO
- ALEJANDRA DANIEL
- DANIEL DAVISON
- GLENN DERIX
- NICK DOHERTY
- BRITTANY DRIEBERG
- JANE DRUMMOND
- BRONWYN DUNSTAN
- JACOB EASTWOOD
- ROBINA FOX
- ALEXIS FURLONG
- MARGARET HARTLEY
- DWI KURNIAWAN HENDRATHA
- KIRSTEE HOATH
- MICHELLE HOLMES
- LISA HOSKING

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

- KIRSTEN JENKINS
- GAVIN JOHNSON
- LINDSAY KELLERMANN
- LAUREN KELSO
- MITALI KHANDAWALA
- JEANETTE KROPP
- MIKAYLA LACEY
- ANTHEA LARIA
- ULRIKE LINDNER
- STEVE MCINTOSH
- STEPHANIE MCNAMARA
- ELYSE MCQUALTER
- AMANDA METCALF
- CORINNA MILLAR
- SURITH NANAYAKKARA
- PHILIP NICHOLLS
- CHRISTOPHER PATTISON
- MARLEE PERRETT
- EMILY SPARK
- LYNETTE STRAUSS
- KELLY TAMPION
- NIKKI TRETOWAN
- LACEY TURNER
- CHRISTINE WALSH
- GAYLE WILSON
- JOHN WILSON

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

LETTERS UNDER SEAL - RECOGNITION OF 2026 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 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 2026 King's Birthday Honours List, as recently announced by the Governor General:

- Mr Kevin John Collins OAM - awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community of Croydon.
- Mrs Margretta Judith Fuller OAM - awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to conservation and the environment.
- The late Mr Alan Jenkins OAM - awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to fraternal organisations, and to the community.
- Ms Sarah Ward OAM - awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community through social welfare organisations.
- The Reverend Emeritus Professor Phillip John Hughes AM - awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the sociology of religion, to academia, to social cohesion, and to the community.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL SIGNS AND SEALS LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING 2026 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS:

- 1. MR KEVIN JOHN COLLINS OAM - RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**
- 2. MRS MARGRETTA JUDITH FULLER OAM - RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**
- 3. THE LATE MR ALAN JENKINS OAM - RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**
- 4. MS SARAH WARD OAM - RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**
- 5. THE REVEREND EMERITUS PROFESSOR PHILLIP JOHN HUGHES AM - RECIPIENT OF THE MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**